

Education

The Faculty of Education has a national and international reputation for excellence in teaching and research. Education can mean different things to different people, so the faculty provides plenty of choices for people interested in and passionate about education. It offers a diverse and innovative curriculum that responds to international and local community needs, with a wide range of courses designed to be rigorous and relevant to the academic and professional needs of students. The faculty has experienced staff and specialised facilities across three campuses. It maintains links and partnerships with many international institutions and organisations, giving students the opportunity to study and work around the globe.



Dr Helen Watt and Dr Paul Richardson

Why do people choose to teach

In the current climate of teacher shortages, Monash researchers are breaking new ground in identifying why people choose to enter and remain in teaching – including those who have switched from other careers.

Funded by an ARC Discovery Grant, a study by Dr Paul Richardson and Dr Helen Watt of the Faculty of Education, working with Professor Jacquelynne Eccles at the University of Michigan (USA), have found existing recruitment practices limited in scope, “focusing overwhelmingly on teachers’ potential to make a social contribution, and neglecting other important motivations”.

The UK Teacher Training Agency’s 2004 “Use your Head” campaign, developed in parallel with the study’s findings portrayed teaching as “an intellectually demanding, cognitively stimulating career that enables individuals to realise their talents and abilities”.

Following the success of the campaign, the study’s design and measures are now being collaboratively used to collect comparative data in North America, Germany and Norway and will soon be implemented in the UK, mainland China and Taiwan.

“The results of following people longitudinally from the beginning of teacher education through the early years of teaching will be of critical importance to governments, employing authorities, teacher educators and recruitment bodies,” they say.

“Examining people’s initial motivations and tracking them to determine why teachers are retained, as well as why they leave the profession, is of critical importance to a society that has invested heavily in the education of teachers.”

FACULTY STUDENTS	
Higher degree by research	342
Postgraduate coursework degree	2000
Undergraduate	1480
FACULTY STAFF	
Academic	117
General	87