

How much time will this programme take?

You should expect to study for an average of 300 hours per course although the number of hours will vary depending on your study skills. Each course has a full time block component so you should expect to study for around 20 hours per week per course outside of the block week. Time during the courses may be spent in online activities, reading, and completing course assessments. You are expected to manage your own study schedules, and to plan ahead for study time during each week.

What are the fees? Am I eligible for a Study Award?

Please refer to our website for up to date fees information:
www.canterbury.ac.nz/

Study awards and scholarships may be available through the Ministry of Education. For more information visit
www.education.govt.nz/school/people-and-employment/principals-and-teachers/scholarships-for-people-working-in-schools/special-education-study-awards-and-scholarships/

What qualifications do I need to enrol?

In general, students need a teaching qualification in Early Childhood, current full NZ Teachers' Council registration and, have sufficient background of professional experience to benefit from the course. For example, at least two years experience as a teacher in an early childhood setting and some experience working with children with special needs. Prior to undertaking the practicum EDST633, students will also need a current police check.

How do I start the enrolment process?

Follow the steps to getting enrolled.

1. Apply to enrol at the University of Canterbury online via myUC <https://myuc.canterbury.ac.nz/>

- Apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching (part time). Select your endorsement – Early Intervention.
- Upload relevant documents such as your academic transcripts showing grades and conferment of award, current New Zealand teacher registration, a birth certificate or passport and the names of two references.
- University admission requires sighting of an original or certified hardcopy of your identity/citizenship documentation. A certified hardcopy can be posted to the:
Applications Administrator, College of Education, Health and Human Development, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140, NEW ZEALAND.
NOTE: Certified documents must be signed by a Justice of the Peace (JP) or solicitor.
- From October, add courses to your application online.
- The two courses taken in the first year are:
EDST601 Core Theory and Foundations and EDST631 Theory and Foundations of Early Intervention.
- Phone the Student Contact Centre 0800 827 748 or email enrol@canterbury.ac.nz if you need assistance enrolling online.

2. When you have been approved into the programme and the course(s) you will be sent an enrolment offer for you to accept or decline.

- If you are a successful study award recipient, note that this covers your course tuition fees only. You are still required to pay the student services levies and other administration costs.

For further information contact:

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Early Intervention.



PGDipSpTch(EI)

The PGDipSpTch endorsed in Early Intervention 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 early intervention within the context of interprofessional practice.

What is early intervention?

Early intervention is an exciting field, providing opportunities to support families and early childhood educators so that infants and young children can make early gains toward reaching their potential. Children in early intervention range in age from birth to five years, and have special learning, development and behavioural needs. Families and early childhood centres may need support to help the children learn and develop their competencies prior to school entry. There has been enormous growth in research identifying powerful strategies that early interventionists can use to make meaningful differences for families and children. A graduate of this programme will acquire knowledge and practical skills to help families and early childhood educators to support children, as well as develop strategies for ongoing professional development.

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

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching (Early Intervention)

How will the courses in this programme be taught?

The 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 a 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 classes, virtual face-to-face course meetings, on-line course activities, and self-directed study using a variety of online resources available via the library, Specialist Teaching moodle site as well as textbooks. Access to broadband internet is strongly advised.

In the second year of the course, students will work with field advisors in an approved setting to deliver evidence-based early intervention support strategies to families and early childhood educators.

What does this qualification prepare me for?

Graduates will be able to be employed as Early Intervention Teachers. Most early intervention services in New Zealand are provided through the Ministry of Education. 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 early intervention. A graduate of this course is expected to be able to demonstrate:

1. Specialist theory and skills required in the field of early intervention.
2. The specialist skills, research, attitudes and evidence-based practices needed for professionals to work effectively with children, families, early childhood educators and whānau in early intervention.
3. Skills relating to reflective and ethical practice and ongoing professional development.
4. Māori and multicultural concepts and practices as they relate to early intervention.

What are the courses of study?

- EDST601 Core Theory and Foundations of Specialist Teaching
- EDST631 Theory and Foundations of Early Intervention
- EDST632 Evidence-based Interprofessional Practice in Early Intervention
- EDST633 Practicum in Early Intervention

How long is the programme of study?

The Postgraduate Diploma is typically completed part-time over two years. There are two 30 point courses per year. As the first year courses are pre-requisite for the second year courses, completing the course in less than two years is not currently possible. In some cases, the programme may be completed over three or four years.