

## 4.2.1 MPhil (Higher Education Studies) (Structured)

### Specific admission requirements

For admission to the MPhil (Higher Education Studies) programme, you must:

- have an appropriate honours degree (with an average of at least 65%) and have been employed in a higher education environment for at least two years;

*or*

- have completed another academic-professional study combination equivalent to an honours degree, which Senate deems suitable for admission to this programme, and have been employed in a higher education environment for at least two years;

or

- have attained a level of competence in higher education, demonstrated through the process of evaluation of prior learning, which Senate deems sufficient for this purpose.

## Selection

The programme will be offered if a specified minimum number of students can be admitted. The number is determined by the Department of Curriculum Studies.

## Closing date for applications

- The closing date for applications is **30 September** of the year before admission.
- Applicants apply online on the following webpage: [www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies](http://www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies).

## Duration and presentation structure of the programme

- The programme is presented over at least two academic years.
- The programme entails a combination of contact and other forms of teaching.
- There are two contact sessions per year, one at the beginning of the year and one in the middle. Each session is a week long.
- For the rest of the year, you do preparatory study, assignments and projects by means of blended learning, online group-work assignments, structured study guides, self-study packages and other forms of directed self-study.

## Assessment and examination

- Taught modules:
  - The modules count 33.33% of your final mark.
  - You must complete an assignment for every taught module.
  - You need a minimum of 50% in every module to pass the programme.
- Research thesis:
  - The topic of the thesis falls in the field of higher education studies
  - The thesis counts 66.66% of your final mark.
  - You may also submit your thesis for examination in the form of examined or reviewed publishable articles.

Your final mark is calculated as the average for your assignments in all of the taught modules (33.33%), plus your research thesis (66.66%).

## Enquiries

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

## Programme contents

The primary aim of the programme is to equip you with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be able to function effectively in higher education institutions as a lecturer, learning facilitator or higher education professional.

The secondary aim is to equip you with the research skills to do further advanced study at doctoral level and to be able to undertake research in the field of higher education. This aim includes the capacity to function as a researcher in your professional context.

## Anchor module

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Higher Education | 879(180) |
|------------------|----------|

You must do the following four compulsory modules of which the research thesis is one. The topic of the thesis must fall within the field of higher education studies and you must consult with you appointed supervisor when choosing your topic.

## Compulsory modules

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Learning in Higher Education     | .875(20) |
| Perspectives on Higher Education | 875(20)  |
| Research in Higher Education*    | 875(20)  |
| Research Thesis                  | 874(120) |

\* Research in Higher Education is presented with a view to formulating the research proposal for your MPhil thesis.

# 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.**