DEPARTMENT OF **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grants

Ever wondered what it would be like to teach in a rural or remote Queensland state school?

The Department of Education and Training recognises the dedication to quality teaching and learning occurring in state schools in rural and remote locations and encourages pre-service teachers to experience teaching in a diverse range of contexts, communities and locations.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) is offering *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grants* to support high-achieving pre-service teachers to undertake a professional experience in a rural or remote Queensland state school.

Through this initiative pre-service teachers will be provided with up to $1,500 to enable them to broaden their skills, professional teaching experience and employment opportunities in rural or remote Queensland locations.

The *Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grants* are available to pre-service teachers studying at Queensland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and who are completing:

- the third or fourth year of an undergraduate pre-service teacher education program in 2012; or
- a Graduate Diploma in Education (or equivalent) in 2012.

Grant recipients must undertake a professional experience placement in a rural or remote Queensland state school in either Semester 1 or 2, 2012.

Rural and Remote State Schools

State schools are just as diverse as their locations and with more than 1,300 state schools across Queensland, teachers have many opportunities to experience teaching in a diverse range of contexts, communities and locations.

Approximately two thirds of Queensland state schools are in rural, remote or regional locations.

Experiencing rural or remote placements provides an invaluable opportunity to broaden teaching practices along with enhanced employment opportunities for both experienced and beginning teachers.

Teachers in rural and remote locations have:

- greater opportunities to undertake leadership roles;
- greater involvement in planning and management within the school;
- an active and valued role in their community;
- access to induction, professional development and support programs;
- extended emergent leave provisions;
- access to significant incentives, benefits locality allowance and subsidised accommodation;
- generous transfer and relocation assistance; and
- accelerated transfer points.

By undertaking a professional experience placement in a rural or remote location pre-service teachers will also have opportunities to:

- expand teaching practices;
- broaden life experience;
- enhance employment prospects; and
- engage both professionally and socially in the local school community.

A list of rural and remote state schools is available from the Rural and Remote Education website: http://education.qld.gov.au/ruralandremote/

Information about working in rural and remote Queensland state schools is also available from the Rural and Remote Education website.

Professional Experience Grants

Grant recipients will be provided with:

- a cash payment to assist with travel, accommodation, and other related expenses;
- access to the *Beyond the Range* Project Room on the Learning Place;

Queensland Government

- information and additional support to help them prepare for their professional experience in a rural or remote Queensland state school, and
- support from school, local community and regional networks.

Grant Funds
Grant recipients will receive a one-off payment dependent on the location of the state school.

All school and non-school locations in which teaching staff undertake service are assigned a Transfer Rating (TR). Schools are allocated one of the seven levels primarily based on their remoteness and complexity.

Recipients will receive:

- $1,000 for placements in state schools with a transfer rating (TR) 3 – 6.
- $1,500 for placements in state schools with a transfer rating (TR) 7.

Information about an individual school's transfer rating is available through the Schools Directory at:
http://education.qld.gov.au/directory/schools/index.html

Eligibility Criteria
To be eligible for a *Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grant*, applicants must:

- be undertaking, at a Queensland Higher Education Institution (HEI) in 2012:
  - the third or fourth year of an undergraduate pre-service teacher education program, or
  - a Graduate Diploma in Education (or equivalent);
- be planning to undertake a professional experience placement in a rural or remote Queensland state school in Semester 1 or 2, 2012;
- be undertaking a professional experience placement in a state school that is at least 200 kilometres from their primary residence;
- be achieving high academic results in their current tertiary studies;
- have displayed a high level of effective classroom practice in previous professional experience placements;
- hold a Blue Card from the Commission for Children, Young People and Child Guardian; and
- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia.

Whilst all pre-service teachers who meet the above criteria are eligible to apply, preference may be given to applicants studying one or more of the following specialist curriculum areas:

- Chemistry;
- Home Economics;
- Industrial Technology and Design (ITD);
- Languages
- Mathematics B and C;
- Physics;
- Senior English; or
- Special Education.

Pre-service teachers participating in a Teacher Education Centre of Excellence program or who wish to undertake a professional experience placement in a National Partnership School in a rural and remote location may also be prioritised.

A list of eligible National Partnerships Schools is provided on the *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grants* website at www.teach.qld.gov.au

Applications from pre-service teachers undertaking a professional experience placement in a home schoolroom setting supported by a Distance Education program will also be considered.

Payment of Grant Funds
Grant payments will be paid in a lump sum after confirmation of an eligible professional experience placement is provided.

The grant funds will be able to be used at the recipient's discretion; however it is intended that the funds will be used to assist with expenses related to their professional experience placement, such as travel and accommodation.

