School of Education
University of Cape Town

THINKING OF BECOMING A TEACHER AT UCT?

Information for prospective teachers

There are two ways in which to qualify as a teacher in South Africa (each has the same status and salary):

- By doing a four-year Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree. **OR**
- By doing a Bachelor's degree (three or four years) and then a one year Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

UCT does not offer a BEd degree.
All of our students complete a desired Bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, BSc, etc.) in suitable school teaching subjects, followed by the PGCE

Doing your Bachelor's degree

You first need to think carefully about what you would like to teach, as the undergrad level degree and the courses/modules that you do determine your future as a teacher. Plan your undergraduate degree carefully to ensure that you have enough teaching courses at the correct level.

1. Choose which age group and phase.

   PRIMARY SCHOOL:

   The PGCE Foundation Phase (FP) and Intermediate Phase (IP) will not be offered in 2022.

   HIGH SCHOOL:

   Senior Phase and Further Education (Grades 8 to 12)

   The PGCE (Senior Phase and FET Teaching) is intended for suitably qualified graduates who wish to teach Grades 8-12 in the high school (Senior Phase - Grades 7-9 and Further Education and Training Phase - Grades 10-12), where teachers are required to be subject specialists. Prospective teachers should consult the Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate handbook for details of the specialised subject methodology courses available at www.uct.ac.za/main/applicants-students. Requirements are Bachelor's degree: at least **two** school subjects studied to at *least second year* [two years of study = 60 credits]: English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, mathematics, environmental and geographical sciences (HG021), historical studies, life sciences (to include 30 credits of botany, zoology), chemistry, physics, accounting & economics (both required), or psychology to *third year (psych has to be accompanied by a 2nd year subject or Maths 1)*. 1 year [30 credits] of mathematics is accepted for *Mathematics Senior Phase & Maths Literacy FET*.

   Alternatively, one subject at *third year* level (120 credits) may be studied in: English, environmental and geographical sciences, historical studies, mathematics, drama, dance, music (*places are limited)* or fine art. The degree must be appropriate to the subjects. For example, a BA if you want to teach English and history; a BSc if you want to teach natural sciences, life sciences (*to include Bio: Life on land and Sea/Zoology and Botany at 30 credits each*) or physical sciences; a BCom if you want to teach accounting and economics; a B Fine Art if you want to teach art, etc.

2. Find the information you require about the faculty for your degree (e.g. BA and BSoc Sc – Humanities; BCom – Commerce; BSc – Science). See the faculty undergraduate handbooks at http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/study/handbooks/current and apply online to UCT to study the degree that you have chosen at https://applyonline.uct.ac.za. See the dates below.

Doing the PGCE

General information

- The PGCE is a full-time programme and is <u>not offered part-time</u>, and <u>not offered by distance or correspondence study</u>.
- Conversational Xhosa is a compulsory course during the PGCE programme; an introductory isiXhosa course is strongly recommended as part of your undergraduate degree.
- Preference will be given to students with 2 undergrad teaching subjects
- [Bursaries]: The Department of Basic Education offers Funza Lushaka bursaries for **priority subjects only** - see http://www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za/ - email final transcript and copy of application form to financialaid@uct.ac.za and hum-education@uct.ac.za. You could also apply for NSFAS at http://www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-funding-administration/financial-assistance/financial-aid (it is unclear whether NSFAS will fund PGCE in 2022) or Undergraduate Financial Aid at UCT. Furthermore, the HCI Foundation offers bursaries to PGCE students at https://bursary.hcifoundation.co.za/. The Jakes Gerwel Fellowship offers scholarships to PGCE students at http://www.jgfellowship.org/ - applications can be made during the final/third year of undergrad. Closing dates can be found on these websites and our website. *Check eligibility and save a copy of all bursary application forms*.
- Fees are charged per registered course. Please see the Fees handbook at www.students.uct.ac.za/students/fees-funding/fees/handbook or http://www.students.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/434/study/handbooks/2021/UCT_Handbook_12_2021_StudentFees.pdf for details (search for Postgraduate Certificate in Education). There is an additional levy for international and non-SADC students. International students must please contact the International Office (IAPO) when applying.
- The PGCE gives you the status of a qualified teacher in South Africa and enables PGCE students to register with the South African Council for Educators (SACE). The qualification is recognised in many other countries, especially members of the Commonwealth. Every country, however, has its own set of criteria for the award of qualified teacher status and, in all probability, you will find that you have do something in addition to receive it if you want to teach in that country.
- The School of Education identifies school teaching subjects *as methods courses* when registered for the PGCE programme
- **Have a look at our FAQs for any further queries**: http://etilab.uct.ac.za/soe/faq-prospectus-pgce.html

Admission requirements

- Senior Phase and Further Education (HG020): Refer to the information on the previous page. Note that a minimum of five students is required to ensure that a course is run in a subject. Do <u>not</u> apply for the PGCE FET, as the PGCE SP&FET is the default qualification for high school teachers. If you cannot be admitted to the PGCE SP&FET, you will automatically be considered for the PGCE FET.
- *Performance Arts students: Music applicants should select HG026EDN28, whereas; Dramatic Arts, Dance and Fine Art applicants ought to select the HG027EDN29 application code options during the application process*

Dates

- Applications open as of 1 May to 31 August for the following year.
- Applications are limited to 200 places
- Applications are considered in order of receipt (first come, first served basis). Admission to any PGCE will be closed when the available places have been filled.
- PGCE applications are only done online. Click here to apply: https://publicaccess.uct.ac.za/psp/public/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/UCT_PUBLIC_MENU.UCT_SS_APPL.GBL?
- Please ensure that full and complete academic records are uploaded to the admissions portal as incomplete or missing documents/pages will delay or forfeit an application if left unresponsive beyond the upload deadline date.
  - o Third-year students – please provide a complete undergrad unofficial transcript that clearly indicates **previous and current subjects and the number of credits per course** (third-year subjects do not need to reflect marks at this stage – only credits need to be evident).
  - o Graduands – an official graduation certificate along with the complete transcript (**that clearly indicates the subjects and the number of credits per course**) is required.
- Acceptance should be communicated by December. Please follow-up if you have not heard by then.
- Registration is usually at the end of January/beginning of February. Registration is followed by a period of observation in schools, which students organise themselves, according to information provided.
- During the course of your PGCE year, you will be placed in schools. The duration will be confirmed once the year planner is released.

Contact: hum-education@uct.ac.za; 021 650 2769; www.education.uct.ac.za/edu/qualification/pgce