

Postgraduate Information Evenings 2020 - *Education Transcript*

[Western] David: Thank you everyone for joining us on the Education Postgraduate Information Session. My name is David.

So I will start presenting at the moment. But to start with, to the next slide organizations have an acknowledgement of the country to start. With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that its campuses occupy their traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal (also referred to as Tharawal) and Wiradjuri peoples and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

And just to introduce myself to everyone. My name is David work at the Contact Service Centre and Western Sydney University, which is very much, just like the Course Information team for Western Sydney University and I will be co presenting with Michelle, who is the Dean of School of Education and we'll just take turns and presenting in this presentation.

It's just a reminder to everyone that the zoom meeting and the breakout sessions, which is the Q&A sessions are going to be recorded. If you guys have any questions about this, you can email our events team and events team@westernsydney.edu.au

Just a little bit of overview of the presentation to start with. So Michelle is going to be presenting about the postgraduate studies, specifically Education Post Graduate courses. After that I will be touching on a little bit on Western Sydney University at glance and we'll talk a little bit about how the university have responded to COVID-19. We'll also talk a little bit about the Higher Degree Research, that's if you're interested in doing something like a Masters of research or the PhD and the application process and the fees as well as well as the Q&A.

Now I just want to say that most importantly, the session that you currently in now on is just the presentation. It's the overview of the presentation of the courses, if I can ask you guys to just mute yourself because this is just going to be myself and Michelle presenting. At the end of the presentation we're going to post links to specific courses and areas where you can join and you can ask questions to specific academic members. Okay and I'm just going to hand over

to the next slides to Michelle, who's going to start the presentation on the Education Post Graduate

Michele Simons: Thanks very much, David and good evening, everyone. It's absolutely fabulous to be here. As David said, my name is Michelle, and my title is dean of the School of Education, which is really a posh way of saying that I lead a group of colleagues who do research and education and support the development of educators and teachers for a wide range of school and educational settings both in a New South Wales and across Australia.

Michele Simons: If you had to choose four or five words to describe the School of Education, I'd use words like contemporary interdisciplinary creative, innovative and most importantly community orientated. The school really sees its role, having an important role in developing educators who are able to work in the communities and to serve the needs of those communities. And we have a very special focus on working in communities that are diverse or disadvantaged in some way. As you would know Western Sydney University is located in the third largest economic region of Australia. And so our graduates are really well placed to become skilled educators who can grow into being sought after professional leaders. The sorts of leaders and educators who can lead change and think about the ways in which education can be provided in ways that best are going to set up students for success in their futures and also help to grow, politically, socially, culturally and economically just communities where people can thrive. All of the work that we do in the School of Education is underpinned by research. Within the school. We have the Center for Educational Research. And as I said before, we really focus on the role that education plays in building sustainable communities and equitable futures. Many of the academic colleagues that you will work with during your studies with us are leading researchers. They hold many prestigious grants, but they also work very closely in a range of projects with members of the education community, including a wide range of schools across the public independent and Catholic school systems. And we have conducted wide range of research. We have over 130 high degree research students who are also part of our research community. But our research work also doesn't also acknowledge that research is not only important if you're doing a Higher Degree Research with us. It recognizes that in order to make a difference in the classrooms to student's schools require teachers who are who's practice practices teaching his research lead and research informed. So as part of your Masters of teaching courses that you may do to become a qualified teacher with us you will have

opportunities to develop and conduct research in classrooms and you'll learn how to use that data as a basis for improving and supporting the outcomes of the students that you'll be working with. No this side here just gives you an opportunity to just think about or to show you some of the different areas that we do researching and you can see it's very comprehensive and a lot of them do focus on topics that you might see talked about in the press and things that people are exercised about in terms of their importance for children and young people today. Moving along to the next slide, it's a very exciting time, I think, to become part of the teaching profession. This year during COVID- 19 we've seen extraordinary efforts that teachers have made as they've worked hard to support the learning of students in communities right across this country. It's also a time when we're learning a lot more about how people learn the growth in the fields of things like learning sciences or learning environments where we're learning so much more about how spaces shaped the way people learn. Of course, the impact of technology on teaching is extraordinary. And we're seeing both the positive benefits that can have, but also some of the challenges, particularly where we're working in communities that don't have access to the technology. And of course this rapidly changing world means we're constantly debating what is it that children and young people need in order to be well prepared for the futures that they face. But it's also not about the children and the young people, that's also about the adults and other people in the communities who are impacted by the rapidly changing worlds in which we live.

