

PGDipSpTch(LB)

The Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching endorsed in Learning and Behaviour is a part of a suite of postgraduate qualifications developed by leading educators at Massey University and the University of Canterbury. The programme is designed to develop core and specialist knowledge and skills relevant to working interprofessionally in educational settings with children who experience learning and behaviour difficulties.

What is the field of Learning and Behaviour?

The field of learning and behaviour is an exciting area, providing opportunities to support students who experience learning and behaviour difficulties in educational settings to ensure they reach their potential. Students who experience learning and behaviour difficulties often have unique learning, social and emotional needs. Families, whānau, teachers and schools may need support to provide the best learning environments for these students. There has been significant growth in research identifying powerful strategies, techniques and inclusive frameworks that can enable the learning and progress of all students. Graduates of this programme have the theoretical understanding, practical skills, and collaborative knowledge to 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 (Learning and Behaviour)

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 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 collaborative problem-solving.

Where will these courses be taught?

The programme will be delivered via a blended learning approach in collaboration with specialist staff from Massey University. This involves a combination of on-campus block courses, virtual face-to-face course meetings, online course activities, and self-directed study using a variety of online resources available via the library and Specialist Teaching moodle site, as well as textbooks. Reliable internet access is required.

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 of this qualification will be able to be employed as Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour. Most specialist Learning and Behaviour 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 learning and behaviour. A graduate of this programme is expected to be able to demonstrate

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

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 prerequisite 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 three or four years.

What are the courses of study?

- EDST601 Core Theory and Foundations of Specialist Teaching
- EDST641 Theory and Foundations of Learning and Behaviour Diversity
- EDST642 Evidence-based Interprofessional Practice in Learning and Behaviour Diversity
- EDST643 Practicum in Learning and Behaviour Diversity