CONNECT: THE EARLY YEARS
Are you passionate about Early Childhood Education? International research shows that enriching learning opportunities for children between birth and 5 years of age provides the foundation for positive outcomes for life.

At UOW, we will give you a high-quality degree and professional experiences that will prepare you to be the best early childhood educator you can be ... and to change lives.
5 REASONS TO STUDY EDUCATION AT UOW

Education at UOW connects you with people, programs and technology to enhance your learning experience.

1. EARLY START
The new Early Start facility will connect UOW’s regional campuses with early childhood education and care services across NSW. This will provide students in the Early Years with authentic learning experiences, preparing them to work with young children, parents, families and professionals in the field.

Eminent academics from Australia and overseas with a focus on the earliest years of life collaborate within the Early Start initiative to enrich teaching, learning and research. Through Early Start’s connections, the Bachelor of Education – The Early Years will be offered to students at UOW’s south coast campuses from 2015.

2. MODERN FACILITIES
At UOW you will receive training in the latest technology so that you are well prepared when you enter the workforce. Facilities include our own Curriculum Resource Library and classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboards. You will gain access to the latest research in teacher education and practice through the extensive resources of the modern UOW library.

3. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
Learning by doing—the Professional Experience program—is the heart of our early childhood educator training. Throughout your degree, you can spend up to 16 weeks teaching in Early Childhood Education and Care Centres, complementary to your mentoring experience through the Professional Partners in Practice program. You will implement the theory you learn. When you graduate you’ll start work knowing that you have what it takes to succeed.

4. MENTORING AND SUPPORT
Students in The Early Years program undertake The Professional Partners in Practice (PPP) mentoring and professional development program. This program provides you with real world experience working with children in the context of their families and communities. At UOW you will be teaching in Early Childhood Education and Care Centres from your very first session. This experience also allows you to build strong connections to the profession of Early Childhood Education and Care.

UOW Education students are also supported by a careers consultant, who provides targeted services and support to increase employability and graduate outcomes. The careers consultant gives access to careers related information and resources related specifically to the education sector.

5. PARTNERSHIP SERVICES
The School of Education has partnerships across the Early Childhood Education and Care sector which assists students to build working links with educators throughout their degree. Professional development opportunities range from workshops, guest speakers and linking with the broader early childhood community through the Professional Experience and PPP programs.
I gained so much through these practical experiences and casual work in Early Childhood Education and Care centres, because although I had experience working in the sector before beginning my degree, you learn so much from other people and other centres.

It was great to then come to class, share these experiences and explore new ideas with my fellow Early Years students. It’s just something that keeps me interested and excited about my job.
Bachelor of Education – The Early Years (Birth – 5 years)

This degree is an exciting approach to professional preparation of teacher qualified professionals in the Early Childhood Education and Care sector, recognising the increasingly expanding and rewarding role of the Early Education Teacher. The 4-year specialist program will be offered across four locations including Wollongong, Shoalhaven, Batemans Bay and Bega via blended delivery. This innovative degree includes practical community engagement and professional experiences.

The course recognises the significance of enriched educational opportunities and experiences for all children in the early years necessary to ensure their present and future health, development and wellbeing. It focuses on extending and enriching young children’s learning from birth through to five years and transition to school, providing children with opportunities to maximise their potential and develop a foundation for future success in learning.

The course focuses on the development of very young children being connected to family, community, culture and place. You will learn about child development, improving educational and developmental outcomes for children, contemporary theories and approaches to curriculum development and implementation, establishing respectful and caring relationships with children and their families, cultural and social diversity, developing partnerships with additional services, early intervention and transition to school, leadership and advocacy, as well as creating physical and social learning environments designed to deliver a holistic approach to children’s learning.

Employment opportunities are very good as there is a shortage of specialist educators in the sector. The career of an Early Education Teacher is full of many responsibilities, roles and challenges, and like most worthwhile endeavours it is often demanding, exciting and rewarding.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The degree combines university and professional experience throughout the course, with some subjects offered face-to-face on campus and others using a flexible mode including online learning.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (PEX)

You will complete scheduled professional experience placements each year of the four years of the degree, in a diverse range of settings.

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Early Years degree provides students with opportunities to participate in student exchange and study abroad programs, international cultural immersion programs and participation in University hosted international early childhood teacher education programs.

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS IN PRACTICE (PPP)

PPP is a professional mentoring program that runs through your entire degree. You will be paired with an ECEC service for mentoring and professional insights. In fourth year you will work with your experienced mentor on a substantial year-long project.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

This degree is recognised by the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) and is an approved early childhood teaching qualification for the purpose of the Education and Care Services National Law and Regulations.
DEAN'S SCHOLAR

The Dean's Scholar program provides an enriched educational experience for high achieving students. Students enrolled in Dean's Scholar degrees will fulfill the same requirements for their respective courses but will be allocated an academic mentor and engage in enriched assessment tasks in specified subjects.

