





What graduates can expect

Through studying a Primary Teacher Education qualification, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies, which can include:

- Knowledge of child development
- Knowledge of teaching and learning processes
- Patience, positive attitude and flexibility
- Time-management, planning and organisation
- Teamwork and willingness to learn
- Oral and written communication
- Problem solving, initiating and challenging ideas
- Thinking critically and creatively
- Interpretive and analytical thinking.

Applied Learning

Applied learning opportunities are available through Professional learning experiences (school placements) with community school partners. These experiences deepen graduates' skillset, awareness of others, and working knowledge. Additionally, the contacts and experiences from teaching placements can often provide a good springboard into the working world.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking and technological literacy.*

*World Economic Forum: www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where graduates can expect to work

Primary Teacher Education graduates gain teaching and management positions in various schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, including:

- Primary
- Kura kaupapa
- Intermediate
- Area schools.

There are also international teaching opportunities, for example in the UK and Australia, or in international schools around the world.

As well as opportunities in the education sector, teaching skills of leadership, communication, coordination, responsibility and organisation are valued in many professions such as policy, advocacy, publishing, community work, governance and administration, politics, management, and business.

Graduates can work anywhere from an early intervention centre, a drama centre to the Ministry of Education.

W a b a d a c e a d a e d

Graduates of UC's Primary Teacher Education programmes will be eligible for provisional registration, enabling them to apply for primary teaching positions in Aotearoa New Zealand.

See some job examples below.

Special education / early intervention teacher

- Teach children with diverse learning needs
- Evaluate special needs, working with whānau and teachers to develop suitable learning plans

Review / quality assurance of curriculum / listening, reading, writing

- Teach children with diverse learning needs

Primary school teacher

- Plan and prepare learning experiences
- Teach and track learning of English, maths, science, technology, health & PE, the arts, social studies, and languages with potential to lead in a curriculum area
- Help develop children's social skills and self-management behaviours

Kaiwhakaako Mōri | Mōri-medium teacher

- Provide Mōri medium education by developing te reo and tikanga
- Collaborate with whānau and iwi
- Prepare learning experiences and build relationships

Private tutor

- Develop a student's subject understanding
- Maintain knowledge of the curriculum
- Prepare students for assignments or tests

In-home educator

- Support a child's development in the home
- Plan and supervise daily activities

Educator, kaiako

- In various settings i.e. museum, art gallery, zoo, life education charity
- Develop and facilitate engaging learning experiences
- Mentor, support and provide guidance
- Advocate for educational progress

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages, ESOL teacher

- Teach English skills, including speaking, listening, reading, writing
- Foster inclusive, culturally sensitive learning experiences
- Monitor learning progress and personalise instruction

What are the challenges of being a Primary School Teacher?

In my class we face a variety of challenges, from big to small. Often behaviour management and keeping kids motivated to learn are the biggest day to day challenges.