**Who are we?**
The University of Sydney – a Profile 3
Faculty of Education and Social Work – a Profile 3
Quick Facts and Figures 4
Divisions 4

**Our capabilities and solutions**
Courses 5
Research 6
Professional development 8
Community and professional engagement 8
Consulting services 9
International linkages 9

**Our people**
Management 10
Administrative contacts 11
Who are we?

The University of Sydney
Established over 150 years ago as the first university in Australia, the University of Sydney is one of the world’s top universities. It has over 45,000 students, more than 8500 of whom are international students.

The University of Sydney continues to rise in global rankings, confirming its place within the top 40 universities in the world. The University’s humanities teaching and research was ranked fifth best in the world in the UK’s Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) World University Rankings published in October 2006, while the University as a whole was ranked 35th in the world in the same league table. In the Newsweek global 100 for 2006, the University of Sydney was one of two Australian universities placed in the top 50 in the world.

As one of Australia’s leading universities, the University of Sydney is a key member of:

- the Group of Eight (GO8) – representing Australia’s leading research-intensive universities
- Academic Consortium 21 (AC21) – an international network of educational, research and industrial organisations in Asia, the United States and Europe
- the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) – Sydney is one of three Australian institutions in this group of prestigious universities drawn from Asia, the United States and South America, and
- the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) – an international alliance of 16 leading research universities.

The University of Sydney has consistently outperformed other Australian universities in the measure of research performance used by the Federal Government to allocate funds under its block grants. Every year since 2000, Sydney has received more funding in new grants from the Australian Research Council than any other Australian university.

In the most recent national survey of research commercialisation, the University of Sydney ranked first among Australian universities in regard to licenses, option and assignments executed, and in the number of start-up companies launched. The survey also revealed that the University is in the top three Australian universities for invention disclosures, patent applications filed in the US and Australia, and the value of its equity holdings.

Faculty of Education and Social Work
The Faculty of Education and Social Work, like the University of Sydney, enjoys a proud history and outstanding reputation and is one of the largest providers of teacher education and social work courses in Australia.

The first Chair in Education at the University was established in 1911 within the Faculty of Arts. Education became a faculty in its own right in 1986. Social Work, established in 1940 and previously governed by a Board of Studies, was amalgamated with the Faculty of Education in 2003 to become the Faculty of Education and Social Work.

The faculty is located in three buildings with modern facilities for the training of educators and social workers. Specialist facilities include a bio-mechanics laboratory, computer laboratories, a dance studio, two drama studios, visual arts workshops, specialist laboratories for science and technology education, a television studio and well-equipped lecture and tutorial rooms.

The Faculty of Education and Social Work is internationally renowned for the quality of its leadership in teaching, scholarship and research receiving with the Faculty of Arts an A1 ranking for learning and teaching in 2006 from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

These foundations underpin the delivery of the faculty’s core academic programs. Its various divisions and centres are leaders in their respective fields, offering an array of solutions and opportunities for the community, professions and industry.
Quick facts and figures
• 2694 students
• 244 international students
• 198 research students (125 of these are PhD students)
• 193 staff
(Figures are for 2006)

Divisions
The faculty organises its activities through six divisions, specialising in the defined areas of operation outlined below.

The Division of Graduate Studies
Directs the postgraduate programs of the Faculty of Education and Social Work. These courses cover graduate certificate through to PhD programs.

Division of International Relations
Fosters international relations activities, including: responsibility for international programs and students; coordination of the visiting scholars program; staff exchange programs; fostering and supporting the overseas practicum/internship programs; development of collaborative research projects, consultancies and other professional activities; bidding for and coordinating research and other appropriate professional development consultancies; overseeing the quality management of international activities within the faculty.

Division of Professional Learning
Provides innovative professional learning opportunities for both local and international markets for a wide range of practitioners within the education and social work professions. The Division of Professional Learning is endorsed as a provider of Institute-registered continuing professional development with the NSW Institute of Teachers.

Division of Research
Leads and supports research within the faculty. In addition to providing support services for research students the Division of Research provides a range of services and assistance to external organisations and researchers.

Division of Learning and Teaching
Works with faculty members to enhance and help assure the quality of teaching and learning, student learning experiences and learning outcomes.