Scholars will also benefit from:
- Extended library privileges
- Invitations to attend school workshops and seminars
- Autumn and Spring Scholar network events hosted by the Associate Dean and Senior School academics.
- Casual UOW employment in faculty, community, research, or quality improvement projects supervised by leading practitioners or scholars, for 15 hours per annum.
- Reference from faculty project casual employment supervisor
- Dean's Scholar Lounge
- Access to the Dean’s Scholar and Honours computer lab hot desks

SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer a number of scholarship opportunities for Early Years students, including:

SDN PHILIPS SCHOLARSHIP

SDN Children’s Services is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing high quality early education and care since 1905 and has a long history of supporting the education and training of early childhood educators. This scholarship is offered to third-year Bachelor of Education – The Early Years students.

ILLAWARRA AREA CHILD CARE COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Illawarra Area Child Care is a community owned, non-profit organisation that provides affordable, quality Early Childhood Education and Care services to children and their families. This scholarship is offered to fourth-year Bachelor of Education – The Early Years students.

AUNTY MARY DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP

The promotion and development of Indigenous students in teacher education is a part of the Faculty’s ongoing commitment to Indigenous education. This scholarship is offered to first year Indigenous students from The Early Years degree or the Bachelor of Primary Education.

BIG FAT SMILE COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Big Fat Smile is a not-for-profit community organisation, providing affordable, quality Early Childhood Education and Care services to children and their families. Big Fat Smile is offering a community scholarship to final year students studying The Early Years. For more information go to uw.edu.au/about/scholarships
GRADUATE OUTCOMES

As a graduate from the School of Education you will:

- have a sound educational knowledge and understanding of the teaching profession at a state, national and international level.
- engage with new ideas and seek to extend knowledge through research and analysis.
- take on challenges and opportunities by applying logic, innovation and a flexible approach.
- be collaborative and able to articulate ideas using different media.
- have the ability and propensity to act responsibly and empathetically in school and community contexts.

CAREERS

There are many avenues of progression in an Early Years career:

- Early Education Teacher in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) settings
- Preschools and integrated children’s services
- ECEC Nominated Supervisor
- Director Early Childhood Education and Care Centre
- Educational Leader
- Educational Consultant
- Education Program and Support Manager
- Training and Development Officer

Additional career opportunities include working in specialist children’s programs including disability and early intervention, along with broader child and family services in the provision of quality education and care in Commonwealth, State and Local government programs responsible for supporting children and their families with multiple and complex needs.

EARLY START: EXCITING POTENTIAL

Early Start is an exciting initiative developed by UOW with the aim of transforming lives through education. It’s both innovative and ambitious. With connections from the main building in Wollongong to services across New South Wales and partners in national and international institutions, Early Start promises to create a landscape for learning that is markedly different to the image we traditionally associate with higher education.

Connections via virtual and physical spaces will alleviate many of the conventional obstacles that may impede learning, instead encouraging collaboration between the student and researcher, the community member and academic, the child and the wider world.

The focus at Early Start is on identifying and addressing cutting edge issues in the early childhood sector so that in collaboration we can produce real and enduring outcomes that support positive social change. The potential for learning and for change at all levels is significant, in an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity, encourages social interaction and promotes a sense of community.

Early Start presents both a blueprint for the future and a challenge for learning across the education sector.

As part of the Bachelor of Education – The Early Years I have had the opportunity to take part in both centre based and community based Professional Experience (PEX).

Throughout my various PEX placements I have been exposed to a myriad of positive experiences which in turn will benefit my career as an Early Childhood Educator.

These PEX placements have allowed me to connect with children, families and teachers as well as various organisations throughout the Illawarra region. As a result of my ongoing relationships through PEX I was fortunate enough to receive the Illawarra Area Child Care Community Scholarship which will assist me financially in my final year of study.

The PEX opportunities that have been provided to me throughout my four years of study have enabled me to grow as both an individual and an Early Childhood Educator by providing me with valuable teaching experiences.
LEARN MORE

SEE US FOR YOURSELF: CAMPUS TOURS

You don’t need to be a student at UOW to see firsthand why our campus is special and why we all love it here. UOW campus tours allow you to see our facilities and meet people doing what they do best. It’s your chance to check out UOW and ask as many questions as you like.

Our free, hour-long tours are conducted by current UOW students, and run at 10am and 3pm every Friday throughout the year. Arrange a tour via phone on 1300 367 869 or book online at uow.edu.au/future

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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