

EDM8004 Teacher Identity

In this course, interns will undertake a 20 day professional internship while in their final semester of study. In Queensland schools, this will also require an 'internship authorisation' from the Queensland College of Teachers, sought on your behalf by the Professional Experience Office. Equivalent processes may be required in other jurisdictions, which will be the responsibility of interns in such situations. In all settings, appropriate arrangements for mentoring, supervision and evaluation will be required as part of the process of approval for proposed placements. Preservice teachers will assume lead responsibility for planning and teaching 50% of the normal load of a full-time educator at the site. Preservice teachers will support their mentor in a secondary role for the remaining 50% of a full-time load, undertaking a range of duties involving the full repertoires of professional practice in which educators engage in schools or the professional community, and conduct of research.

This course expects interns to reflect on their prior learning and professional experiences and critically analyse how these inform their personalised frameworks of professional practice. This analysis will lead to the identification and justification of examples of professional practice that demonstrate their capacity as beginning educators. This justification will be framed against a set of recognised professional standards, supported by relevant literature demonstrating an advanced and integrated understanding of the complexities of education, and articulated through the development of a professional e-portfolio.

Through careful evaluation of the e-portfolio, interns will identify an area of professional practice that they wish to strengthen and justify their reasoning. After defining this area, a broad and deep critical analysis of research on multiple perspectives of the issue will be conducted and, based on this research, a plan for professional learning and practice will be designed, implemented and evaluated. The final assessment in this course requires interns to present this process through a professional project presentation to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Throughout the 20 day internship, interns will be primarily responsible for planning and teaching 50% of full-time teaching load unsupervised. During the remaining 50% of time the intern will be actively engaged in the learning and teaching process under the direction of the mentor teacher, including co-planning and co-teaching. Interns are expected to participate in the full range of curricula and extra-curricular activities undertaken by teachers and to meet all ethical, legal and professional requirements of the role. Interns are assessed against the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers through the use of the Queensland Professional Experience Reporting Framework and the revised DETE Professional Experience/Internship Overview. Preservice teachers will be required to undertake the full range of responsibilities of a teacher, including:

- plan for teaching
- teach
- reflect on your teaching
- gain feedback from your mentor and others on your teaching,
- maintain a professional portfolio
- observe other teachers teach, and
- participate in all other non-teaching roles, e.g. playground duty, staff meetings, etc.

Internships within Queensland

Within Queensland, the internship is an unsupervised and unpaid placement. Unsupervised means that liaison support is provided but the intern can and should be left unsupervised by the mentor for 50% of their teaching load.

The intern has gained 'internship authorisation' from the Queensland College of Teachers that allows them to undertake the role of a teacher unsupervised (including playground and sports supervision). This 'internship authorisation' is applied for on the intern's behalf by the USQ Professional Experience Office.

Mentors in Queensland are not paid to host an intern.

Internships outside of Queensland

In jurisdictions other than Queensland, supervision rules may differ. If an arrangement similar to that in Queensland exists, the intern should ensure that they have gained the necessary authorisation to undertake an unsupervised internship from the local teacher regulatory body.

In cases where preservice teachers are not legally able to undertake teaching unsupervised (as in Victoria, for example), mentors may request that payment for supervision be made by the USQ Professional Experience Office. The intern and host school should work together to ensure that local requirements are satisfactorily met.

Minimum teaching loads

WEEK 1 TO 4 (DAY 1–20)

- Teaching and planning: full lessons / sessions with full responsibility for planning, implementation and assessment for 50% of a full-time load
- Hours of teaching: 12.5 hours (approx.) of teaching a whole class group
- 12.5 hours (approx.) engaged in team teaching, assisting mentor, marking, working with small groups or individual students under the direction of the mentor, etc.