Teachers have a significant impact on the growth and development of individuals – from early childhood, through pre-teen to adolescence and beyond. Modern day teaching is about inspiring and helping students to become life-long learners: able to acquire and integrate knowledge into their lives so they become valuable and contributing members of society. A teacher’s role is multifaceted and continuously changing to embrace societal and technological developments.

A career in teaching can be both rewarding and challenging. It provides a great opportunity to experience different parts of Australia or the world, if you choose. You will also encounter a wide variety of individuals who share your passion for enriching the lives of future generations.

The skills you develop with an undergraduate education qualification equip you to pursue a clearly defined and meaningful vocation, but are also transferrable into other fields, providing you the option to move outside the classroom.

**Careers in Teaching: Pathways, Challenges and Success**

Engage in your career before you graduate

To enhance your employment prospects on graduation it is important not only to do well academically (including practicum placements/internships), but to also consider co-curricular and extra-curricular activities whilst still studying. This active involvement has a number of benefits as it provides a means of:

- Demonstrating to future employers your commitment to the field;
- Helping to identify your key strengths;
- Evidencing your employability skills and;
- Expanding your networks.

Related activities include:

- Coaching or refereeing sporting teams/games
- Working in out-of-school care and children’s school holiday programs/camps e.g. Murdoch Sports Quenda program
- Leading a church youth group
- Mentoring e.g. AIME
- Murdoch student PASS Leader (Tutor)
- Private Tutor work
- Working with youth at risk at local community centres
- Joining and becoming an active member of a relevant student club or society (e.g. SPECS)
- Joining content area Professional Societies e.g. Science Teachers Association of WA (stawa.net), History Teachers’ Association of WA (www.htawa.org.au), or relevant Unions as a student member)
- Volunteering with organisations involved in supporting children’s development or out-reach education programs.

NOTE: The Murdoch Volunteering Hub (situated next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court) is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain relevant volunteer work. Students can also graduate with a “Community and Career Skills Development Transcript” through volunteering. Further information is available via the Murdoch Volunteering Hub website www.the-guild.com.au/volunteering-hub.

Some students have also been able to secure temporary relief teaching work towards the end of their degree (enabling them to promote this additional experience on their resume on graduation).

The following tips for securing relief teaching work are courtesy of a Murdoch PhD Education student:

- When pursuing any type of teaching work within the public sector, paperwork needs to be filled in by the first school you work at in order to obtain your W.A. Department of Education employee number (e-number), necessary to get paid. It is easier to get subsequent work once you have this number on your resume.
- You need to be pro-active during your undergraduate placements / final internship - enquire about temporary relief work at all the schools you have contact with as a student. (They may be more obliging in filling in the forms for your e-number).
- Some schools require teachers to find their own relief so keep in contact with teachers you know who may call you for work.
- Touch base with schools each term to let them know you are still available and interested in work.
- Also consider joining Relief Teaching social networks sites (there are several Facebook communities you can join).
Careers in Teaching
Pathways, Challenges and Success

Careers in Teaching

Depending on your undergraduate degree, you will embark on a meaningful career that will qualify you as a classroom teacher for three and four year kindergarten, primary or secondary students. The option to specialise in Sports Education (up to year 10) and Indigenous Studies is also available at Murdoch.

Many graduates pursue public education opportunities through the W.A. Education Department Graduate program (a two year structured program offering support and on-going professional development, advertised via the public sector jobs board www.jobs.wa.gov.au or Teach in WA app). Alternatively, others have applied direct to public sector schools for relief or contract positions. Graduates have also gone on to teach in Catholic Education, Independent or Community Schools, University bridging institutions or travel throughout Australia / overseas by registering with a temporary recruitment agency.

Alternative careers:

Modern-day Teachers are motivators, managers, communicators, leaders, negotiators, creators, co-ordinators/administrators, role models and mentors who have a good understanding of the needs of others.

You can therefore take your education qualification beyond the classroom and pursue a number of alternative career paths.

Employability is further enhanced if you consider an additional industry based qualification or post-graduate study. The following list of alternative careers (some requiring additional study/skill sets) have been pursued by graduates with an Education degree:

- Education Officer (e.g. Water Authorities / Sustainability and Eco-tourism organisations / Sport and Recreation Facilities / Museums)
- Career Advisor (with post-grad Career Development)
- Curriculum Development Officer / e-Learning Developer
- Temporary Teaching Agency Recruitment Consultant (with post-grad Human Resources)
- University Academic / Researcher (with PhD)
- Vocational Training Lecturer / Corporate Development Trainer / Corrective Services Educator or Trainer (with Cert IV in Training and Assessment)
- Recreation / Activity Officer
- High School or University Student Support Officer

A teaching qualification is just the beginning. You have the ability to continuously develop your career, even at university. It begins with networking, co-curricular/extra-curricular activities and stepping up to opportunity in industry. Putting yourself out there and remaining passionate about everything that you do will set you apart.

Further information:
Teacher Registration Board of W.A. www.trb.wa.gov.au
W.A Education Department www.education.wa.edu.au
State School Teachers Union www.sstuwa.org.au
Independent Education Union www.ieuwa.asn.au

Keep up to date, like us on Facebook. Murdoch Careers and Employment Centre.