FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I applied to the Bachelor of Art Education at COFA, but this is now changing, how will this affect me?

Students who applied for the Bachelor of Art Education in 2014 will complete both a Bachelor Fine Arts and a Bachelor Education (Secondary), enabling them to complete two degrees, one specialising in fine arts practice and one specializing in secondary education.

2. Will I do anything different?

The change will mean that students will complete more studio courses than under the current program, and achieve the same standards in Fine Arts as their peers doing the single degree. As with the other two new dual award programs to be offered from 2014 onwards (BDes (Hons) BEd and BMediaArts (Hons) BEd, the four specific art education method courses will continue to be taught at Paddington by practitioners with current or very recent experience in Visual Arts and/or Graphics and Multimedia Technology, complemented by a minimum of 80 days of professional experience and a lengthy internship in schools over the final three years of the program. The professional experience and internship components of the program will continue to utilize the long-established pool of highly qualified Visual Arts supervising teachers and mentors, and there will be regular observation of classes, discussion and feedback with the cooperating teachers. There will continue to be a variety of opportunities for community engagement and placement in other educational settings such as museums and art galleries, and a range of electives in many areas of education, including some directly related to art education.

The core education courses in educational psychology, social perspectives, special needs, gifted and talent students, professional issues and classroom management will be taught by highly qualified and experienced continuing members of staff at Kensington. Classes will be undertaken with student teachers from across all secondary teaching areas in order to maximize the development of collaborative relations and understanding between different disciplines.

3. Will I still be accredited to teach?

Yes, will the new model of completing two degrees will be fully accredited with the NSW Institute of Teachers and graduates will be eligible to teach in NSW as previously. Students can elect to be able to teach Visual Arts or Visual Arts and Graphics and Multimedia Technology.

4. Will it take longer to complete these two degrees or cost more?

No, these two degrees can still be completed in 4 years full-time study and will cost no more.
5. Will all my courses be taught at COFA?

No, the School of Education will teach your education courses, and most of these will be at UNSW’s Kensington campus. Your Fine Art courses will be at COFA’s Paddington campus, along with some education courses.

6. How will I get between the two campuses?

There is a free shuttle bus that runs between both campuses. Each trip takes about 15 minutes. There are also regular Sydney Buses that run along Anzac Parade.

7. What do I need to do?

Nothing. If you receive an offer of admission it will be for the new dual award program Bachelor of Fine Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary).

8. Why is UNSW changing the way Art Education is being taught?

The fundamental reason is that the requirements of professional accreditation mean that stand-alone specialist education degrees like the BArtEd are no longer going to be able to meet all the demands expected of an accredited teacher under the recently introduced national teaching standards. So the University began a process several years ago to move from the 5 or 6 specialist education degrees, such as in Dance Education and Music Education, and instead provide a specialist education degree alongside a specialist dance, music or fine arts degree. Students do not have to study any more courses than before, and in one case students will be able to complete the program in one less semester, saving them time and money. At the same time they will be taking more courses in their fine arts, design, and media disciplines, and will graduate with the full degrees.