

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 degree and the courses/modules that you do determine your future as a teacher.

1. Choose which age group and phase.

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Foundation Phase (Grades R to 3) (Not offered in 2021)

The PGCE (Foundation Phase Teaching) is intended for suitably qualified graduates who wish to teach children aged 5-8 in Grades R-3. Candidates learn to teach the core school subjects mathematics, literacy and life skills in an integrated way. Enquiry, play-based learning with an emphasis on the sciences are at the heart of the programme, including a multiliteracies perspective that recognises that knowledge acquisition should include movement, drawing, art, music, dance, drama, technology and moving images.

Requirements are a Bachelor's degree that includes at least three of the following: English 1; an SA African language 1; Psychology 1; and Mathematics/Stats/numeracy – e.g. Quantitative Literacy & Numbers in the Humanities 1. Further study in some of these subjects is desirable (*not a requirement*), either by doing them at 2nd or 3rd year level, or by broadening them e.g. Philosophy/Sociology plus Psychology, e.g. linguistics plus English, etc. [1 indicates one year of study = 30 credits]

Intermediate Phase (Grades 4 to 6 + 7) (Not offered in 2021)

The PGCE (Intermediate Phase Teaching) is intended for suitably qualified graduates who wish to teach Grades 4 - 7 in the primary school. While the focus in the Intermediate Phase is still on learning to teach the core school subjects Literacy, Mathematics and Life Skills, it broadens to allow for introduction to subject specialisation. Prospective teachers may select methodology courses for specialisation in the following subjects: Life Orientation, Social Sciences (History and Geography) and Natural Sciences and Technology. Requirements are under review. As a guide: a Bachelor's degree with a minimum of English 1 and an SA African language 1. Mathematics/Stats/numeracy – e.g. Quantitative Literacy & Numbers in the Humanities 1 is highly desirable. PLUS a specialisation in at least one of the other Learning Areas: Life Orientation (Psychology 1 and another LO subject); Social Sciences (History 1 and Geography 1); Natural Science and Technology (appropriate science courses). [1 indicates one year of study = 30 credits]

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,

life sciences (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 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, drama, dance, music (*places are limited*), fine art or mathematics. 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) 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 not offered part-time, and not offered by distance or correspondence study.
- Applications are considered in order of receipt. Admission to any PGCE will be closed when the available places have been filled.
- Conversational Xhosa is a compulsory course during the PGCE programme, as is conversational Afrikaans for those who have conversational proficiency in isiXhosa.
- **Bursaries:** The Department of Basic Education offers Funza Lushaka bursaries - see www.funzalushaka.gov.za - email final transcript to financialaid@uct.ac.za. You could also apply for [NSFAS](#) or [Undergraduate Financial Aid at UCT](#). Furthermore, the [HCI Foundation offers](#) bursaries to PGCE students. The [Jakes Gerwel Fellowship](#) offers scholarships to PGCE students - 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 book at www.students.uct.ac.za/students/fees-funding/fees/handbook for details. 2020. 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 to do something in addition to receive it if you want to teach in that country.
- Age criteria: There is no age limitation

Admission requirements

- Foundation Phase (HG019): Presently under review. Please refer to the information on the previous page. **(Not offered in 2021)**
- Intermediate Phase (HG018): Presently under review. Please refer to the information on the previous page. **(Not offered in 2021)**
- 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 not 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.

Dates

- Applications open at the end of April for the following year. See details for [UCT Open Day](#) 2020.
- Applications close on 31 October, but late applications can usually be made after that, however no assurances can be given.
- Acceptance should be communicated by early 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.
- The year pattern is: Observation in schools; lectures (\pm six weeks); vacation; 1st teaching practice (\pm five weeks); lectures (\pm five weeks); mid-year vacation; 2nd teaching practice (\pm six weeks); vacation; lectures (\pm six weeks); assessment period (two-three weeks).

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

July 2020. Subject to change.