

EDUCATION @Unisa

A complete guide to preparing yourself for career opportunities



Define tomorrow.

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The information in this document was correct as on 22 January 2020. Visit the Directorate: Counselling and Career Development website (<http://bit.ly/30ygrll>) for the latest version of this document. Also verify qualification information (including admission requirements on the Unisa application webpage (<http://bit.ly/2PFZKoA>)).

Studying through a large Open Distance Learning (ODL) institution such as Unisa can often be a daunting experience. There are all kinds of uncertainties regarding university procedures and study arrangements that cause for confusion and uncertainty. The aim of this brochure is to help you manage these uncertainties. You may have many questions regarding which qualification to choose, making module choices, and the implications of practical components. Taking time to work through this brochure should help you feel more at ease, more knowledgeable about your studies, and better able to manage your career in education.

How will this information help me?

- It will provide you with insight into what studying education involves.
- It will help you gain more information about the skills needed to be an educator.
- It will help you explore possible career opportunities related to education.
- It will assist you in finding education qualifications offered by Unisa.

What is education?

Education studies revolve around individuals' learning and development throughout their lives. It supports the investigation of a variety of perspectives around the nature of knowledge, how individuals acquire knowledge as well as the processes and approaches within education systems. It also examines the contribution of societal, cultural, political and historical contexts in our understanding and practice of education.

Even though the largest chunk of South Africa's annual budget goes to education, for many it is a challenge to receive quality schooling due to socio-economic circumstances of learners, and a lack of necessary infrastructure and resources. It is for this reason that professional educators are needed. Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have had a big impact on education in recent years. Schools are aware of the importance of producing technologically able high-school and university graduates that can enter the techno-reliant workplace with ease. E-learning is becoming the status quo and it is happening at a pace that is trying to keep up with fast technological development. However, in a developing country such as South Africa, this is hardly a straightforward task. Educators play a central role in terms of supporting learners to develop the necessary skills. It is essential that educators take on the responsibility of rearing skilled, knowledgeable and able school-leavers that can contribute to society in a meaningful way.

What do educators do?

Educators are employed at schools, training organisations and in business. Primary and secondary education focuses on teaching in a formal school environment. Adult education includes adult basic education and training (ABET) and skills training in corporate environments. In addition to teaching and training activities, there are several other opportunities in this field such as e-learning, curriculum and materials development, management, as well as quality assurance and evaluation activities.

Where do educators work?

Teachers for all the age groups are in demand. The following teaching specialisations are listed on the *List of Occupations in High Demand* (Department of Higher Education and Training, 2018):

- Senior secondary school teacher (Grades 10-12)
- Junior secondary school teacher (Grades 8-9)
- Foundational phase school teacher
- Senior primary school teacher
- Early childhood development practitioner

Possible job titles include:

- Early childhood development and foundation phase teacher (pre-school to grade 3)
- Intermediate and senior phase teacher (grade 4-7)
- Senior and further education and training phase teacher (grade 7-12)
- Inclusive Educator
- Principal
- Training facilitator
- ABET facilitator
- Skills development practitioner
- Education, training and development practitioner (ETDP)
- Curriculum specialist
- E-learning facilitator/developer
- Evaluation practitioner
- Lecturer
- School guidance counsellor

Possible work environments include:

- Community-based and non-profit organisations
- Educational institutions (schools, private colleges, TVET)
- Higher education institutions (public and private universities, universities of technology & colleges)
- Local government education
- Publishing companies

Skills and qualities needed as a teacher

According to the Department of Basic Education (2016)

Teaching is a noble profession that requires passion, commitment, tolerance, perseverance, character and the dedication to make a difference in the lives of a diverse group of young and older children, depending on your choice of phase specialisation. This profession will afford you the opportunity to nurture and mould young and growing minds and to develop a variety of vital lifelong skills in children. Contributing to the academic and social development of children is a fulfilling experience that you should embrace

(<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Teachers/InitialTeacherEducation.aspx>)

As with any profession, there are certain skills and qualities that one would need to succeed in this career, and teaching is no different. Some skills and qualities needed to be an effective educator include:

- Good communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Organisational skills
- Group work skills – teamwork

- Conflict resolution skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Motivational skills
- Mentoring and Leadership skills
- Time management skills
- Confidence
- Patience
- Adaptability
- Constant learning – lifelong learning

Education qualifications at Unisa

Bachelor's degree

The **Bachelor of Education (BEd)** is the basic teaching qualification that will enable you to qualify as a professional teacher and register with the [South African Council for Educators \(SACE\)](#).

