



Education

Learn how to change the world

“Everything I had experienced throughout my life before university seemed to steer me towards a career in education. For those wanting to experience a wider, more sociological based career path, majoring in Education is an ideal option”

Miranda Carpenter
Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Support worker

Education is a powerful tool that can transform the lives of children, adults, families and communities. How has education shaped your own life, for better or worse? What aspects of education have sparked your curiosity and excitement about the world?

If you study education, you will also learn about history, philosophy, psychology, politics and sociology. You will explore how education has changed the lives of people and communities in the past, and about the ways different people have made sense of education as a cornerstone of society. You will encounter different ideas about the purpose of education, what a good education looks like, and how people learn. You will learn about people, and how they think.

The University of Otago College of Education offers a range of papers contributing to the study of Education, as a subject major or minor in a Bachelor of Arts degree, or as a minor subject included in other degrees.

We welcome you to the exciting study of Education.

0800 80 80 98 | otago.ac.nz | txt 866 | university@otago.ac.nz



Why study Education?

We are involved with education throughout our lives. Education papers investigate how education changes lives and how learning happens, and they identify and address patterns of success and failure in education.

Topics of interest are:

- Educational psychology (how children, young people and adults learn).
- How education systems evolve and how they function.
- The role of education in the lives of families, whānau and communities.
- The historical influences that have shaped institutions of childhood and education systems nationally and internationally.
- The cultural, social and political influences on the school curriculum.
- Gender, disability, Māori education, ICT and research methods also feature in the undergraduate programme.

The study of Education is diverse and interdisciplinary. It will give you a range of sought-after skills including critical thinking, problem solving, strong interpersonal skills, and both written and verbal communication skills.

Education at Otago

The Bachelor of Arts majoring in Education is a three-year degree programme.

In your first year, you will learn about the political, social and cultural dimensions of contemporary educational practice. You also will study lifespan development in its social context. This includes the studies of families, of cultures within New Zealand and of disability.

Beyond your first year, you'll develop understanding of how people learn, ways of facilitating learning and how education in New Zealand has developed over time.

We offer papers that allow you to focus your studies in the following areas:

- Psychology of education.
- Sociology of education.
- Pedagogy of education
- Equity in education.
- Disability studies and education.

Southland campus

The Southland campus, based in Invercargill, offers some Bachelor of Arts (Education) papers.

Background required

There are no specific subjects you need to have studied at school in order to study Education.

Degree options

You can study Education as a major or minor for a Bachelor of Arts. You may elect to do a double major or a double degree, such as a BA in Education and BSc in Psychology.

Students find that Education papers are a useful complement to their other degrees including Arts, Physical Education, or Social and Community Work. Education papers can enhance any degree, as all professionals are involved in learning.

Student exchange

The University of Otago has exchange agreements with over 100 institutions worldwide. You have the opportunity to study at an international partnership institution while paying only New Zealand fees, and completing your qualification within the same timeframe as if you'd never been away.

Career opportunities

Students with a major in Education can apply for a diverse range of jobs. Education can be an especially useful background for careers in research, policy analysis, social work, the counselling professions and many areas of public service.

Educational processes are important in almost all settings and Education graduates can have a valuable role in most organisations.

PROFILE

Miranda Carpenter

Bachelor of Arts (Education) | Support worker, Community Care Trust

I chose to study at the University of Otago for three main reasons. The first was Otago's international reputation as a top-tier university. Secondly, after returning home from Canada where I had been living for four years, I was able to draw on the support of my friends and family while I was studying. Lastly, I love most outdoor activities so what better place to study? The Otago region is a nature lover's playground!

Everything I had experienced throughout my life before university seemed to steer me towards a career in education. While studying for a Bachelor of Teaching, I realised it was those same life experiences that meant the broader Bachelor of Arts majoring in Education suited my interests better. For those wanting to experience a wider, more sociological based career path, majoring in Education is an ideal option.

Being able to change from a teaching degree to major in Education showed the University would go out of their way to find the best possible fit for students' course of study, no matter what stage they are at.

The interesting and valuable content across all the papers I took gave me the opportunity to effectively study both fields. This placed me in a unique position to apply what I learned from both to inform my choice of career path. I knew I would go on to serve my community and society with a solid understanding of its foundations and inner workings.

I've recently started work at Community Care Trust, a not-for-profit charitable trust, as an independent living support worker. Helping those in the community that need varying degrees of support and strategies to achieve daily and long-term goals, as well as working with an amazing team of like-minded individuals, is everything I could have hoped for in a job.

I am so thankful the University of Otago was part of the journey that got me to where I am.



For questions about
Education
otago.ac.nz/education

