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) has been discontinued and is no longer offered by the School of Education at UCT.**

   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, Historical Studies, French Studies, Coding and Robotics, Life Sciences (to include 30 credits each for botany & zoology), Chemistry, Physics, Accounting *(not offered in 2027)* & Economics, or Psychology to *third year (**120 credits**) - Psych has to be accompanied by a 2nd year subject or Maths 1)*. 1 year [30 credits] of Mathematics is acceptable for *Mathematics Senior Phase & Maths Literacy FET*.

   **Alternatively**, one subject at *third year* level (120 credits) may be studied in: English ***(English FET-Only not offered 2027)***, Environmental and Geographical Sciences ***(Geography FET-Only Not Offered 2027)***, Historical Studies, Mathematics, French Studies, 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 *(not offered in 2027)* 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 https://applyonline.uct.ac.za. See the dates below.

3. Bursaries: Please peruse and apply for these bursary opportunities ASAP: (1) ETDPSETA - allocations are made in February via a survey to all PGCE students from UCT Financial Aid Office, (2) Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) via https://pg.isfap.org.za/ apply here: https://applyonline.isfap.org.za/ - **note the FAQs**; (3) The Vejayanthran Bursary funds PGCE female students in the specific subjects per their website, (4) HCI Foundation offers bursaries to PGCE students at https://bursary.hcifoundation.co.za/ or via UCT Financial Aid Office; and (5) NSFAS at https://my.nsfas.org.za/; The closing dates can be found on these websites and the SoE website. **NB**! *Check eligibility and save a copy of all bursary application forms*. **Please note that funding from the Department of Basic Education's Funza Lushaka and the Jakes Gerwel Fellowship has been discontinued for PGCE.**

4. **Have a look at our FAQs**: http://www.education.uct.ac.za/soe/faqs-prospective-pgce-students and http://www.education.uct.ac.za/soe/faqs-current-pgce-students

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## *Doing the PGCE*

### General information

- The PGCE is a full-time programme which runs from January to November each year. It is not offered part-time and not offered by distance nor correspondence study.
- Conversational Xhosa is a compulsory course during the PGCE programme; an introductory isiXhosa course is *strongly recommended* as part of your undergraduate degree.
- 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.
- **Fees** are charged per registered course per the Fees handbook at www.students.uct.ac.za/students/fees-funding/fees/handbook or here 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 Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) when applying**.
- The School of Education (SoE) identifies school teaching subjects *as methods courses/subjects* while registered for the PGCE programme.
- The SoE is based at the Neville Alexander Building on Lower Campus; and is part of the Faculty of Humanities at UCT
- Places are limited to 200 places. Preference will be given to students with 2 undergrad teaching subjects.

### Admission requirements

- Senior Phase and Further Education (**HG020**) for two or more subjects: 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. History FET-Only & French FET-Only students should apply for HG021. **Do not apply for 2 PGCE Programmes**.
- ***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***
- Applications are considered in order of receipt (first come, first served basis).
- A person needs to obtain a minimum average result in undergraduate courses required for entry to the following teaching methods courses: **55%: Physical Sciences SP & FET (EDN3244W), Economics SP &FET (EDN3227W), Xhosa SP &FET (EDN3247W) and Afrikaans SP & FET (EDN3223W).**
  **57%: Mathematics SP & FET (3240W) and Mathematics SP and Mathematics Literacy (EDN3248W)**
  **60%: Geography SP & FET (EDN3232W), Life Sciences FET (EDN3238W), Natural Sciences SP (EDN3243W), Life Skills (EDN3239W)**
  **65%: History SP & FET (EDN3235W) and English SP & FET (EDN3229W)**
  **French Studies: B2 level in French is required**
- Admission to any PGCE programme and methods course will be closed when the available places have been filled.
- PGCE applications are online. Click here: https://publicaccess.uct.ac.za/psc/public/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/NUI_FRAMEWORK.PT_LANDINGPAGE.GBL?LP=UCT_ONLINE_APP_PUBLIC&
- Please ensure that *full and complete academic records are uploaded to the admissions portal* as incomplete as missing documents/pages will delay or forfeit an application if left unresponsive beyond the upload deadline date.
  - 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).
  - 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 early December.

### Dates

- Applications open as of April to 30 September for the following year.
- Registration is usually at the end of January/beginning of February.
- Students will be placed in schools for TP by the department (SoE). The duration and period will be confirmed once the year planner is published.

**Contact:** hum-education@uct.ac.za; 021 650 2769; https://humanities.uct.ac.za/school-education/becoming-teacher/thinking-teaching