Unisa offers the following BEd degrees:

- BEd in Foundation Phase Teaching (Grade R-Grade 3)
- BEd in Intermediate Phase Teaching (Grades 4-7)
- BEd in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching (Grades 7-12). The following specialisation streams are offered for this degree:
 - Computer Application Technology
 - Consumer Studies
 - Economics and Management Science
 - Financial Accounting
 - Geography and Languages
 - History and Geography
 - Hospitality Studies and Business Studies
 - Hospitality Studies and Tourism

- Information Technology
- Language
- Life Orientation and Language
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics and English
- Physical Science and Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Technology
- Tourism and Management

Higher Certificates

- **Higher Certificate in Education.** The purpose of the Higher Certificate is to enable candidates to be able to meet the admission requirements for a BEd degree should they not meet the minimum entry requirements for admission to the degree. *Kindly note that completing the Higher Certificate does not guarantee admission to the BEd degree.* You will need to apply for admission to the BEd in your final year of study for the Higher Certificate and your admission will depend on the space available within the BEd qualification.
- **Higher Certificate in Adult Basic Education and Training.** This Higher Certificate will not be available for new applications in 2020. Current students will have until 2020 to complete this Higher Certificate.

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

As from 2020, Unisa will not be taking in any new students for the PGCE (Foundation Phase and Early Childhood Development) Foundation Phase or the PGCE (Intermediate and Senior Phase). Students who were registered for these qualifications will be given until the end of 2022 to complete their qualification.

The PGCE (Senior Phase and Further Education and Training) is offered with the following specialisations:

- Business Studies
- Consumer Studies
- Economics
- Engineering Technology
- English
- Financial Accounting
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality Studies
- Information / Computer Studies
- Languages
- Life Orientation
- Life Sciences
- Mathematical Literacy
- Mathematics
- Physical Sciences
- Religion Studies
- Tourism

Please check the [Unisa application website](#) for the admission requirements for these PGCE qualifications.

Advanced Diploma

Unisa offers an Advanced Diploma in Education in Intermediate Phase Mathematics Teaching from 2020. The primary purpose of the Advanced Diploma is to enable teachers to deepen their subject content knowledge related to teaching of school mathematics.

Note that the Advanced Diploma in Education is not a “reskilling” qualification. If you want to change your subject specialisation (e.g. you are currently an English teacher and you now also want to be able to teach mathematics), you are advised to apply for a BEd degree.

Postgraduate Diploma

Postgraduate Diploma in Inclusive Education. The purpose of this qualification is to build the knowledge base of teachers in inclusive settings for them to be conversant in this field of study and to equip them with relevant theoretical knowledge, teaching

skills and assessment strategies to respond to the individual needs of learners. Take note of the admission requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma before you apply for admission.

Postgraduate Diploma in Tertiary Education. This qualification will not be available for new applications. Current students will have until 2022 to complete this qualification.

Honours degrees

The following Honours BEd qualifications are phasing out and no new applications will be accepted for these qualifications. Pipeline students have until 2022 to complete their qualifications.

Honours BEd General, Honours BEd Early Childhood Development, Honours BEd ABET, Honours BEd Education Management, Honours BEd Inclusive Education, Honours BEd Psycho-Education Support, Honours BEd Mathematics Education, Honours BEd Natural Sciences, and Honours BEd Environmental Education.

In 2020, the [Bachelor of Education Honours](#) is offered.

Master's and Doctoral degrees

Unisa offers a number of [Master's and Doctoral degrees](#) related to education.

Short Learning Programmes

Unisa offers several short learning programmes related to education. The programmes offered by the Centre for Continuing Education and Training provide specific and practically oriented training. The duration of these programmes varies from six to 24 months and cover a wide range of subjects related to education, training and development practices, environmental education, in-service teacher education, and counselling.

Visit the [Centre for Continuing Education and Training website](#) for more information.

Which qualification should you choose?

When you are considering which qualification to choose, you need to think about the following:

- What age group do I want to teach?
- If I am interested in the Senior and Further and Training Phase, which subjects do I want to specialise in

1 What age group are you interested in teaching?

If you are interested in teaching learners at school level, you must choose which age group you wish to focus on. Teaching qualifications are offered in three areas:

- Foundation Phase (Reception Year - Grade 3),
- Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-7) and
- Senior and Further Education and Training Phase (Grades 7-12).

