

## 4.1.2.1 MEd (Education Policy Studies) (Full Thesis)

### Programme content

The primary aims of the MEd programme (Education Policy Studies) are to:

- assist you as an educator to develop your critical understanding of education policy in the context of democratic transformation;
- challenge you to analyse, reflect on and question educational theories, policies and practices;
- enhance your skills and leadership to enact change; and
- encourage you to explore creative responses to diversity.

A secondary aim is to equip you with the necessary research skills to undertake further advanced studies at doctoral level and to do research on Education Policy Studies. These aims include the competence to function as researchers of educational policy in professional contexts.

The themes that are explored include:

- Democratic praxis and educational transformation, including policy developments within the South African political context
- Values in education, including equality, liberty, diversity, justice, shared compromise, practical reasoning and community
- Globalisation, internationalisation and free market ideology
- Centralisation/decentralisation dynamics
- International comparative studies on learner achievement and school effectiveness
- The learning institution and the nurturing of quality within instructional change
- Developing supportive processes, systems (organisation building) and funding

### Enquiries

Programme coordinator: Prof N Davids

Department of Education Policy Studies

Tel.: 021 808 2877

E-mail: [nur@sun.ac.za](mailto:nur@sun.ac.za)

Website for more detailed information: [www.sun.ac.za/education](http://www.sun.ac.za/education)

## 4.1 MEd

The MEd programme consists of a full-thesis option in different fields of study in Education, as well as structured MEd options.

### 4.1.1 Admission requirements, selection and other information for all MEd-programmes

#### Admission requirements

##### Qualification

To be admitted to the MEd programme, you must:

- have a BEdHons degree from this University, *or* another four-year bachelor's degree in Education approved for this purpose by Senate;
- or*
- have obtained an honours degree at level 8 approved for this purpose by Senate, and an approved education diploma/certificate (additional studies in Education may be required of you);
- or*
- have obtained a pass in another combination of studies both academic and professional, deemed appropriate by Senate for the purpose of joining the intended programme, including the combination of a four-year professional degree that has no Education component and an education diploma/certificate (supplementary study in Education will be required of you);
- or*
- in some manner have attained in your particular field of study a standard of competence deemed adequate by Senate (supplementary studies in Education will be required of you).

##### Conditions for admission

You will be considered for admission based on your above qualification on the following two conditions:

- You must have obtained an overall average of 60% in your BEdHons or equivalent study
- The relevant department must have the capacity to offer the programme.

## Research methodology at honours level

- A module in research methodology at honours level is compulsory if you are enrolling for the full-thesis master's degree.
- For the structured MEd programmes, you must preferably have passed a module in research methodology at honours level.

## Specific admission requirements for individual programmes

See the individual structured MEd programmes for their specific admission requirements.

## Selection

You must be selected to be admitted to MEd studies.

## Requirements for obtaining the MEd degree

If you have a BEdHons degree from this University, or another four-year bachelor's degree in Education approved for this purpose by Senate (see bullet 1 under "Qualification" above), you must have been registered at the University as a student in the MEd programme for at least **one academic year** to be awarded the MEd degree. In all other cases (bullets 2-4 above) it is **two years**.

If you are doing an MEd programme, you also have to do related work on the subject area as may be prescribed by the lecturers concerned.

## Duration of the programme

The maximum number of years that a student can be registered for the MEd programme is 3 years.

## Application procedure and closing date

- You must apply in writing to do an MEd programme.
- The structured programmes are presented only if at least **five** students are admitted.
- The closing date for applications is **30 September** of the year before admission, but *please note*: in the case of the programmes MEd (Psych) and MEd (Educational Support) it is **30 June** (of the year before admission).
- New applicants apply online on the following webpage: [www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies).
- If you are currently registered as a student at the University of Stellenbosch, you may apply to the Faculty Administrator by e-mail:

Ms EE Louwrens

E-mail: [eel@sun.ac.za](mailto:eel@sun.ac.za)

## Programme structure and content

You will find more on the structure and content of the different MEd programmes below. The programme content is described in alphabetical order of subjects in the chapter "Subjects, Modules and Module Content". See the table of contents and the alphabetical list of subjects in the back of the book for page numbers.

# Postgraduate programmes

## 1. Summary of postgraduate programmes

Below you will find a schematic summary of the postgraduate programmes offered in the Faculty of Education.

Postgraduate qualification	Programme	Distinctions within a programme
Postgraduate certificate	Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)	
Postgraduate diplomas	Postgraduate Diploma in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher Education in Teaching and Learning</li> <li>Mathematics Education</li> <li>Science Education</li> </ul>
Honours degrees	BEdHons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum Inquiry</li> <li>Education Development and Democracy</li> <li>Educational Support</li> <li>Foundation Phase Education</li> <li>Language Education</li> </ul>
Master's degrees	MEd	MEd (Research) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum Studies</li> <li>Educational Support</li> <li>Education Policy Studies</li> </ul>
		MEd (Structured) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum Studies</li> <li>Educational Support</li> <li>Psychology</li> <li>Educational Psychology</li> </ul>
	MPhil	MPhil (Structured) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher Education Studies</li> <li>Lifelong Learning</li> </ul>
		MPhil (Research)
Doctoral Degrees	DEd	
	PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparative Education</li> <li>Curriculum Studies</li> <li>Educational Psychology</li> <li>Educational Support</li> <li>Education and Training and Lifelong Learning</li> <li>Education Management</li> <li>Education Policy Studies</li> <li>Environmental Education</li> <li>Higher Education</li> <li>History of Education</li> <li>Language Education</li> <li>Philosophy of Education</li> </ul>

## Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Education Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Education Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **1. Summary of postgraduate programmes.**