

# Core Curriculum

## English Language Teaching Methodology

### Bachelor's Level

#### School Experience

##### Overview

Students undertake school practice throughout the whole methodology course. There are three phases to students' school experience:

- Guided observation
- Teacher assistantship
- Observed teaching.

**Guided observation** takes place in Semesters 3 and 4. It gives students an opportunity to observe experienced teachers at work and to make connections with their learning during the first year of the methodology course. To help in this process they complete observation tasks (see Supplementary Materials). Guided observation takes place once a fortnight (one full day of at least four class hours) throughout Year 2.

During **Teacher assistantship** in semesters 5 to 7, students act as teacher assistants, planning teaching, undertaking microteaching and generally supporting the English teachers. Modules in these semesters also include observation tasks aimed at linking methodology classes to school experience. It is recommended that students spend one day (minimum four hours) in classes at school with no classes timetabled at the university.

**Observed teaching** in semester 8 puts students into the role of teacher under the supervision of school-based mentors and university tutors. Students spend six weeks full-time in schools. During the observed teaching, students have weekly meetings with tutors to discuss and reflect on their experience.

The Ministry guidelines specify a total of 17 credits for school experience, 6 of which are allocated to observed teaching. However, only observed teaching counts towards final assessment. Observation tasks during Modules 1 to 5 feed into continuous assessment.

##### Structure

Semester	Module		School Experience	
			Stage	Frequency
3	1	Understanding Learners and Learning	Guided observation	Once a fortnight
4	2	Preparing to Teach 1	Guided observation	Once a fortnight
5	3	Preparing to Teach 2	Teacher assistantship	Once a week
6	4	Preparing to Teach 3	Teacher assistantship	Once a week
7	5	Specialised Dimensions	Teacher assistantship	Once a week
8	6	Professional Development	Observed teaching	Six weeks full time