Which of your life values (things that are important to you) have the best chance to be expressed by the age group you are interested in?

Example 01: Mila may choose to enrol for the Foundation Phase because she enjoys the energy and playfulness of smaller children and has a deep love for how fast children learn in a caring environment. Mila comes from a family of children with learning difficulties and this is the reason why she feels dedicated to educating young ones.

Example 02: Katlego had some difficult years as a teenager. Home circumstances were difficult, but he had a mathematics teacher who took interest in him. The teacher inspired him to consider teaching as a career. Katlego considers himself

lucky because some of his classmates dropped out of school and he managed to hold on and matriculate. The lost hopes of his classmates remain one of the driving forces for him to choose to work with learners in Grades 10-12.

Example 03: Mahier enjoyed his primary school years. While he was growing up, he wanted to be like Mr Bali, his headmaster at the time. He is also very clear that he wants to work at a school in an agricultural environment. Mahier has a strong environmental awareness because his family grew their own food on a smallholding. As a prospective teacher he wants to work where he would be able to empower kids to be self-sufficient and teach them how to grow their own food. Mahier is a supporter of Earthlife Africa and base his life choices on what is best for him and a sustainable environment.

From these examples, you should be able to see how your personality, motivations and goals, are linked to your choice of age group. Considering these aspects will help you make an informed decision that will support your personal needs while also ensuring that the appropriate career skills are developed in a way that will have a positive impact on your learners.

Do further research: Search for opportunities where you could interact with children from different age groups to get a sense of what it feels like to interact with children in different contexts. For example, you could volunteer to work with non-profit organisations that provide learning support. You can also conduct [informational interviews](#) with educators in order to explore your career options and clarify your career goals.

2 If you are interested in the Senior and FET phase, what stream (school subject specialisations) should you select?

You will need to make your decision based on your interests and needs in terms of your career. You could also consider the need for specific teachers at the various levels by talking to teachers, schools and contacting your nearest [Department of Basic Education district office](#) for more information.

The following is a list of school subjects for each learning phase.

Senior Phase (Grades 7-9): Arts and Culture, Economic and Management Sciences, Languages, Life Orientation, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Technology

FET Phase (Grades 10-12):

Accounting, Agricultural Management Practices, Agricultural Science, Agricultural Technology, Business Studies, Civil Technology, Computer Applications Technology, Consumer Studies, Dance Studies, Design Studies, Dramatic Arts, Economics, Electrical Technology, Engineering Graphics and Design, Geography, History, Hospitality Studies, Information Technology, Life Orientation, Life Sciences, Mathematical Literacy, Mathematics, Mechanical Technology, Music, Physical Sciences, Religion Studies, Technical Mathematics, Technical Sciences, Technical: Civil Technology, Technical: Electrical Technology, Technical: Mechanical Technology, Tourism, Visual Arts

Unisa offers the following specialisation streams for the BEd in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching (Grades 7-12):

- Computer Application Technology
- Consumer Studies
- Economics and Management Science
- Financial Accounting
- Geography and Languages
- History and Geography
- Hospitality Studies and Business Studies
- Hospitality Studies and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Language
- Life Orientation and Language
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics and English

- Physical Science and Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Technology
- Tourism and Management

Teaching Practice

Teaching Practice is a compulsory component of all teaching qualifications. The Unisa Teaching Practice Office is responsible for Unisa students completing teaching practice modules. All professional teaching qualifications have teaching practice module/s as a compulsory component of the curriculum. All students are required to submit information about their intended school placement as part of the registration process in order for the Teaching Practice Office to process and finalise.

Guideline to fill-in relevant school placement details in these forms

Locate the suitable school of your choice that is accessible and within your reach. It is important to select the appropriate:

- Phase (e.g. Foundation phase)
- Grade (e.g. Grade 1-3) and
- The subject relevant for the teaching practice module/s you registered for

Selection of unsuitable school

In the event where you have selected an unsuitable school during your registration and/or you want to change or update your teaching practice placement details, you need to do the following:

- Present a letter to the school principal at the school of your choice. The letter is an addendum to the placement forms.
- When granted permission at the new school of your choice, then you will need to:

- Complete information about your placement during the registration process
- Complete the Indemnity Form which can be found in TL102 of the teaching practice module

Students who are completing a teaching placement outside South Africa need to submit the DSAR27- Practical teaching placement form for students practising outside RSA

(https://www.unisa.ac.za/static/corporate_web/Content/Register%20to%20study%20through%20Unisa/Documents/Unisa-DSAR27-students-living-outsideSA.pdf)

NB: Students living outside the Republic of South Africa can do their teaching practice in their country of residence during their studies.