So what do we do the school has two different types of post graduate courses. The first ones are what we call initial teacher education programs. So these are for people who wish to become an accredited teacher, and who want to commence work as a teacher. The second type of price graduate course we have what we call post initial or specialist postgraduate programs. And these are for people who are already qualified as teachers or educators and who are wanting to expand their skills and knowledge. Potentially perhaps to go on to promotion into leadership roles or to expand their capabilities. So I'll go through each of these two different types of programs that we offer. So the first one you can see there is a Masters of teaching (birth to 5 birth to 12). And this is a unique initial teacher education program because it will qualify you if you do both components to teach in the early childhood sector, which is working with children from birth to five, and to work with children in primary schools from children so children from six to 12 years of age. So this within this

Masters of teaching you have the option of graduating with a birth to five specialization or with a birth to five and birth to 12 specializations. So, of course, obviously that ability to work across two sectors of education is a very powerful motivator to think about this qualification. Moving on to the next slide. We also have specialist Masters of teaching programs to qualify you to become a teacher in primary school or a teacher in secondary school. Our Masters of teaching primary does offer an accelerated program for people who do achieve a GPA of five during their first semester with us. That course concentrates on building your expertise and capability to teach across all of the primary curriculum areas. That's one of the things in thinking about the difference between primary school and secondary school in primary schools you teach across all of the curriculum areas. In the Masters of teaching again, it's the same type of approach. But again, this is where you might have a passion for a particular subject history, science geography maths and you can pursue teaching the passion for teaching that subject. Right from high school, from the beginning, years of high school right through to you 12. In most cases teachers who graduate with a secondary qualification will have a major teaching area and then another secondary area that they might be able to teach up to year 10. So again, we're constantly thinking about building qualifications that will give you diverse employment outcomes.

Then we go on to this qualification, which is a graduate certificate and this is one that's for teachers who are already qualified. So they've got their Masters of teaching and they may decide they want to expand the number of the areas of that which they're qualified to teach in. So this is particularly geared towards secondary teachers. And at the moment you may be aware there are shortages of MESH teacher's agricultural science teacher's technology and design teachers. And so there are a number of already qualified teachers who think about doing a qualification, like a curriculum specialization, so perhaps they can expand the areas in which they can teach in a secondary setting. And, of course, that also expands the career opportunities that you might have.

Moving on to the next slide. This is where we now get into our postgraduate qualifications for people who are already working as teachers accredited as teachers or maybe they're working as educators in TAFE, in technical and further education. They could be working in early childhood settings or in community based not for profit government or education organizations. At Western Sydney, we have a number of specialized areas that you can study leadership and management, social ecology and STEM. So as I said, these are

not initial teacher education qualifications, but they are ways of deepening and broadening your skills and knowledge base. These Masters of Education qualifications do have exit points and a graduate certificate and graduate diploma. They're all offered in flexible and blended modes, because obviously a lot of the colleagues who will be taking the Masters of Education specializations are already working so it's important that we assist people to balance work and family and all the other commitments, they might have. And so one of the hallmarks of this Masters of Education suite of courses that we offer is their flexibility.

