



## **Why would I do a BTeach (Primary) / BA qualifying me for K-6 only, when I can be Early Childhood and K-6 qualified by doing the BTeach (Primary) / BECS degree?**

### **1) You want a qualification that has both academic AND a vocational components**

The BTeach (Primary) / BA provides a teaching qualification (vocational) with strong academic preparation that will not only assist in teaching but provide other career and/or further study options. That actually appeals to some students! On the other hand, the BTeach (Primary) / BECS is primarily vocational, enabling students to teach in both school and early childhood contexts. It is a matter of taste, direction, interest, etc. **BOTH degrees are actually offering two sorts of preparation, just different types of preparation.**

### **2) You want to specialise in a subject area you are interested in**

The BTeach (Primary) / BA requires you to complete 40 units of discipline depth study in a single area, such as Music, Health and Physical Education, Drama, Fine Art, History, Geography, Sociology, Politics, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Technology, Languages, etc. You also get 40 units of electives which you might use to extend these studies in the same or other areas.

### **3) You want to go on and do a research higher degree in your speciality area**

If you complete either degree, and you have a GPA of 5.5 or better (ie. Lots of distinctions and high distinction grades), you will be eligible to complete an **Honours qualification with your 40 units of electives**. Attaining first class Honours may make you competitive for a scholarship, which would allow you to complete a PhD full time, and help you gain a job in a university as a lecturer. It is important to note that this pathway is available in both the BTeach (Primary) / BA and the BTeach (Primary) / BECS programs. The difference is that in the BTeach (Primary) / BA you can build your honours study around your area of specialisation, if it happens to be something you are really interested in (see point 2 above).

### **4) You want to specialise in Special Education**

As part of the BTeach (Primary) / BA degree you will have the option of using your elective study to complete a special education specialisation. Although this is not currently accredited with the NSW Institute of Teachers, as such, it is recognised for employment purposes with the NSW Department of Education and Training.

### **5) You really want to work in Primary (K-2 or 3-6) and have no interest in working in Preschools or 0-5 settings**

The final internship in the BTeach (Primary) / BECS program is in a Preschool or other 0-5 setting, NOT a K-6 environment. Because internship often turns into casual work offers, students who want to do casual work in Primary immediately after finishing their degree, may wish to complete a K-6 internship placement, which you can only get by completing the BTeach (Primary) / BA program. The BTeach (Primary) / BA program may be the preferable option for those who definitely want to work in Primary only, and do not want an early

childhood specialisation. For those who want to open up a wide range of possibilities in applying for jobs in both Early Childhood and Primary sectors with the BTeach (Primary) / BECS qualification, you will have the option of working in child and family services, government organisations, councils, long day care centres and preschools in a sector where there are great employment opportunities.

## **6) You want to be accredited to teach in Primary AND Secondary**

If you complete the BTeach (Primary) / BA, you have the opportunity to do **40 units of study in one discipline area (ie. English) AND 40 units of elective study**. This offers the possibility of qualifying to teach in ONE Secondary teaching area in addition to Primary. To go for promotion in a 7-12 setting you often need two teaching areas, however, having one Secondary teaching area does provide opportunities for work in a secondary setting.

Students who follow the path described below CANNOT also do Honours or Special Education. They are exclusive options. If you do one, it prevents you from doing the others.

How would you do this?

### ***Foundation Studies***

All students must take **10 units of Foundation discipline study** in each Key Learning Area (English, Science, Mathematics, History/Human Society and Its Environment, Health and Physical Education, and Creative Arts).

All students must take **40 units of Depth study in a single discipline area**, and **you must ensure that a minimum of 30 units are taken at 2000 level or above**. If you want a secondary qualification, you will need to take your discipline depth studies in ONE of the following (English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Fine Art or Drama).

Currently it is impossible to achieve what you need to qualify as a secondary teacher of Music, Languages, Design & Technology, Science or Health and Physical Education inside the 320 units of the degree – but you can do plenty of study in these areas to market yourself as a kind of “specialist” in an interview for a Primary K-6 position. Certainly, you can get close to achieving what you need for these areas, and if you want to move towards one of these areas, please make a time to see the relevant secondary program convenor who can explain the requirements of these areas.

### ***Elective Studies***

You should take the **10 units of your elective study in the same discipline area** as your 40 units of discipline depth study. These **10 units must also be at 2000 level or above**.

You should then use **20 units of your elective study** to take **20 units of “specialist studies” (curriculum method) in the secondary teaching area** you are wishing to qualify in. These units are as follows:

**English:** EDUC2050 and EDUC4090

**History:** EDUC2036 and EDUC4136

**Geography:** EDUC2060 and EDUC4060

**Mathematics:** EDUC2090 and EDUC4105

**Fine Art/Visual Arts:** EDUC2071 and EDUC4099

**Drama:** EDUC2136 and EDUC4036

Finally, you should use your remaining **10 units of elective study to complete EDUC3195 Pedagogy and Inclusion** (a secondary professional experience course, providing you with a supervised four week placement in a secondary setting).

## **Why would I do the BTeach (Primary) / BECS degree?**

### **1) You want a qualification that provides you with flexibility in the market place and the opportunity to work with young children, families and communities**

The BTeach (Primary) / BECS provides **two vocational qualifications**. It will allow students to qualify in Early Childhood education AND Primary K-6.

### **2) You want to go on and do a research higher degree in Early Childhood Education**

If you complete either degree, and you have a GPA of 5.5 or better (ie. Lots of distinctions and high distinction grades), you will be eligible to complete an **Honours qualification**. Attaining first class Honours may make you competitive for a scholarship, which would allow you to complete a PhD full time, and help you gain a job in a university as a lecturer. It is important to note that this pathway is available in both the BTeach (Primary) / BA and the BTeach (Primary) / BECS programs. The difference is that in the BTeach (Primary) / BECS you can build your honours study around Early Childhood Education as your area of specialisation, as you will have completed significant study in this area.

### **3) You really want to work with children 0-8 years old**

If you really want to work in Preschool or other 0-5 settings or K-2 settings, or have the option of working in any setting from 0-5 years or K-6, then you should complete the BTeach (Primary) / BECS program. The final internship in the BTeach (Primary) / BECS program is in a Preschool or other 0-5 setting, NOT a K-6 environment. As internship often turns into job offers, it can be good to do internship in the setting you are trying to pick up casual work in. Doing the BTeach (Primary) / BECS degree you will have greater flexibility when applying for advertised positions, than those with a K-6 qualification only. However, if you really want to work in Primary, specialising in Years 3-6, and don't want to work in Preschool or other 0-5 settings, you are better off doing the BTeach (Primary) / BA program. Certainly, if you want the possibility of applying for jobs in both Early Childhood and Primary sectors then you should do the BTeach (Primary) / BECS qualification. So it really depends on what you want in terms of career choices.

### **3) You want to work in a K-6 setting but want to be a K-2 specialist**

It may be that you really do want to work in the Primary setting, but understand and appreciate the great benefit of experiencing a 0-5 placement, and the study of children's early development and their family and community lives. It may be that you want to be a K-2 specialist who works in the Primary setting, bringing your expertise as an Early Childhood educator into Primary education. If either is the case, then you should apply for enrolment in the BTeach (Primary) / BECS program, which will equip you with the expertise you need to foster the learning of young children in any setting.

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