Division of Undergraduate and Pre-Service Studies
Directs the undergraduate and pre-service programs of the Faculty of Education and Social Work.
Our capabilities and solutions

The Faculty of Education and Social Work has established a strong reputation for its educational programs, research activities, resources and expertise. It develops industry-leading programs, initiatives and solutions for a range of clients both independently, and in partnership with other leading institutions. These strengths can be illustrated through its achievements on many completed projects, both locally and internationally. An overview of what the faculty can offer, and some examples of previous projects, are listed below.

Courses
The Faculty of Education and Social Work offers a range of courses including:

Undergraduate and pre-service programs
- Bachelor of Education (Primary Education)
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary – Human Movement and Health Education)
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary – Humanities and Social Sciences)/Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary – Mathematics)/Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary – Science)/Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Social Work

Postgraduate programs
Masters degree, graduate diploma and graduate certificate in Educational Studies designations as follows:
- Coach Education
- Educational Management and Leadership
- Educational Psychology
- English and Literacies in Education
- Higher Education
- Information Technology in Education
- International Education
- Research Methodology
- Special Education
- Teaching and Curriculum Studies
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- Graduate Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Master of Learning Science and Technology
- Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary)/Bachelor of Teaching (Primary and Secondary)*
- Masters degree, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in Social Work
- Master of Social Work (International)
- Master of Policy Studies, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate in Policy Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Dying, Death and Palliative Care
- Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Policy and Practice
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Practice Supervision

*This graduate professional teaching qualification in Primary or Secondary teaching is offered as a two-year full-time Master of Teaching degree course, with an option to graduate after 18 months with a Bachelor of Teaching.

Note: Flexible transfer and pathway options are available for entry into a number of these courses based on previous studies undertaken, including courses run through the Division of Professional Learning.

Professional development and learning courses for education and social work professionals
These courses are scheduled year to year depending on departmental and professional requirements. For more details contact the Division of Professional Learning.
Research
The faculty has a strong commitment to diverse research interests. Of particular note is the high national and international profile of many faculty researchers, with strong commitments to achieving advances in theory, policy and professional practice in their fields of interest. Research is lead by the Research Division and conducted under the auspices of its multidisciplinary research centres and networks.

Research centres and networks
The Social Policy Network (SPN) is designed to provide a way of connecting people from the faculty, University and the field interested in social policy development. It aims to develop a theoretical, applied and interdisciplinary network which:
- Focuses on building on, and further developing, existing strengths and collaborative links
- Enhances the reputation of social policy within the institutions and organisations of its members
- Engages with contemporary state, national and international issues, and
- Develops the capacity to operate as a reference point for informed submissions and comment on parliamentary and wider social debates.

TESOL Research Network – was set up in 2006 and aims to bring together teachers, researchers and resources for English as a Second Language education. The aims of the TESOL Research Network are to foster research and publication in the area of TESOL, promoting research intensity and productivity, and to develop national and international research alliances with leading institutions, and others, with an interest in TESOL-related research.

The Centre for Early Interventions – operates to help teacher education students become more aware of children with learning difficulties and to provide them with the knowledge and skills to be able to teach such children. The centre has a number of school based affiliations through which it assists in the task of helping children with learning difficulties.

Centre for Research on Computer Supported Learning and Cognition (CoCo) – studies innovative uses of advanced learning technologies, in order to gain a better understanding of learning, teaching, technology and their inter-relationships. It also contributes to innovation in the use of ICT for learning and teaching within the University, and to the development of professionals who support other people’s learning in the corporate and public sectors.

Network for Childhood and Youth Research – comprises researchers, practitioners and policy makers interested in issues relating to young people. Through critical perspectives and methodologies it aims to understand social processes relevant to young people and historical and contemporary constructions of childhood and youth. A key element informing its critical orientation towards research is respect for the voices and perspectives of young people.

Policy and Practice Research Network – seeks to strengthen and further develop connections between policy, professional practice and professional identity in partnership with schools, systems, agencies and government organisations.

Arts, English and Literacy Education Network – emphasises the interplay between the role of the creative arts, English education and the development of literacy. It offers educators opportunities to research and critique the role of creativity in the language arts curriculum.

