



University of
Southern
Queensland

Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH)

Program Guide

CRICOS: QLD 00244B, NSW 02225M

TEQSA: PRV12081

v11

About Your Program

To offer you a flexible learning journey with relevant and classroom-ready skills, we have made some improvements to your Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH) program.

This Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH) guide contains all the information that you need to know about your program. The GDCH is an 8 credit point (8 course) program with at least sixty (60) days of professional experience.

This guide will support your learning journey for:

[Section 1: Planning My Enrolment Pattern](#)

New and Continuing Students

In the academic calendar, new and continuing students will study in “trimesters”. There are minimal changes to your enrolment pattern because current courses continue to be offered in the matching trimesters – for example, if a course was previously offered in semester 1, it will be offered in trimester 1.

The trimester calendar offers a great deal of flexibility to allow you to speed up or slow down your studies. It also allows you to study in all three trimesters in a calendar year and still have a break (approx. 6 weeks) in your studies over the end of year holiday period.

Continuing Students – Minor Change

For continuing students, there has been a minor change to EDU4160 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood.

The 2023 course was:

- EDU4160 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood

This course was changed with a new course code and name in 2024 to become:

- EDU4199 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood Professional Experience

If you have completed EDU4160 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood in Transition Semester 3 2023 or prior you will not be required to take any action.

If you have not yet completed EDU4160 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood, you will transition to EDU4199 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood Professional Experience. This course continues to be offered in trimester 3 and your progression is not affected.

Recommended Enrolment Patterns

This online and external program is comprised of eight courses which can be completed full-time in one year with enrolment in three consecutive semesters.

Students intending to complete the program full-time in 1 year with three consecutive trimesters of study are advised to follow the recommended enrolment pattern with a Professional Experience placement every semester.

[Commencing Trimester 1 \(2+3+3 pattern\)](#)

[Commencing Trimester 2 \(3+3+2 pattern\)](#)

[Commencing Trimester 3 \(3+3+2 pattern\)](#)

Alternatively, you may choose to study in a part-time pathway if you want to do fewer courses across the year. This might help you to balance work, study, family, professional experience placements and other commitments.

Professional Experience

The required 60 days of professional experience includes:

- 10 days with children under 3 years of age (birth-35 months)
- At least 20 days with children aged 3 – 5 years of age
- The remaining 30 days in an early childhood or other approved setting.

It is recommended you enrol into your professional experience courses well in advance of their commencement date (it is recommended you enrol during the preceding trimester). This allows the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) team sufficient time to source and confirm your placement. Please note, you can take a maximum of one professional experience course in each trimester. Dates for your professional experiences (placements) are available on the [UniSQ Education Placements](#) website.

Section 1: All About You – Planning My Enrolment Pattern

This section will help step you through your personalised enrolment pattern.

Firstly, a bit about you:

My Details	
Name	
Student Number	
Program	Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH)
Commencing Date e.g. T1, 2025	
Number of Courses completed	
Approved credits	
Blue Card (WWCC) and expiry date	
Number of Courses remaining	
Expected Graduation Date	

Step 1

Use your admission information to check your enrolment and personal details.

If you are have been granted credit or if you have successfully completed courses download or print your [unofficial transcript](#).

Step 2

Using your unofficial transcript, mark off each of your successfully completed courses and any courses that you have received credit. All successfully completed courses will contribute to your program.

The recommended enrolment patterns:

[Commencing Trimester 1 \(2+3+3 pattern\)](#)

[Commencing Trimester 2 \(3+3+2 pattern\)](#)

[Commencing Trimester 3 \(3+3+2 pattern\)](#)

Step 3

Things to consider when planning your enrolment:

- You will be required to meet any pre-requisites listed in the course specifications to enrol in that course.
- Courses are not offered every trimester.
- You are encouraged to take at least one professional experience course every year and you cannot take more than one professional experience course in the same trimester.

My Enrolment Pattern

Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH)

	Trimester 1	Offers	First Offer	Trimester 2	Offers	First Offer	Trimester 3	Offers	First Offer
Year (202)									
Year (202)									
Year (202)									

Recommended Enrolment Pattern
Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH)
Commencing in Trimester 1 2025 (2+3+3 pattern)

	Trimester 1	Offers	Completed /Credit	Trimester 2	Offers	Completed /Credit	Trimester 3	Offers	Completed /Credit
Year 1	EDM8017 Relating and Inquiring in Infant and Toddler Education and Care Contexts – 10 days	1, 3		EDM5014 Planning for Learning: Curriculum, Play, Pedagogy - 20 days	1, 2		EDM8018 Leading in Early Childhood	2, 3	
	EDM5010 Literacy Learning in the Early Years	1, 3		EDM5016 Early Years Data and Assessment	2		EDM8020 Arts and Technology through Play	2, 3	
				EDM5007 Cultivating Supportive Learning Environments	1, 2		EDU4199 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood - 30 days	3	

Recommended Enrolment Pattern
Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH)
Commencing in Trimester 2 2025 (3+3+2 pattern)

	Trimester 1	Offers	Completed /Credit	Trimester 2	Offers	Completed /Credit	Trimester 3	Offers	Completed /Credit
Year 1				EDM5007 Cultivating Supportive Learning Environments	1, 2		EDM8018 Leading in Early Childhood	2, 3	
				EDM5016 Early Years Data and Assessment	2		EDM8020 Arts and Technology through Play	2, 3	
				EDM5014 Planning for Learning: Curriculum, Play, Pedagogy - 20 days	1, 2		EDU4199 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood – 30 days	3	
Year 2	EDM5010 Literacy Learning in the Early Years	1, 3							
	EDM8017 Relating and Inquiring in Infant and Toddler Education and Care Contexts – 10 days	1, 3							

Recommended Enrolment Pattern
Graduate Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (GDCH)
Commencing in Trimester 3 2025 (3+3+2 pattern)

	Trimester 1	Offers	Completed /Credit	Trimester 2	Offers	Completed /Credit	Trimester 3	Offers	Completed /Credit
Year 1							EDM8018 Leading in Early Childhood	2, 3	
							EDM8020 Arts and Technology through Play	2, 3	
							EDU4199 Numeracy, Literacy and STEM in Early Childhood- 30 days	3	
Year 2	EDM5010 Literacy Learning in the Early Years	1, 3							
	EDM8017 Relating and Inquiring in Infant and Toddler Education and Care Contexts – 10 days	1, 3							
	EDM5007 Cultivating Supportive Learning Environments	1, 2		EDM5016 Early Years Data and Assessment	2				
				EDM5014 Planning for Learning: Curriculum, Play, Pedagogy - 20 days	1, 2				