

# Expanding your areas of teaching

The **Queensland College of Teachers (QCT)** sets qualification requirements for registration and registers the person as a 'teacher', not as an early years, primary or specialist secondary teacher. A registered teacher can legally be employed to teach any year level in a school.

**Employers** determine the specific subjects, grades or classes assigned to a registered teacher. They will take into account qualifications, teaching and non-teaching experience, professional development, etc.



## From primary to secondary teaching

The QCT accredits preservice teacher education programs in Queensland. You can use the accreditation requirements as a guide to expanding teaching areas.

Secondary preservice programs are expected to have subject-specific pedagogy and:

- a major sequence of 6-8 units of study (equivalent to  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 year of full-time study) in a discipline relevant to a teaching area; and
- a sequence of at least 4-6 units of study (equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a year of full-time study) in a discipline relevant to a second teaching area.

Some options:

- enrolling in miscellaneous units (including from a secondary preservice teacher education program) to build an appropriate sequence of units in the chosen field/s and competency in subject-specific pedagogy.
- enrolling in a Graduate Certificate in the chosen field/s.
- completing specific professional development courses / further study required by the employer.



## From secondary to primary teaching

The QCT accredits preservice teacher education programs in Queensland. You can use the accreditation requirements as a guide to expanding teaching areas.

Primary and early childhood (EC) preservice programs are designed to ensure teachers are prepared to teach the key learning areas of the Australian Curriculum, including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Languages. Studies in discipline content knowledge and curriculum/pedagogy relevant to the primary learning areas amount to a minimum of 16 semester units (equivalent to 2 years of full-time study).

Some options:

- enrolling in miscellaneous units to cover discipline content knowledge and curriculum/pedagogy relevant to primary learning areas other than your area of secondary expertise.
- enrolling in a Graduate Certificate in the chosen field/s.
- completing selected units from a primary preservice teacher education program to ensure competency in cross-curricular requirements such as teaching literacy and numeracy skills.
- completing specific professional development courses / further study required by the employer.

You would need to seek advice from higher education providers about entry requirements, study sequences and any recognition of prior learning (RPL).

(Note a registered teacher usually cannot enrol in a preservice graduate-entry teacher education program.)



## Transitioning to early childhood teaching

The requirements for teaching children under school age (e.g. kindergarten, long day care) vary. Qualification requirements are determined by the Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA). Further information should be sought from ACECQA or the Queensland Government's Department of Education.

## Support for retraining

Scholarships and/or grants may be offered by employers to assist teachers to retrain in high-demand areas. Details can be accessed at employer websites.