

TEACHER ASSISTANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: DIPLOMA QUALIFICATION 2026

Expressions of Interest

The Expression of Interest (EOI) process is now open for department Teacher Assistants seeking qualifications through the *Teacher Assistant Development Program*. This document relates to the Diploma qualification; you may also like to view the separate document for the Certificate III qualification.

This EOI is specifically designed to support the growth and development of Teacher Assistants by providing a clear pathway to study a Diploma in Education Support.

What is the qualification opportunity?

The Diploma qualification provides Teacher Assistants with career pathways to Education Support Specialists (ESS) in the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP).

Participating TAs are supported by the Department while they undertake the coursework required. This includes fees and any course-related training days.

This study opportunity is available to 20 permanent Teacher Assistants (TAs) in 2026. The Diploma is a required qualification for the role of Education Support Specialist.

The study is undertaken with University of Tasmania (UTAS) and includes the successful completion of eight (8) units. The learning commences in February 2026 with the aim to complete the qualification by July 2027.

Where do I find the unit information?

[The Diploma of Education Support \(41B\)](#) is listed as “Year 1” of the Associate Degree in Education Support (42B).

The sequence of units in the TA Development Program is pre-determined by DECYP in partnership with UTAS.

Is there opportunity to apply for credit as recognised prior learning (RPL)?

If a TA has been awarded a *Certificate III in Education Support* credit of up to two units will be considered. The credit is applied to the Diploma units *The Role of Education Support* and *Education Support in Practice*.

Can I study a Diploma if I don't have a Certificate III in Education Support?

Yes!

The Certificate III is a significant consideration for RPL. This EOI process is focussed on an RPL pathway which will be 6 units completed in 18 months. An 8-unit completion with no RPL, as part-time study, will take up to 2 years or longer.

What is the process for applying for credit?

Once the course enrolment is confirmed and UTAS student access set-up, application for credit is lodged through the UTAS eStudent portal. The process involves submission of your CV (you will re-use the EOI application form), copies of awarded qualifications and accreditations relevant to education and supporting students. You will be supported to undertake this process.

When will study commence?

The program commences with an online welcome and enrolment session in December 2025

Study with UTAS commences in Semester 1, (February) 2026 with an expected completion by July 2027.

How long does it take to complete the Diploma?

In this TA Development Program completion is 18 months if there is RPL credit of 2 units.

No RPL credit means the qualification will take 2 years.

There are 2 units to be studied each semester. A university semester spans across two school terms: Semester 1 is over school terms 1 & 2; Semester 2 is over school terms 3 & 4.

How many hours of study is this each week?

To complete the weekly activities – these might be readings, tutorials, online discussion posts - a minimum of 10 hours per week should be considered for each unit. Some of this study is completed during workhours and funding is allocated to your school for this to happen.

Do I study in my own time?

One unit each semester will include 3-hour weekly tutorials as online workshops held during work hours. This tutorial time will cover the content of the unit, with the balance of assignment time being completed in your own time. The second unit being studied in the semester will be studied in your own time.

Is leave for study available?

In this study initiative schools are funded with a set number of relief hours to release TAs to study during work hours. This is not a leave arrangement or process managed through HR systems.

What happens if I can't complete a unit?

Accepting the study space in the program comes with the expectation you will complete all units during the nominated time. If you know you are taking substantial leave, then consider undertaking the course as an independent UTAS enrolment. This study is on a set schedule of units, deferment has an impact on when units can be repeated. If there are extenuating circumstances the unit may have to be taken during Summer Semester in order to meet the timeline for completion.

How much will this cost?

The course fees are fully covered by a scholarship agreement between DECYP and UTAS.

The Department supports schools with relief to release TAs in this program to attend weekly online tutorials during work hours.

The school will cover the cost of any required unit textbooks (these may range between \$50-150 per book; not all units require a text).

All graduation costs are the responsibility of the TA undertaking the program.

Who is eligible to apply for the Diploma program?

Any TA can submit an EOI. The process for selection will consider the following:

- Permanent employment status – this may be fulltime or part-time.
- Submission of the required documentation and the evidence of skills and experience provided in the EOI Application Form.
- TAs who currently have a Certificate III in Education Support
- School and student requirements.

Expression of Interest applications close on Wednesday 12th November 2025.

The EOI application form is available on the [Training and Development Hub](#)

Submit your EOI application to workforce.development@decyp.tas.gov.au

For additional information please contact: workforce.development@decyp.tas.gov.au or phone: 6165 5489