

# FACULTY OF EDUCATION

## MEd (Educational Psychology)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Where can I complete the required undergraduate Psychology modules?**

Applicants to the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme are required to have completed Psychology I – III (*Psychology as a major subject at first-, second-, and third-year levels*) to gain access to an appropriate honours programme. As these modules are not usually offered as a part of BEd programmes, students generally complete these modules for *non-degree purposes* through an accredited tertiary institution.

If you are a current SU student completing one of the BEd programmes, and would like to begin these studies before completing your current qualification, you should contact Ms Louwrens at Admin A on [eel@sun.ac.za](mailto:eel@sun.ac.za) to request a letter of permission to go ahead with a concurrent registration at another institution.

#### **Can I complete a BEd Hons (Educational Psychology) programme at Stellenbosch University?**

Unfortunately, Stellenbosch University does not currently offer this programme. You would need to pursue these studies at another institution.

#### **I have completed BEd Hons (Psychology of Education) studies. Can I apply for the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme with this qualification?**

Unfortunately, a BEd Hons (Psychology of Education) qualification does not grant one access to the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme.

You would need to have completed one of the following honours programmes to meet the minimum requirements for admission:

- BEd Hons (Educational Psychology)
- BA Hons (Psychology)
- BPsych (an honours-level qualification)

#### **I do not have a BEd or PGCE qualification, but I have completed a TEFL programme. Is sufficient for an application to the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme?**

A teaching qualification (not TEFL) is a minimum requirement. If you have taught internationally, there is no stipulation regarding the country in which the teaching takes place; however, it should be full-time employment in a registered school.

#### **Do I have to have taught full-time in order to apply for the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme?**

The previous requirement of two-years of formal teaching experience no longer applies. However, since this is a selection programme which attracts many applicants, formal continuous experience of at least two years within any contiguous field (e.g. education, social work, medicine, health therapies and counselling) may be advantageous to your application.

#### **I have completed undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Industrial and/or Organisational Psychology. Can I apply for the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme?**

No, industrial and/or organisational psychology fall within the broader commerce field. Educational psychology and psychology fall within the field of human and social sciences, our primary focus.

#### **Why is Stellenbosch University no longer offering the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme as a part-time, two-year qualification?**

As an institution, we must balance supporting students' growth with meeting objective requirements that ensure quality training which is aligned to industry needs. This tension is difficult, but necessary, for the integrity of the program. The part-time programme presented numerous challenges and delays towards completion. The restructuring of the programme from part-time to full-time as from 2025 is done with the aim of supporting students to complete this professional programme and reach their career aspirations in the minimum period.

Regardless of duration, this is a highly-intensive programme, and you would have to explore how you could navigate between work (and the related financial implications), family life, and studies, as it requires some sacrifice in all these areas. We strongly suggest you have a family discussion before submitting your application.

### **Does the university arrange the internship positions?**

You are responsible, in consultation with the Department of Educational Psychology at Stellenbosch University, to arrange to do your internships at an accredited institution.

Internships are approved by the Professional Board for Psychology of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and fall under the supervision of the Department of Educational Psychology. If you plan to complete a specially tailored internship programme, then you must submit your internship programme to the Department of Educational Psychology at least five months before you plan to start your internship. After this, it is sent to the Board for Psychology for approval. You can only commence with the internship after the Board's Education, Training and Accreditations committee approved the programme (Read [Form 160 and Minimum Standards for the Training of Educational Psychologists](#)).

Please take note that due to new HPCSA regulations, a degree will only be awarded to a student if all three components of the programme have been completed, namely (i) formal coursework, (ii) research component, and (iii) a 12-month full-time internship. This new regulation will apply to the 2025 intake and onwards.

### **Will I receive a salary during the internship year?**

Most internship positions are paid; however, this is usually a stipend, which is negotiated with the institution.

### **Is it possible to complete the internship year at my current place of a work and thereby continue to receive a salary for that year?**

Unfortunately, you would not be able to complete your internship at the school or institution where you currently work as this is regarded as a conflict of interest. Some students ask for a sabbatical and then return to their workplace after their internship year.

### **How important are my previous academic results?**

Owing to the limited number of internship positions, as well as being a programme which attracts many applicants, prospective candidates are subject to a rigorous paper selection process. Please note that your academic performance (especially honours studies) and amount of formal and/or professional experience (educational psychology related) are important aspects to consider. In addition, tertiary qualifications should ideally not be older than 10 years.

### **How important is it to have previous psychometric and/or counselling training and experience?**

Applicants who proceed through to the interview phase of the programme selections are requested to supply information on psychometric training and experience they have gained. Experience in these fields is not a determining factor but may be to your benefit.

### **Can I complete the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme via distance learning?**

Since this is a professional programme which incorporates on-site, supervised practicum training, it is not possible to complete any part of the course via distance learning.

### **Why does Stellenbosch University admit so few students to the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme?**

The training is labour intensive, and extensive one-on-one supervision is included. Unfortunately, we are a small department, which needs to function within certain resource limits.

### **What is the application and selection process for the MEd (Educational Psychology) programme at Stellenbosch University?**

- a) Complete an online application via the Stellenbosch University website before the deadline of 30 June of the preceding academic year.
- b) Candidates who are successful after the initial paper selection will be invited to participate in further selection activities and interviews; this phase of the selection process generally takes place in August and September.
- c) Candidates whose application is deemed unsuccessful after paper selection will be notified of the outcome of their application at this stage.
- d) Candidates who have been invited to participate in the selection interviews are notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible thereafter.