Research areas
Areas of research strength in the Faculty include:
- Arts education
- Ageing
- Child protection
- Comparative welfare states
- Curriculum and knowledge
- Developmental and social psychology
- Disability
- Domestic violence
- Education systems and institutions
- English, language and literacies
- Family violence
- History of education
- Human movement and health education
- Information communication technology in education
- Inclusive education
- International, comparative and development education
- Learners, cultures and their communities
- Learning and motivation
- Mathematics and science education
- Mental health
- Palliative care
- Policy studies
Researchers in the faculty have developed collaborative projects with an array of industry partners supported by the Australian Research Council. Federal and State Departments of Education and Training remain key partners and stakeholders in much of the faculty’s work, along with many non-government organisations (NGOs), professional associations and peak bodies from the community sector.

Examples of innovative research initiatives either recently or currently being undertaken beyond the formal education sector are outlined below.

**The Youth Electoral Study (YES) Project**
Faculty research contact: Associate Professor Murray Print  
Partner: Australian Electoral Commission  
Initiated in 2004, this nationwide project has been conducted in conjunction with the Australian National University and the Australian Electoral Commission. It is the largest study of youth voting attitudes ever undertaken in Australia. The aims of YES are to investigate the attitudes of young Australians towards enrolling to vote, and to determine why so many do not enrol.

**Designing for Mobile Learning in a Technology Museum**
Faculty research contact: Professor Peter Reimann  
Partner: Powerhouse Museum  
Undertaken in collaboration with Sydney’s Powerhouse Museum, this project is investigating how technologically savvy young people interact with exhibitions and information in a museum space. Funded through an ARC Linkage Grant and the Powerhouse Museum, the project’s main objective is to investigate which pedagogical models are most appropriate for informal (museum) learning and how these models can be aligned with ICT-mediated learning tools.

**Opening Our Eyes: Interactive Distance E-Learning for Isolated Communities**
Faculty research contact: Professor Peter Goodyear  
Partners: Optus SingTel, Northern Territory Department of Education, NSW Department of Education and Training  
In collaboration with the University of Newcastle, the CoCo Research Centre is heading up a research team with the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training, NSW Department of Education and Training and SingTel Optus Pty Ltd to investigate people’s use and experience of a new satellite-based communications system (IDeL), being deployed for isolated communities in NSW and the NT.

**Towards Better Practice: Enhancing Collaboration Between Mental Health and Domestic Violence Services**
Faculty research contact: Dr Jude Irwin  
Partners: Fairfield/Liverpool Mental Health Service, Education Centre Against Violence, Joan Harrison Support Services for Women Inc, and the Transcultural Mental Health Centre  
Informed by women’s accounts of service provision, the study explores barriers to, and opportunities for, improved inter-sectoral collaboration. New models of collaboration will be identified and trialed using action evaluation methodology. Anticipated outcomes include reduced homelessness in this vulnerable group of women with complex needs; more
appropriate responses to women when domestic violence underlies presentations to mental health services; and incorporation, for the first time, of mental health services into coordinated community responses to domestic violence.

AusAID at Work: the Design, Delivery and Impact of Australian Aid to Education in Asia and the Pacific

Faculty research contact: Professor Phillip Jones
Partner: AusAID

This research project looks at effective international aid initiatives in the education sector. Australia’s aid budget to the Asia Pacific region is substantial and education aid is a key component of this. Detailed investigation into policy formulation, program development and impact at the country level will be carried out in a number of countries including Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Port Moresby.

Professional development

The faculty offers an extensive range of professional development and training opportunities. Its Division of Professional Learning (DPL) provides a range of programs and activities for education and social work professionals through short courses, seminars, conferences and retraining programs. Courses delivered through DPL are designed so that they may articulate directly with the postgraduate programs of the wider faculty.

In addition to the yearly program of scheduled activities, the DPL can also provide customised courses for particular purposes. These customised courses can be undertaken at the faculty or on-site, and both on and off-shore. The DPL also offers conference and event support services for professional development activities.

A number of research centres located in the faculty also offer courses in specialist areas such as e-learning, practitioner skills development in teacher and action research.

