

# 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.

- (a) Doing a four-year BEd degree. OR
- (b) Doing another degree (three or four years) and then a one year Postgraduate Certificate (PGCE).

**UCT does not have a BEd degree.** All of our students do an undergraduate bachelor's degree (e.g. BA, B.Sc, etc.) followed by the PGCE.

## *Doing your degree*

You first need to think carefully about what you would like to teach, as the degree that you do determines your future as a teacher.

1. Choose which phase:

- Foundation Phase (Primary: Grades R to 3)
- Intermediate Phase (Primary: Grades 4 to 6 + 7)
- Senior Phase and Further Education (High: Grades 7 to 12)

2. Choose which subjects and an appropriate undergraduate Bachelor's degree. The admission requirements below will provide a guide to which subjects to take for each phase.

### **Foundation Phase**

A bachelor's degree which includes subjects that will enable you to teach Language and Literacy, Mathematics/Numeracy and Life Skills. **Strongly recommended subjects are:** Psychology, SA home languages (including English), linguistics, quantitative literacy for Humanities, mathematics. Additional subjects which could be taken include: historical studies, environmental and geographical sciences.

### **Intermediate Phase**

A bachelor's degree. **Strongly recommended subjects are:** SA home languages (including English), linguistics, quantitative literacy for Humanities, mathematics, historical studies, environmental and geographical sciences, biological sciences, physics, chemistry.

### **Senior Phase and Further Education**

BA or BSoc Sc or BCom or BSc degree: At least two school subjects studied to at *least second year*: English, Afrikaans, IsiXhosa, mathematics, environmental and geographical sciences, historical studies, life sciences (botany, zoology), chemistry, physics, accounting, economics, or psychology to *third year*. (1 year of mathematics is accepted for *Mathematics Senior Phase & Maths Literacy FET*.) Alternatively, one subject at *third year* level may be studied in: English, environmental and geographical sciences, historical studies, drama, dance, music, fine art or mathematics.

The degree must be appropriate to the subjects. For example, a B.A if you want to teach English and history; a B.Sc if you want to teach natural sciences, life sciences or physical sciences; a B.Com if you want to teach accounting and economics; a B.A in Music Education if you want to teach music.

3. Find the information you require about the faculty for your degree (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 on [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za). Applications open at the end of April and close on 30 September. UCT Open Day is in April.

**Contact:** hum-education@uct.ac.za. 021 650 2769, 021 650 5622

P.T.O. *Doing the PGCE*

## Doing the PGCE

### Dates

- Applications open at the end of April for the following year. There is also a UCT Open Day, usually on a Saturday in April – see [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za).
- Applications for Foundation Phase close on 31 July. All other applications close on 31 October. Late applications can usually be made after that, but no assurances can be given.
- Acceptance should be communicated by December. 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; 1<sup>st</sup> teaching practice ( $\pm$  five weeks); lectures ( $\pm$  five weeks); mid-year vacation; 2<sup>nd</sup> teaching practice ( $\pm$  six weeks); vacation; lectures ( $\pm$  six weeks); assessment period (two-three weeks).

### Admission requirements

- Foundation Phase (HG019):  
A bachelor's degree comprising courses that will provide the knowledge to teach Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills. Applicants require a Grade 12 pass in Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy and preference will be given to applicants whose first choice is the PGCE (FP) and who have appropriate experience in working with five- to eight-year-old children. There is a limited number of places for the PGCE (FP) and admission is competitive. Applications close 31 July. As long as application is made before this date, there is no advantage to applying early.
- Intermediate Phase (HG018):  
A bachelor's degree with five whole-year courses in two or more school subjects (2 semester courses = 1 whole year course) and a minimum of 150 credits: Language(s); linguistics; mathematics and statistics; natural sciences; geography and environmental sciences; historical studies and archaeology; psychology; music; fine art; drama; dance; information systems/computer science; human movement studies. Applicants also require a Grade 12 pass in Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy.
- Senior Phase and Further Education (HG020):  
A bachelor's degree studied with appropriate school subjects - at least two school subjects studied to at least second year from the following: English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, mathematics, environmental and geographical sciences, historical studies, life sciences (botany, zoology), chemistry, physics, accounting, economics, or psychology to third year. (1 year of mathematics is accepted for Mathematics Senior Phase & Maths Literacy FET.) Alternatively, one subject at third year level may be studied in: English, environmental and geographical sciences, historical studies, drama, dance, music, fine art or mathematics. 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).

### General information

- The PGCE is not offered part-time, and not offered by distance or correspondence study.
- There are a limited number of places for PGCE FP. 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 in the PGCE, as is conversational Afrikaans for those who have conversational proficiency in isiXhosa.
- The Department of Basic Education offers Funza Lushaka bursaries, see [www.funzalushaka.gov.za](http://www.funzalushaka.gov.za). You could also apply for NSFAS or Undergraduate Financial Aid at UCT.
- Fees are charged per registered course. (See the Fees book on [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za) for details.) There is an additional levy for international, 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 you to register with the South African Council for Educators. 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.

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