Teaching practice modules must be done with the subject didactic module and not before (Senior Phase/ FET).

The University may appoint supervisors to assess your teaching practice, or it may liaise with the relevant school to carry out your assessment during these compulsory teaching practice sessions.

Should you have any problem with your selected school of choice or any placement related enquiries; the teaching practice office must be contacted for alternative placement and assistance. Please refer to the Teaching Practice Unit contact details.

Students who have appropriate experience of teaching within the relevant phase may apply to be exempted from the teaching practical module by applying for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Students who wish to apply for RPL should do so well in advance. They will need to supply enough evidence of relevant experience. Such applications should be referred to morokvt@unisa.ac.za.

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHING PRACTICE MODULES

Please ensure that you read and understand the guidelines applicable to your teaching practice module. When selecting a school, please make sure that the

school of your choice offers your registered teaching practice subject/s in the relevant phase/s.

More details about the practical work requirements is available on the [Unisa Teaching Practice Office website](#) and in the Teaching Practice Placement Information document

(https://www.unisa.ac.za/static/corporate_web/Content/Register%20to%20study%20through%20Unisa/Documents/Unisa-teaching-practice-placement-information-2019.pdf).

Note:

- Each module has its own specified number of weeks and you cannot do two teaching practice modules concurrently (e.g. you cannot register for the level 1 and 2 teaching practice modules for the BEd degree in the same year).
- For the Senior Phase & FET: You should do your teaching practice modules together with the subject didactic module/s.

Teaching Practice Office Contact Details

Student enquiries can be sent directly to the relevant workstations as demarcated per province and country: Please see contact details on the [Teaching Practice Office website](#).

More information about teaching practice modules

Please visit the [Teaching Practice Office website](#) for more information. The [Frequently-Asked Questions page](#) contains answers to many questions that you may have about the teaching practice requirements.

Unisa Teacher Centres

Unisa in partnership with the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education and Training have deployed ICT infrastructure at the 34 teacher centres across the country to provide Unisa students and teachers working at public schools with online access. The teacher centres will also be used to improve the quality of managing teaching practice arrangements and enable Unisa education students to become tech-savvy teachers.

For more information go to www.unisa.ac.za/TC.

Professional registration

South African Council for Educators (SACE)

SACE is the professional council for educators that aims to enhance the status of the teaching profession through appropriate Registration, management of Professional Development and inculcation of a Code of Ethics for all educators.

Section 21 of the South African Council for Educators Act, 2000 requires that:

1.1 every educator contemplated by the Act must register with the Council before appointment to a teaching post; and

1.2 no person may be employed as an educator by an employer unless that person is registered with the Council.

For more information, visit the South African Council for Educators official website:

<http://www.sace.org.za/>

Frequently-asked questions

How do I become a teacher?

You will need to complete a Bachelor of Education (BEd). Then you need to register with the South African Council for Educators (SACE) as a teacher. See page 5 of this brochure for more details. At Unisa, if you wish to qualify as a teacher in the Senior Phase and Further Education and Training, you also have the option of completing a relevant Bachelor's degree followed by the PGCE. Please check the admission requirements for the PGCE specialisation you are interested in to assist you with choosing a relevant undergraduate degree.

You will study for a minimum of four years to become a teacher in one of these fields.

I want to study at Unisa – where do I start?

The first step to study at Unisa is to apply for admission. Information about applying is available on the Unisa website

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Undergraduate-qualifications>. **Before you apply, take some time to read through the information about studying through open distance learning, making an effective career choice, the requirements for your qualification(s) and the application process (Steps 1-5 on the application website).** Information about applications for the following year is normally available at the beginning of August of the previous year.

Important note: As from 2020, BEd modules will be offered as year modules.

I am not sure whether I qualify for admission to a BE degree- what should I apply for?

It is recommended that you apply for admission to the BEd degree as well as the Higher Certificate in Education.

