Thinking of teaching?

Steps to becoming a teacher at UCT

To study to become a teacher at UCT, you will need to complete a Bachelor’s degree (3 or 4 years’ study, depending on what you choose to do) followed by a one-year PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education).

There are four PGCEs: Foundation Phase; Intermediate Phase; Senior Phase and FET.

1. Decide what subjects you are most interested in and which you would most like to teach, for high school teaching. Primary school teachers are generalists.

2. Choose the degree that fits best with the subjects. (Study the UCT website and Handbooks.) For example, a B.A if you want to teach English and history, a B.Sc if you want to teach natural science and biology, a B.Com if you want to teach accounting and economics, a B.Mus if you want to teach music. Consult the PGCE student adviser before choosing your degree courses.

3. Contact the relevant faculty office (e.g., Humanities for B.A or B.SocSc; Science for B.Sc, Commerce for B.Com) if you need general advice about the degree programmes.

4. Apply to UCT to study the degree that you have chosen.

PGCE Admissions Manager & student adviser:
Roger MacKay
School of Education
5.03.4 Neville Alexander Building
University Avenue South, UCT Upper Campus
Rondebosch 7701

PGCE entry requirements

Compulsory course for all intending teachers: Xhosa Communication

Teaching in a primary school:

Foundation Phase: A Bachelor’s degree which demonstrates appropriate knowledge to teach FP literacy, numeracy and life skills.

Intermediate Phase: a 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. A matric pass in Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy.

Teaching in a high school:

Most teachers study two of the following school subjects in their degrees:

- Language/s; mathematics; the natural sciences; geography; environmental science; historical studies; psychology; accounting; economics; music; fine arts; drama; dance; computer science.

E.g. English and history; mathematics and life sciences. The requirement is a minimum of two years of degree study in each of two of the above school subjects, but 3 years of Psychology is the minimum for Life skills method and one year of Mathematics is accepted for Senior Phase Mathematics and Mathematical Literacy.

Bursaries

The Department of Basic Education has Funza Lushaka bursaries for primary and secondary teachers in maths, sciences and computing, African languages, English, Foundation phase, and FET economics, accounting and geography.

You could also apply for Financial Aid at UCT.

For more information about studying to be a teacher at UCT, go to the School of Education (SoE) website: www.education.uct.ac.za and read the 'Admissions information leaflet for 2017'