

## ECS1240 TEACHING GUIDELINES – SEMESTER 1, 2026

In the first semester of the Bachelor of Education course, the Professional Experience component is embedded in a unit of study, ECS1240 Becoming an Early Childhood Educator. This provides opportunities for Pre-service Teachers to gain experience in schools to ensure strong links between theory and practice. In this way, the Professional Experience becomes an 'integrating device' which brings cohesion to the course and allows for assessment to be linked to practical experience.

Through observing experienced practitioners at work, being immersed in the school community, and reflecting on their experiences, First Year Pre-service Teachers are able to better understand the complex role of a teacher, confirm their career choice and begin their professional development.

For this Professional Experience, Pre-service Teachers will complete seven (7) Thursdays in a school as an orientation to the teaching profession and are primarily there to observe and assist with the learning and teaching program.

Pre-service Teachers are looking for opportunities to learn the generic skills of teaching/learning and classroom management by seeing how teachers carry out their everyday tasks. They are encouraged to have professional discourse with staff and participate as members of a learning community. There are several ways in which this can be achieved, including:

- Helping out across the school in different areas
  - ECS Pre-service Teachers should be allocated to a Kindergarten, Pre-primary or Year 1 – 3 Classroom
- Working with small groups of children
- Assisting specialist teachers
- Contributing to school wide projects
- Assisting duty teachers.

To facilitate this range of opportunities, schools may allocate one or more staff members to act as Mentor Teachers to the Pre-service Teachers. They would not be expected to have the Pre-service Teachers in their own classroom all the time, but would liaise with other staff to ensure that the whole experience was mutually beneficial.

<b>SCHEDULE of the ECS1240 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Teaching Task &amp; Topics for Observation, Discussion and Reflection</b>	
Day 1	The School Context. Reflection Topic: <i>Developing effective relationships with children.</i>
Day 2	Reflection Topic: <i>The influence of the environment on children's learning.</i>
Day 3	Reflection Topic: <i>Supporting behaviours that encourage relationships &amp; learning.</i>
Day 4	Reflection Topic: <i>The Importance of questioning to get children talking and thinking.</i>
Day 5	Reflection Topic: <i>Curriculum &amp; Components of learning experience. Discuss the learning experience to be implemented on the 6<sup>th</sup> day. Discuss outcomes, strategies, sequence and resources.</i>
Day 6	Reflection Topic: <i>Teaching a learning experience. Discuss the implementation and outcome of the proposed learning experience.</i>
Day 7	Reflection Topic: <i>Assessment &amp; Evaluation</i>