



Graduate Certificate in Middle Years Education

Specialised training to teach in the
middle years (Years 6-9)

What is Middle Years education?

The area covers teaching and learning from Years 6 – 9 (students aged 10 – 15 years). Middle school education research and philosophy is a national focus with a range of important initiatives changing the face of Australian education. Guiding documents such as the Melbourne Declaration (2008) and Curriculum Shaping Papers (ACARA, 2009) include specific references to the middle years as an educational priority. A number of national and state initiatives drive a growing interest and demand for specific training in the middle years, which are also known as Junior Secondary. Signature practices in the middle years are sometimes referred to as middle schooling.

Who is it for?

The focus of the Graduate Certificate in Middle Years Education is to provide teachers in upper primary, lower secondary and in dedicated middle schools within P-12 schools to gain specialist middle years capability and to upgrade their qualifications. Middle Schooling is relatively new in Australian schools and the significant majority of teachers teaching within this phase of schooling do not have formal qualifications in this area.

- **Commencing in Semester 1, 2012.**
- **Can be completed in 12 months or over 2 years.**
- **Program is through Open Universities Australia, delivered by Griffith University**
- **Griffith is a national leader in Middle Years Education**



What does the program cover?

The program covers the theory and practices that have been identified as best practices when designing developmentally appropriate educational experiences for young people in the middle years. The program also involves the planning and implementation of an action research project with a middle years focus.

What is the program structure?

The Graduate Certificate in Middle Years consists of four 10 Credit Point courses, each of which will be offered once a year, across consecutive sessions, in the following order:

Session 1: Foundation Principles of Middle Schooling

Session 1: Realising sustainable middle years reform: Research design

Session 2: Understanding Middle Years Learners: A new frontier

Session 2: Action Research in the Middle Years

It is not intended that all of this suite of courses will provide a rigid chronological narrative. However, students must complete **Realising sustainable middle years reform: Research design** as a prerequisite to **Action Research in the Middle Years**. Students may commence the Program part-time at any point but students wishing to complete the Program full-time would need to enrol in Session 1. The coherence of the Program is somewhat dependant on gaining a solid understanding of the middle years learner, and their distinctive developmental and resulting pedagogical needs.

OUA students - how to apply.

Application forms and eligibility criteria are found on the program page on the Open Universities Australia (OUA) website at open.edu.au

Students will need to submit an application form which must be received two weeks prior to close of enrolments.

Further Study

The Graduate Certificate in Middle Years Education requires 40 credit points of study. Once completed, it will articulate with the Master of Education and allow students to pursue either a coursework or research pathway. The research pathway from the Graduate Certificate in Middle Years Education can lead to a postgraduate Master's research program which enables students to pursue an academic career in middle years of schooling through research (PhD or EdD).

For further information on Middle Years Education

griffith.edu.au/education/middle-years-education

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