

FAQs for the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)

About becoming a teacher

Will I become a teacher?

Graduates of the GradDipEd are fully equipped to become a registered teacher and apply for a Provisional Practising Certificate from the Teaching Council so that they can teach in intermediate, middle school and secondary school classrooms, in public, integrated and private schools throughout New Zealand.

What year levels can I teach?

Students at intermediate, middle school and secondary school in Years 7-13.

Will I be able to teach at a Christian/State school?

Graduates of the GradDipEd are qualified to work in public (state), integrated and private schools throughout New Zealand.

Will I be able to teach overseas?

As a New Zealand teaching qualification, the GradDipEd is transferrable overseas in most cases.

What subjects will I be able to teach?

The subjects you will teach depend on the courses taken in your prior qualification. For example if you have a BA with a major in English, you will train to be an English teacher.

About the programme

- One year full-time
- 18 January 2021 – 19 November 2021
- 135 credits

Why does the programme start so early?

This course requires students to go on placement (practicum) in schools during the establishment period at the start of the school year. This is usually the last week of January. Academic classes on campus at Laidlaw College need to start prior to this to ensure student success while on placement.

It is a 135 credit course. At Laidlaw College, a normal one-year load is 120 credits, so the additional credits require a longer study year.

Can I study part-time?

This programme can be studied part-time over two years by arrangement. The first year will focus on academic courses. The second year will include both academic courses and placements.

Can I study by distance?

This programme cannot be studied by distance.

What does the programme entail?

This course is a full-time course, so you will need to be available full-time for study. Please see the programme summary for the list of courses. We are currently updating the timetables. You will be able to view the timetables here: <https://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/student-info/timetables#henderson>

The programme is delivered through mixed modes:

Dedicated on-campus lectures

- During the first two weeks of the course, you will be at Laidlaw College for classes every day.
- You will attend Laidlaw College's Orientation Week at the beginning of each semester.
- For 10 weeks of each semester you will be at Laidlaw College for two days and on a school placement for two days. Occasionally there will be a placement prebrief or debrief on an additional day on campus.

Practicum placements throughout the year

More than 80 days will be spent in school over the course of the year:

- There is an initial block placement at the beginning of the school year, where you will be on a school placement every day for two weeks.
- Two further block placements occur during Semester 1 and Semester 2 during which time you will spend every day in school.
- You will also spend 10 weeks of each semester on a school placement for two days each week and at Laidlaw College for two days.

Additional educational training

- All Laidlaw's Teaching students attend a three-day and two-night noho marae together during Semester 1.

Can I choose what schools I do placement (practicum) at?

Placements are available at a number of schools. The practicum coordinator arranges placements and will work with you when doing so.

How many schools will I do my placement at?

At least two schools. You will be attached to one school for much of the year with a block placement in a different school context.

Can I do a placement overseas/on the mission field/in a non-school context?

By arrangement, it may be possible to undertake the block placement during June overseas/on the mission field/in a non-school context as long as you are involved in teaching.

How do I travel to school for placement?

You will be responsible for your own travel to and from placement.

What will I learn?

This programme will teach you how to be a teacher and help you to meet the Teaching Council Code and Standards for the teaching profession. This programme is through Laidlaw College and so has a theological basis. The heart of this programme is a social justice concern as it plays out in the current educational context. The programme includes courses in

- Incarnational teaching and learning for secondary;
- Ethics and education;
- Teacher professional reflection and inquiry;
- Te reo Māori and tikanga;
- In-school placement.

Admission

What are the admission requirements?

The admissions requirements are listed in the Education Handbook for 2021. Further information about English Language requirements are included there. You may be required to provide evidence of achievement in an approved test from an internationally recognised testing agency.

The normal requirement for admission requires applicants to show evidence they have:

1. An appropriate bachelor's degree at Level 7 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework and/or postgraduate qualification,

AND

2. A body of knowledge from Levels 5 to 7 or higher in support of New Zealand Curriculum learning areas for at least one Year 7-10 teaching subject/s and at least one Year 11-13 teaching subject/s, OR

For language teaching: native or fluent reading, writing, speaking and listening in the language

Laidlaw College provides support for applicants when choosing teaching subjects.

3. English Language Requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) follow the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand requirements for preservice teachers.
4. All education applicants must complete a Police Vetting Service Request and Consent form as part of their application. All international applicants for the GradDipEd must provide a police clearance certificate from their country of citizenship AND for any country in which they have lived for more than a 12 month period in the last 10 years. This overseas police clearance should be less than 6 months old and be presented at the time of application. This is to meet the requirements of the Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

What are the learning areas (subjects) within the New Zealand Curriculum?

The learning areas (subjects) within the New Zealand Curriculum are:

- English
- Te Reo Māori
- The arts - art history, dance, drama, music, visual arts

- Health and physical education
- Learning languages - Cook Island Māori, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Leā Faka-Tonga, NZ Sign Language, Mandarin, Samoan, Spanish
- Mathematics and statistics
- Science - science, biology, chemistry, physics
- Social sciences - accounting, business, classics, economics, geography, history, legal, media, philosophy, psychology, religious education, social studies, sustainability
- Technology - bio and chemical, design and visual communication, digital (computer science, information, infrastructure, media, programming), electronics, food, manufacturing, textiles, resistant materials

It is recommended that applicants wishing to teach less common specialist subjects, such as religious education, philosophy, psychology, environmental studies (Education for Sustainability), are capable of teaching in another learning area as well, based on their previous study, or language fluency.

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How does the admission process work?

1. Apply online, providing certified copies of two forms of identification, your transcript and references. Laidlaw College will assist you with this as you begin
2. Attend a visual interview at Laidlaw College
3. Undertake literacy and numeracy testing at Laidlaw College
4. Undergo a Police vet

Did I have to do the literacy and numeracy testing?

All applicants must sit the literacy and numeracy testing as a requirement of the Teaching Council.

What subjects can I teach?

You need to have previously studied a body of knowledge from levels 5 to 7 or higher in support of subject/s (learning area/s) of the New Zealand curriculum. See the table of learning areas above.

Do I need to have a degree in the subject I want to teach?

What if I don't have a qualification in a school subject?

I'm fluent in another language, can I become a teacher for this language?

You will need to show you have previously studied a body of knowledge from levels 5 to 7 or higher in support of learning area/s of the New Zealand curriculum.

It may be possible that this body of knowledge is separate to the bachelor's qualification or higher.

For language teaching: native or fluent reading, writing, speaking and listening in the language, is needed, which might be separate to their bachelor's qualification or higher.

Can I do this programme if I have a BEd/BTeach?

Can I do this programme if I have another Laidlaw qualification?

- The Laidlaw College Bachelor of Education (Primary) or Bachelor of Teaching (Primary) do not meet the entry criteria.
- The Bachelor of Counselling may meet the criteria. We recognise that this is a specialist area and we will assess the possibilities with applicants, in line with the learning areas within the New Zealand curriculum. Note that in-school placements in this programme involve classroom teaching.
- With other Laidlaw qualifications, you will need to be able to meet the entrance criteria AND show evidence of that you have studied at the appropriate level (Levels 5 to 7 or higher) in support of the learning area/s of the New Zealand curriculum.

For more information, contact

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Student Services

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2021 Fees

\$6,980 per year full-time (135 credits)

Excludes Student Services fee of \$4 per credit.

Applications close

4 January 2021.