

Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship 2012 Information for Employers

Scholarships to upgrade your employee's qualifications

Applications close 12 August 2011

Do you have three-year university degree qualified educators working in your service?

Supporting your staff to upgrade their qualifications will enable your service to meet the new requirements for educational leaders from 2014.

To deliver an approved kindergarten program (from 2014) long day care and kindergarten services must employ an early childhood teacher who, either:

- holds a four year university early childhood teaching qualification, or
- is a registered teacher (with the Queensland College of Teachers) holding an approved two or three year early childhood qualification(s) that meets the requirements of the *Child Care Act 2002* and sections 113 [(a) to (c)] or 114 of the Child Care Regulation 2003, or
- is a primary teacher who has full teacher registration with the Queensland College of Teachers and who is studying towards an approved two or three year early childhood qualification(s) (including the *Early Childhood Bridging Program*) that meets the requirements of the *Child Care Act 2002* and sections 113 [(a) to (c)] or 114 of the Child Care Regulation 2003.

To help employers support their staff to meet the qualification requirements for the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme, the government has developed the *Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship* program.

This program supports early childhood education and care services to upgrade the qualifications of their staff so they can deliver a kindergarten program and be considered for kindergarten funding.

Benefit for employers

The scholarship program allows employers to prepare their staff to meet the funding eligibility to be a kindergarten program provider.

In addition to the Department paying the program and student fees associated with the study, each scholarship holder's employer will be eligible to receive funding equivalent to 50% of the employee's usual gross salary costs for the duration of any practicum required by the study program. Further details about the reimbursement eligibility criteria and process are available at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/early-childhood-scholarships.html>

About the scholarship

Scholarship holders must undertake two years of continuous part-time study (four semesters) in an approved pathway.

Successful applicants in the current round of scholarships will need to commence studies in Semester 1, 2012 and will conclude at the end of Semester 2, 2013.

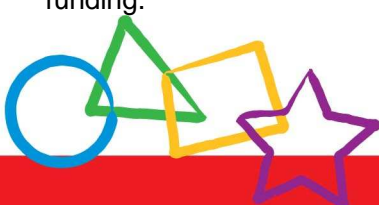
Courses are offered in external mode and therefore scholarship holders are not required to attend classes.

Depending on the nominated study pathway, scholarship holders may be required to complete professional experience or practicum as part of their study program requirements.

Eligibility

Applicants for an *Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship* must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- currently employed in a licensed centre-based long day care or kindergarten service;



- hold a minimum three (3) year university qualification, and are eligible for entry into one of the specified scholarship pathways;
- not currently eligible or registered with the Queensland College of Teachers (QCT);
- not already studying or enrolled in one of the specified scholarship pathway programs;
- are an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of Australia; and
- have the support of their employer to undertake further study.

Employer Responsibilities

Employers play a key role in supporting their staff who are scholarship recipients to meet the requirements of the study program. This includes:

- acknowledging the enhanced level of commitment that accompanies tertiary study;
- ensuring that scholarship recipients have access to release time during the scholarship period to support completion of any compulsory professional experience or practicum requirements of the study program;
- seeking reimbursement from the department for 50% of the scholarship recipient's usual gross salary costs for the period of compulsory professional experience or practicum;
- providing opportunities for scholarship recipients to apply their learnings and to share their new knowledge with colleagues; and
- providing any additional support to scholarship recipients such as facilitating the development of mentoring relationships with other teachers within their current centre or at other local centres, or providing access to additional non-contact time or resources.

Further information about employer responsibilities and entitlements are provided in the *Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship Guidelines* available at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/early-childhood-scholarships.html>

How to apply

All applicants must complete and submit the *Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship Application Form* and associated documents.

A section of the *Application Form* must also be completed by the applicant's current employer or Director to indicate their support for the scholarship application.

Detailed information about the application form and process is available in the *Applicant Guide* available at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/early-childhood-scholarships.html>

Applications must be received by 12 August 2011 for study programs commencing in Semester 1, 2012.

Further Information

Further information about the *Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship*, including the Application Form, Applicant Guide and Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship Guidelines 2012 are available at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/early-childhood-scholarships.html>

The *Frequently Asked Questions* Fact Sheet is available at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/hr/recruitment/teaching/docs/scholarships/faq.doc>

Further information about the Early Childhood Teacher Scholarship is also available by emailing:

earlychildhoodscholarships@deta.qld.gov.au

Further information about the kindergarten reforms is available from the Office for Early Childhood Education and Care:

Kindy Hotline – 1800 454 639

