

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR ADMISSIONS INTERVIEW

Congratulations on being accepted to the next stage of admission, the admissions interview.

In the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education you will study the significance of the learning and development that occurs between birth and starting school for every child. As a graduate early childhood teacher, you will have an understanding of educational theory and contemporary approaches to empower you to design and deliver curriculum that enhances each child's learning dispositions and cognitive, social, emotional and physical development skills.

During your four-year degree, you will develop skills in play pedagogy to teach literacy, maths, science, technology, engineering, arts, music, dance, drama, multimodal media, and STEM to young children. This will be balanced with safety, health and wellbeing; documentation, planning and assessment; sustainable practices; working with families and communities; diversity and inclusion practices; advocacy and research; pedagogical and educational leadership; and service provision and management.

Interview Structure

The admissions interview is 30 minutes in duration with an academic from the School of Education.

You will have already provided some information about yourself in your pre-interview questionnaire, but additional questions will be asked during the admissions interview to better understand your reasons for wanting to study to be an early childhood education teacher and to make sure you are aware of what the course involves.

Interview Preparation

The key to successful performance at any interview is preparation. To prepare for your admissions interview, re-familiarise yourself with your application and pre-interview questionnaire answers. Think about points you want to make in the interview and be prepared to elaborate on anything you've shared about yourself so far.

It is also worthwhile to consider the following points in preparation for your interview:

- What you currently know about early childhood education and what draws you to the course at this time.
- What books, if any, you are reading in any field related to early childhood education.
- Your capacity to deal effectively with the stress of various assignments being due simultaneously.
- Your competence in working with other people, particularly those you find difficult. Perhaps you have examples of past experiences where you were able to work through issues with other people.
- Your strategies for maintaining emotional and psychological regulation when faced with challenging intellectual, interpersonal or therapeutic situations, such as engaging with others with ideas and world-views very different from your own.

Thinking about these questions ahead of your interview will help you articulate how you are growth-oriented and why studying to become an early childhood teacher is meaningful to you and within your capacity.

What will make you a good student? What will make you a good teacher?

The interview is also an opportunity for you to decide whether this course and career is a good fit for you.

Being interviewed is a skill, and like any skill it requires practice. Sit down with a member of your family or a friend and have them ask you their best interview questions. Answer them honestly and seriously.

Be honest and be yourself!



INTERVIEW TIPS

Listen to the question

Say if you don't understand a question. We can rephrase the question.

Take your time. Don't feel pressured to answer immediately. Breathe, relax.

Don't try to bluff your answers. If you don't know the answer to a question, that's OK. Be honest and let us know.

Ask questions. Are there subjects or career options you want to talk about?

Try to relax. We understand interviews can be nerve-wracking. We've been there too. But remember it's another chance to learn more about you ... and we want the interview to go well too!