What if I do not meet the admission requirements for a BEd degree?

You will first need to complete a Higher Certificate in Education. Completion of a Higher Certificate will enable you to meet the minimum and College-specific requirements for a BEd degree. Kindly note that completing the Higher Certificate does not guarantee admission to a BEd degree at Unisa since admission to the BEd also depends on space available within the BEd.

Pay careful attention to the admission requirements and rules for the Higher Certificate as available on the [Unisa application website](#). For example, if you intend to apply later for admission to a BEd Intermediate and Senior Phase or the BEd Foundation Phase, you must include a Mathematics module as one of the electives in your Higher Certificate, since Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy is now a College-specific admission requirement for these two degrees.

The Higher Certificate in Education will, however, not be enough to meet the additional maths admission requirement for BEd (Senior Phase and FET) – MTE (Mathematics with English) and PSM (Physical Science with Mathematics). Prospective BEd (Senior Phase and FET) students who not comply with the maths additional admission requirement are advised to rather consider one of the other streams (not MTE or PSM).

I want to study a BEd in Foundation Phase Teaching or a BEd in Intermediate and Senior Phase but I do not meet the College-specific requirements (i.e. the requirement for the language of teaching and learning and/or Mathematics/Mathematical Literacy)?

You will first need to complete a Higher Certificate in Education. Completion of a Higher Certificate will enable you to meet the minimum and College-specific requirements for a BEd degree. Kindly note that completing the Higher Certificate does not guarantee admission to a BEd degree at Unisa since admission to the BEd also depends on space available within the BEd.

Pay careful attention to the admission requirements and rules for the Higher Certificate as available on the [Unisa application website](#). For example, if you intend to apply later for admission to a BEd Intermediate and Senior Phase or the BEd Foundation Phase, you have to include a Mathematics module as one of the electives in your Higher Certificate, since Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy is now a College-specific admission requirement for these two degrees.

What if I do not qualify to study at Unisa at all?

Unisa only offers post-secondary qualifications. The other options include (but are not limited to):

1) Complete a recognised qualification at NQF level 5 with at least 120 credits:

- The Department of Higher Education and Training's REGISTER of Private Higher Education Institutions at <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/DocRegisters.aspx> can help you to identify registered institutions.
 - As this document, the "Private Higher Education Institutions REGISTER", is continually updated, ensure that you consult the latest edition. Note that only some Higher Certificates and Diplomas will be relevant for consideration when applying for admission to a formal Unisa qualification. Should you wish to complete a qualification at

another institution, it would be your responsibility to check whether this qualification will enable you to re-apply for a formal qualification at Unisa and be able to meet the requirements for your degree of choice.

2) Complete a diploma at a TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) College:

- Government TVET Colleges: <http://www.tvetcolleges.co.za/>
- Private Colleges: <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/DocRegisters.aspx>
- Completing an N4, N5, N6 level is not a completed qualification and is not recognised for admission to Unisa - you will need to complete the National Diploma at the TVET College to consider further study options.

3) Complete a Senior Certificate:

If you are 21 years and older you could consider completing your Senior Certificate.

More information is available here:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/AmendedSeniorCertificate/tabid/627/Default.aspx>.

4) You can also do an online search for institutions that offer contact and distance learning options to upgrade/ complete your NSC. Please read this article:

<https://www.umalusi.org.za/an-open-letter-to-learners-from-umalusi/> for more information about the accreditation of institutions.

I have completed a qualification (e.g. Bachelor's degree, National Diploma) and I now want to become a teacher – Where do I start?

Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase: If you would like to qualify as a teacher and you have completed an undergraduate degree, but do not have a professional teaching qualification, you will need to apply for admission to one of the BEd degrees. Once you have been admitted to the BEd degree, and you register for the degree, you can [apply to be exempted](#) from modules based on your previous studies.

The PGCE (Intermediate and Senior Phase) and PGCE (Foundation Phase and Early Childhood Development) Foundation Phase qualifications will no longer be offered by Unisa. Currently registered students will have until 2022 to complete these qualifications.

You can also explore the option of completing a PGCE through another institution. Some universities offer part-time/ distance mode options.

Senior Phase and Further Education and Training: The PGCE (Senior Phase and Further Education and Training) is offered at Unisa. Please check the [Unisa application website](#) for information about the admission requirements for the PGCE.