Moving on to the next page. We also have a Masters of inclusive education. This is a specialist qualification for people who are already qualified as teachers, but who wish to develop and work more closely with children, children and learners to have disabilities or additional needs. And again, this is not an initial teacher education qualification, but people who are already qualified as either a primary, secondary, or an early childhood teacher are then able to build on those skills. As that slide notes that primary and secondary teachers who complete the course. This course can be recognized by the New South Wales, Department of Education as having a specialist qualification, as an inclusive education. This also has a great exit points at graduate certificate and Graduate Diploma levels. One of the other things about this inclusive education qualification is it does include a placement. So if you're already working as a teacher or in a school or in an in a secondary score early childhood setting you do a place, but even a school where we particularly work on understanding divert your developing skills to work with children with disabilities or additional needs.

Moving on to the side here, this just summarizes some of our fully online graduate certificates that we have once again these are opportunities for existing teachers and educators to upskill and this is a focus on, particularly on mathematics, science and STEM, and these sorts of qualifications are often ways of teachers who perhaps might be working in schools that are adopting STEM an integrated curriculum across maths and science, a range of different opportunities and they would study these types of courses to build their knowledge and skills to respond to those changes and challenges that they're meeting in their work environment. And again the feature of the great these graduate certificates are that they're totally online and can be done very flexibly to accommodate their working needs and other demands.

So this is all well and good, just thinking about teaching as a career, but what are the career prospects like? Well, it's a very good time to be considering the career in teaching because the demand for primary teachers and early childhood teachers is already rising in New South Wales. The New South Wales Government is investing significant amount of money in building and upgrading lots of schools. And this is in response to the growth in numbers of primary school students that we're seeing in the state. And this will continue for about the next decade. And then obviously those increase numbers in primary schools are going to flow on to secondary schools. Teaching is also a great career for people who are looking for flexible and contract types of employment. Sometimes people will combine a part time teaching career, perhaps as a music teacher with working in the music or entertainment industry. Contract teaching is often attractive because it can add a variety people instead of being working in one school can work across a number of schools. And of course, there's also have growing and significant demand for teachers in rural regional and remote schools and the Department of Education in New South Wales in particular has a range of scholarships and incentives for those people who might be interested or think that a career in teaching in a rural, remote regional schools for them. The other thing that's also important to bear in mind is teaching is not just about teaching in New South Wales, or even in Australia. Around the world is a growing demand for teachers and in actual fact around 93 countries across the world do not have enough teachers. And the United Nations is estimating that up to 27 million more teachers are needed across the world to ensure that every child who has access to basic primary school education. And the thing about this is that teachers who are trained or who do qualifications in Australia are very highly sought after in in countries like the US, UK. And in in international schools, particularly across Asia because as a system the approach we take to preparing teachers in Australia is very highly regarded very rigorous very challenging, but very well respected. So Australian qualified teachers do have a whole opportunity to actually become global workers. And so that's also something to think about when you're weighing up the options. As I said, there's a lot of growth in the teaching profession and some of those that data is just repeated on that slide there. But as but if we also think a little bit more widely. The education industry is not just about working in schools, a teaching qualification combined with experience in school settings can provide you with the chance to open up a broad range of jobs. Because teaching helps you to build a whole

range of marketable skills and experience. Skills such as knowing your students communicating effectively being able to organize information and develop individuals in groups serve you well across a wide range of organizations. I was sharing with David just before we commit this presentation that I've actually heard this is my fifth career, my qualifications in education have enabled me to not only teach in schools. I've taught in community settings; I've taught in the Defence Forces I've taught in the corrective services industry. I've also taught in higher education as well too. So, it all started with my initial qualification in teaching. Teachers are also great lifelong learners and so often they will combine their teaching qualifications with other areas of study. And that is, in fact, what I did. As I built my career. I added on social science qualifications and a doctorate, as I moved through my different various careers. So there's a plethora of different types of jobs that can be opened in these two slides just give you some sense of the career opportunities that can be opened up, but they all start with that first step of doing qualification to become a teacher. It's a brilliant, brilliant career. And so I'm delighted to have been able to share with you just some of the little facts and figures about this, about teaching and a little bit about how we approach the development of teachers and educators here at Western Sydney. I'm going to hand back to David now is going to give you a bit more information about what to do next.