Scholarship and grant recipients are encouraged to seek independent financial advice regarding taxation matters and self-education expenses. Information about the taxation on scholarships and grants is available from the ATO website at:
http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/34815.htm

Recipients who withdraw from the pre-service teacher education program or their rural or remote professional experience after payment of the grant, may be required to repay the department some or all of the funds.

Additional Support
Additional support or financial assistance may be available from other sources including your Higher Education Institution or the Isolated Childrens' Parents Association (ICPA).

Application Process

All applicants must submit a written application by the closing dates including:

- completed *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant* Application Form;
- evidence of identity and Australian or New Zealand Citizenship (e.g. certified copies of birth certificate, driver licence, passport);
- copies of Academic Record / Transcript/s for current and previous tertiary qualifications;
- copies of previous professional experience placement reports (all available); and
- written responses to the following questions:
  1) What do you think will be your greatest challenges as a pre-service teacher in a rural or remote school and community? (Maximum 500 words).
  2) Which of your skills and attributes do you believe will be of particular benefit in a rural or remote Queensland state school and community? (Maximum 500 words).

The *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant Application Form* is available from the *Make a difference. Teach* website at: www.teach.qld.gov.au

Applicants should ensure that all required documents are provided by the closing dates, as omissions may result in the application not being considered.

Applications close

11 November 2011	Semester 1, 2012 professional experiences
2 April 2012	Semester 2, 2012 professional experiences

Selection Process

DET will offer grants through a merit selection basis determined by the written application. Applicants will be assessed with respect to the following criteria:

- **Achievement** - high level of academic achievement and effective classroom practice in previous professional experience placements;
- **Agility** - ability to become an active member of a school community in a rural or remote location in Queensland; and
- **Commitment** - suitability, motivation for and commitment to teaching in Queensland state schools.

Grant Offers

Once the selection process is complete, successful applicants will be provided with a written notification of their successful application. Applicants will be required to respond to the offer within a specified period of time.

All grant offers are subject to the recipient providing confirmation of ongoing enrolment in an undergraduate pre-service teacher education program or Graduate Diploma in Education (or equivalent) at a Queensland HEI and confirmation of a professional experience placement in a rural or remote Queensland state school.

Grant offers will be for a specific semester during the 2012 calendar year only, and cannot be deferred.

Timelines

Key dates for the *2012 Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grants* are as follows:

Date	***Activity***
11 November 2011	Grant applications for Semester 1, 2012 close
w/c 12 December 2011	Grant offers made to successful Semester 1, 2012 applicants
2 April 2012	Grant applications for Semester 2, 2012 close
w/c 14 May 2012	Grant Offers made to successful Semester 2, 2012 applicants

More Information

Further information about the *Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grants* and teaching in state schools is available from the *Make a difference. Teach* website at www.teach.qld.gov.au

Specific enquiries can be directed to:
beyondtherange@deta.qld.gov.au

Completed applications must be submitted to:

Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grants
Workforce Initiatives, Human Resources
Department of Education and Training
PO Box 15033
City East QLD 4002

Frequently Asked Questions

- *I have already advised the Professional Experience Office at my Institution that I want to do a rural or remote professional experience placement during 2012. Can I apply for a Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grant?*

Pre-service teachers who have already expressed an interest in undertaking a professional experience in a rural or remote location are encouraged to apply for the *Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grant*.

- *I want to apply for the Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grant but I haven't yet advised the Professional Experience Office at my institution that I am interested in doing in undertaking a professional experience in a, rural or remote location during 2012. What do I need to do?*

Pre-service teachers, who have not previously expressed an interest in undertaking a professional experience in a rural or remote location, should discuss the options available to them with their Professional Experience Office as soon as possible.

They should also complete the *Beyond the Range - Professional Experience Grant* application process.

- *I've previously applied for a Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant. Am I able to apply for another Grant?*

If your have previously received a *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant* to assist you to undertake a professional experience in a state school, you are not eligible for an additional grant, however if you are studying early childhood you will be eligible to apply for a *Kindy – Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* to assist you to undertake a professional experience in a kindergarten in a rural, remote or regional location.

If your previous application for a *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant* was unsuccessful you are welcome to reapply.

- *I've previously applied for a Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant. Am I able to apply for the Kindy – Beyond the Range Grant?*

Yes. If you have previously received a *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant* you are still eligible to apply for a *Kindy – Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* to assist you to undertake a professional experience in a kindergarten in a rural, remote or regional location.

Information about the *Kindy – Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* is available from the Make a difference. Teach website at: www.teach.qld.gov.au

- *If my application for a Grant is not successful, is there any other financial support available to assist me to undertake a professional experience placement in a rural or remote location?*

Financial assistance may be available from other sources including your Higher Education Institution.

Other support may also be available from community groups such as the Isolated Childrens' Parents Association (ICPA). Information about support they can provide can be found on their website at http://www.icpa.com.au/branches/browse/QLD

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