

PGDipSpTch

The PGDipSpTch endorsed in Complex Educational Needs is part of a suite of postgraduate specialist teaching qualifications developed by leading educators and researchers from Massey University and the University of Canterbury. The programme is designed to develop core and specialist knowledge and skills relevant to the field of complex needs within the context of interprofessional practice.

The Year One Specialist course focuses on presence, participation and achievements for students with complex needs. It covers personal, historical, theoretical and rights-based perspectives on complex educational needs; families/whanau and wellbeing; teaching and learning within the New Zealand curriculum; assessment and planning; language and communication; and movement and access.

In Year Two the evidence-based practice course looks in more depth at responsive approaches to teaching and learning, and working collaboratively. The practicum course provides the opportunity to work with children who have complex educational needs.

This is a national programme, and applicants from throughout New Zealand are encouraged to apply.

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching (Complex Educational Needs)

How will the courses in this programme be taught?

This Diploma implements an inquiry-based interprofessional learning model, which means that part of the training will be shared with other specialists working in related areas, and also means that face-to-face interactions will typically involve an inquiry model, rather than the lecture model associated with undergraduate teaching. Thus, students will use self-directed study to gain core knowledge and to research ideas, and face-to-face meetings will encourage application, discussion and problem-solving.

Where will these courses be taught?

The programme will be delivered via a blended learning approach involving both distance and face-to-face learning. This involves a combination of on-campus block courses, virtual face-to-face meetings; online course activities and self-directed study using a variety of online resources available the library and Specialist Teaching moodle site as well as textbooks. Access to broadband internet is strongly advised.

In the second year of the course, students will engage in practical tasks completed at an appropriate setting, such as where students are currently employed or an approved alternative site.

What does this qualification prepare me for?

Graduates will be able to be employed working with students who have complex educational needs. In addition, graduates may be eligible for entry into the Master of Specialist Teaching, Master of Education, Master of Counselling or Master of Health Sciences degrees.

What will I learn?

This endorsement will develop students' specialist knowledge in the field of complex educational needs. A graduate of this course is expected to be able to demonstrate:

1. Specialist theory and skills required in the field of complex educational needs.
2. The specialist skills, research, attitudes and evidence-based practices needed for professionals to work effectively with students, families and teachers in educational contexts.
3. Skills relating to reflective and ethical practice and ongoing professional development.
4. Māori and multicultural concepts and practices as they relate to complex educational needs.

How long is the programme of study?

The Postgraduate Diploma is typically completed part-time over two years. There are two courses per year (each course is 30 points). As the first year courses are prerequisites for the second year courses, completing the programme in less than two years is not possible. In some cases, the programme may be completed over four years.

What are the courses of study?

- EDST601 Core Theory and Foundations of Specialist Teaching
- EDST651 Theory and Foundations of Complex Educational Needs
- EDST652 Evidence-based Interprofessional Practice in Complex Educational Needs
- EDST653 Practicum in Complex Educational Needs