Recent projects

The Division of Professional Learning has delivered a number of short-term courses for overseas academics, teachers and students. These courses were developed in conjunction with the clients to ensure their specific learning outcomes were met. Examples of these courses include:

- Managing Student Administration – for academics from Harbin Engineering University, China
- Teaching Primary English – for primary teachers from the Taiwanese Ministry of Education
- Introduction to Australian Higher Education – for academics and postgraduate students from Zhanjiang University, China
- Issues in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education – for academics from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, China

Community and professional engagement

The faculty works with many different organisations, institutions and agencies to expand their capabilities and perspectives, to contribute to the education and social work professions, and to offer support and advice to practitioners. The faculty has been consulted and involved on a number of projects for community, government and other groups, including those listed below.

- The Glebe Community Development Project, which is a partnership between the faculty, local and state governments, community groups and stakeholders in the Sydney suburb of Glebe. Social work and education staff and students contribute to community capacity building in social housing.
- Provision of expertise for working parties of the NSW Institute for Teachers.
- Academic staff frequently work as mentors with schools, school systems and agencies.
Consulting services

The faculty provides consulting services to support strategic and policy initiatives within the fields of Education and Social Work through its Division of Professional Learning (DPL). It also provides a range of consulting services through its Division of Research and various research centres. Services offered include:

- Review and appraisal services for schools and higher education faculties
- School development planning
- Strategic planning for the education and social work sectors
- Media contacts, potential speakers and writers for educational research perspectives and opinions
- Assistance to external agencies wishing to contract or fund faculty researchers, and
- Linking external researchers with faculty researchers.

International linkages

One of the key focuses of the faculty, like the University’s, is to internationalise its outlook and activities. This is being achieved through curriculum development, visiting scholar programs, student exchange and study abroad programs, and strategic alliances with key regional and international universities to undertake joint research, teaching projects and consultancies.

The faculty also hosts the China Education Centre which acts as a non-profit organisation for the development of educational, cultural and professional links between Australia and China.

The faculty currently has agreements and understandings with a number of leading institutions throughout the world. Some of these institutions are:

- Fudan University, China
- Central China Normal University, China
- Hubei University, China
- Southeast University, China
- Rajabhat University Suratthani (originally Rajabhat Institute Suratthani), Thailand
- Huachiew Chalermprakiet University, Thailand
- Univeritas Negeri Padang (Padang State University), Indonesia
- Seoul National University, Korea
- University of the Philippines, Diliman, Philippines
- Myongji College, Korea
- Faculty of Teacher Education, Umea University, Sweden
- Faculty of Education, Middlesex University, UK
- College of Education, University of Georgia, USA
- School of Education, University of Waikato, New Zealand
- University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

The faculty is also working collaboratively to deliver courses offshore. It currently has Memoranda of Understanding to offer the Master of Education (TESOL) program off-shore at Fudan University, Shanghai, China; Hubei University, China; and Southeast University, Nanjing, China.

It also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of International Culture Exchange at Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China, to offer a Master of Education (Educational Management and Leadership).
Acting Dean

Associate Professor Robyn Ewing

Robyn is currently an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education and Social Work. In addition to her role as Acting Dean, she also teaches in Curriculum, English and Drama, working with both undergraduate and postgraduate students. She was inaugural Co-director of the innovative Master of Teaching Degree and has also been Associate Dean (Academic Programs), Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Director of the B.Ed (Primary) and Director of the Division of Professional Learning within the faculty. She was President of the Primary English Teaching Association from 2001 to 2006.

An experienced primary teacher and teacher educator, Robyn has a commitment to quality teaching and learning at all levels of education. She enjoys working collaboratively with classroom teachers interested in innovative curriculum practices. She has worked as an academic mentor with teachers at a range of Sydney primary and secondary schools with the major focus on improving literacy outcomes using drama and literature. Robyn’s current research interests include the experiences of early career teachers, the arts as critical, quality pedagogy and arts-informed inquiry. She is a recipient of the University’s Vice-Chancellor’s Excellence in Teaching and Research Higher Degree Supervision Awards, the NSW Director-General’s Award for Outstanding Service to Public Education and the Australian College of Educators’ Quality Teaching Award.
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