The School of Education at Australian Catholic University now offers a practical, research-based course focusing on identifying and assisting Year 3-6 students who are underperforming in Mathematics. The Course focuses on preparing teachers to implement a specialised assistance program and within classroom support.

This six-day course is primarily designed as an additional course for teachers who have a current EMU Specialist Teacher qualification. However, we will consider exceptions to this requirement on an individual basis, but approved participants will need to gain experience with EMU teaching at Year 1 (minimum 25 hours) before a full EMU Specialist Teacher Certification will be issued.

The 2012 Course will be conducted by Dr Ann Gervasoni at ACU Melbourne Campus beginning on 1 March 2012

The Extending Mathematical Understanding Specialist Teacher course is based on the research, classroom experience and professional development leadership of Dr Ann Gervasoni, the work of the Early Numeracy Research Project team, and the ongoing research, experience and professional development leadership of Ann Downton, Linda Parish, Carole Alexander, Kate Bevan, Carole Livesey, and Kelly Watson.

Course Outline and Requirements
The Specialist Teacher Course involves field-based learning and a six-day spaced learning program at ACU (Melbourne Campus) 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy Victoria 3065. The field-based learning component involves participants planning and implementing an EMU (3-6) Program (5 x 30 minute sessions per week) throughout the year. The six day professional learning program involves workshops, data analysis and reviewing video excerpts simulating ‘behind-the-screen’ sessions. Professional interaction, critical reflection, associated discussion and professional reading are other important aspects.

Program Content Includes:
- understanding the distinctive nature of learning mathematics for underperforming students in Years 3-6;
- using data from the Mathematics Assessment Interview/Early Numeracy Interview to identify students who are vulnerable and to prioritise children for placement in an intervention program;
- diagnosing individual learning needs;
- ongoing monitoring and assessment of mathematical learning;
- planning and implementing an EMU program;
- understanding the nature of number growth point barriers and the nature of learning required to move beyond these barriers, with particular emphasis on issues and strategies appropriate for Years 3-6;
- strategies for accelerating the learning of underperforming students in counting, place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and rational number;
- the role of children’s confidence and attitude in learning mathematics;
- the role of metacognition and reflection in learning;
- the role of families and communities in enhancing mathematical learning.

Strategies for Providing Specialised Assistance Discussed Throughout the Course
- small group withdrawal program implemented by a specialist teacher; and
- classroom program supplemented by an individual mathematics learning plan developed by a specialist teacher and the classroom teacher.
Components of a typical EMU Session

Typically, an EMU specialised teaching session is structured to include 10 minutes of group activities focusing on understanding quantity and number concepts, 15 minutes of rich learning activities focusing on problem-solving in addition and subtraction, multiplication and division contexts, with an emphasis on learning reasoning strategies for calculations, and 5 minutes individual and group reflection about the key mathematical ideas that were noticed during the session. A home task is also provided.

Cost (6-day course): $1980.00 per person (inclusive of GST) and includes registration fee, morning tea, lunch and notes. All fees are non-refundable for cancellations.

Where: ACU (Melbourne Campus), 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy Victoria 3065

When: 9.00am to 3.30pm on the following dates: Thursday 1 March and Friday 2 March, Thursday 15 March, Thursday 31 May, Friday 1 June and Friday 7 September 2012.

Registration Form/ Tax Invoice (for GST purposes this will become a Tax Invoice when paid in full).

Registering for the Course: To register for the course, please send a copy of this Registration Form/Invoice with a cheque for $1980.00 per person made payable to “Australian Catholic University” and addressed to: Rose Knight, Australian Catholic University, Locked Bag 4115, Fitzroy MDC, Fitzroy, VIC 3350. Inquiries Phone: 99533277 (Rose Knight).

Places are limited. All fees are non-refundable for cancellations. A letter acknowledging confirmation of registration will be emailed out. Please keep this original invoice for GST accounting purposes.

| Applicant’s Name: |
| Postal Address: |
| City/Town: | Postcode: |
| Phone Number: |
| Preferred Email Address: |

Qualifications: Participants must have a B.Ed Degree or equivalent

EMU Specialist Teacher Certificate (or year and venue of initial course)

I’m not EMU qualified & I need to discuss & confirm that I can participate in the course. ☐ (tick if applicable)

Teaching Role:

School Name:

School Address:

City/Town: | Postcode: |

School Phone No: | School Fax No: |

Applicant’s Signature: Date:

Principal’s Endorsement:

I endorse this application and understand that successful course completion requires the applicant to participate in all 6 professional learning days, and to conduct the EMU Program daily throughout the year for a minimum of 10 weeks (25 hours), but ideally for 20 weeks or more.

Principal’s Name: Principal’s Signature: Date: