

CHART A COURSE

Helping children with special needs

Course Postgraduate certificate of special education.

Tailored support can make a real difference in the life of a child with special needs, but with a shortage of fully qualified special educators, challenges can arise for both teachers and students.

“Most students with disability are now placed in regular classes and most teachers do not have much training in teaching students with special-education needs,” says the course co-ordinator of Macquarie University’s postgraduate certificate of special education, Jennifer Stephenson.

Although this postgraduate certificate is not recognised as a formal special-educator’s qualification, the three-unit (part-time) course will provide teachers with additional skills and can be used as an entry point into the recognised profession of teaching special needs.

Cost \$2990 total (Commonwealth supported places, 2012 prices).

Duration Part-time only, usually over 12 to 18 months. Total course load is three units.

Time Expect to study eight to 10 hours a week for each unit chosen. Each unit also requires a five-day practicum, completed on campus or at other settings (for example, in a school).

Where Online, with optional seminars and workshops at Macquarie University (Sydney). **SUE WHITE**