[Western] David: All right, thank you for that. Michelle very informative and I'm sure everyone here has a lot of questions that they want to ask. So I just want to remind everyone here after our presentation, we will have separate breakout sessions for each of the courses that Michelle have mentioned. You will have your opportunities to actually ask questions, face to face to the specific academic members of those courses. So for now, and just hold on to your questions, and at the end of the presentation, we will post the link to each of those breakout rooms and you can ask your questions there.

But for now, I'm just going to touch a little bit more on the Western Sydney University and how we have handled COVID- 19 pandemic so far. So, as you may know, most of the universities have moved to online studies including Western Sydney University. Most of the classes have been with online as well as the majority of the student services and this is that there is going to be a mixture of online and on face to face classes, but there's going to be flexibility on that in the future. As well as the study assistance for students we want to ensure that students have high quality learning, even after we move online. We still have support available online, such as the Study Smart where you can

have a one on one consultation with our Study Smart staff. We also have set up a coronavirus support line. So if you need any help in terms of coronavirus and if you have a question there and got some what to do during this pandemic, you can give us a call on that line. The other thing that I wanted to note as well is the student hardship fund that we have. This is the assistance that we provide students who are experiencing hardship through grocery vouchers, loan laptops, as well as financial support. A centralised application process has allowed for an efficient 5-day turn around to assist students who actually experienced hardship.

Now to moving on to the next slide. Yeah, I just want to touch a little bit on the Higher Degree Research. Western Sydney University offers the following Higher Degree Research options. The Masters of Research, which is a pathway to doctorate PhD and we also offer PhD and Masters of Philosophy. So the Masters of Research is two years' research training degree that you can use as a pathway if you want to get into PhD and a future research career. And the first thing in this course is a coursework and the second is a supervised research project. The other one is the PhD, which is to be eligible to a PhD, you need to have completed an honours or the Masters of research or a Masters of Philosophy.

Western Sydney uni is committed to high impact research that make tangible and ongoing difference in the world. And it's responsive to contemporary challenges. You can have a look more about the higher degree research on our website.

But for now I want to talk about the application process. Now, some of you might wonder how to apply. So as we can see here on the table we have a couple intakes for our post graduate courses, most of them would fall on the autumn session, which starts on the 1st of March, but some of them would also fall on quarter one or the 1H session, which starts on the 11th of January. For domestic students, so for Australia or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident or holders of humanitarian visa, you can apply in one of two ways. So you can apply directly to Western which is free. So westernsydney.edu.au/future, you can find more information there. Or you can apply to the university admission centre UAC, which has an application fee. The only Pro I can see if you're applying through UAC is if you're applying for different universities. Otherwise I would also recommend applying directly to

Western. The other thing to note is that there are a couple of UAC only courses such as our psychology post graduate courses.

Now if you're an international student, there are two ways to apply. You can apply directly through our study link portal or through an agent representative, but if you have more questions or you want to know more information about how to apply as an international student, you can visit westernsydney.edu.au/international. If you need that admissions support, it's available this evening so please refer to the how to apply tap on that event website and you can chat to our admissions team member. Just to touch on a little bit make sure you check on the specific closing dates for each of the courses as some of the causes of different closing dates.

So on to the next slide. In terms of fees, tuition fees. So for domestic students it's pretty straightforward majority of post graduate courses at Western Sydney are Domestic full fee paying places. Australian citizens may be able to defer the tuition fee to FEE- Help Loan. So you don't have to pay that tuition fee up front. All postgraduate education courses and most post graduate nursing courses at Western hold a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) and follow the undergraduate fee structure. And now for international fees international fees for our post graduate courses can be found on our website. All international students will be advised of the exact fees on their official offer letter, including tuition fee and their compulsory overseas student health cover. If you want to check more or want to see more information, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/fees.