I have completed a National Diploma at a TVET college and now want to qualify as a teacher – where do I start?

You will need to apply for admission to a BEd degree. See [training route](#) information in this brochure for more details.

I want to study teaching, but I am worried about how I will pay for my studies

- If you would need to fund your studies from other sources, then consider applying for the Funza Lushaka bursary. You can read more about this on the Funza Lushaka website (<http://www.funzalushaka.doe.gov.za/>) and in the Unisa Directorate for Student Funding (<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/About/Service-departments/Finance/Student-Funding>).
- The Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority provide several bursaries for workers and unemployed learners in the ETD sector to gain qualifications in scarce and critical skills at both intermediate and higher levels. Scarce and critical skills include teaching qualifications in Mathematics and Science, Foundation Phase and Computer Studies. For more information, visit the [ETDP SETA website](#) or contact 0800 ETDP 73.

- As with all bursary schemes, only limited funding is available. Make sure that you familiarise yourself with the relevant closing dates so that you could apply in time. Start thinking about alternative ways of funding your studies through, for example, micro-loans, stokvel clubs, family and friends, community organisations such as churches as well as entrepreneurial and part-time/ additional work options.

I started studying at another higher education institution and I now want to complete my qualification through Unisa

The first step is to apply for admission to your chosen qualification at Unisa. Once you have been accepted and register for the qualification, you can [apply to be exempted](#) from specific modules in your degree based on your previous studies.

What should I study if I am interested in special needs/ inclusive education?

Unisa offers the following postgraduate qualifications related to inclusive education:

- Postgraduate Diploma in Inclusive Education (90100)
- Master of Education in Inclusive Education (Full Dissertation) (98443)
- Master of Education in Inclusive Education (coursework) (90067)
- Doctor of Education (Inclusive Education) (90038 - IED)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Education (Inclusive Education) (90019 - IED)

More information about these qualifications is available on the [Unisa application website](#).

Does Unisa offer a diploma in education?

No.

I noticed that Unisa offers short learning programmes in education – is there a short course to be a teacher?

You will need to complete a formal education in teaching to become a qualified teacher. Practitioners in preschools don't necessarily need a formal teaching degree. The following short learning programmes are offered by the Unisa Centre for Continuing Education:

- Programme for Practitioners in Early Childhood Development
- Programme in Grade R teaching

How do I choose subjects for the BEd degree?

Step 1: Download the curriculum for your chosen degree

(https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Undergraduate-&-honours-qualifications/Find-your-qualification-&-choose-your-modules/All-qualifications?cw_college=EDUCATION)

Step 2: Scan through the information on the document.

Step 3: Make your own summary of the modules you need to complete for your degree by using the guidelines in the document you downloaded. You will find information regarding the content of specific modules on the Modules and Subjects page (<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Subjects-&-modules/All-subjects>).

Step 4: Consult the published information on the Unisa registration website before contacting a student advisor at the Student Admission and Registration section (educare@unisa.ac.za) or a Unisa regional centre (<http://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Contact-us/Regional-Centres>) to clarify any questions regarding your qualification.

It is important that you complete this exercise each time before you register for your next set of modules to check that you are still on track with completing your degree.

If I am already a BEd student, how will the new BEd degree affect my studies?

You will receive communication from Unisa to inform you about the arrangements that are in place for you to transfer your credits to one of the relevant new BEd degrees. From 2020, all students will be registered for and complete the new BEd degree that was introduced in 2019. Please see this announcement on myUnisa for more information:

<https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Announcements/Important-information-about-Unisa%27s-BEd-and-PGCE-qualifications>.

I started with a BEd degree and now I wish to change to another age group or BEd Senior Phase and FET specialisation stream. What should I do?

It is possible to change from one formal qualification to another if you meet the admission requirements for the qualification you want to register for and if you apply to change the qualification during the relevant application period before registration. Before you decide to change, it might be helpful for you to think about how this change will affect your career plans and how this is related to your longer-term career vision. Visit the Counselling and Career Development website at <http://bit.ly/2FoWEIQ> to help you with this process.

Once you have identified the new qualification you wish to change to, you will need to apply during the next application period to do so. For more information visit the [Unisa application website](#). If you are admitted and you register for the new qualification, relevant modules that you have passed will be transferred to the new qualification. You can compare the curricula for the two qualifications by using the information on the [Unisa registration website](#). Kindly note that enrolment management will apply, meaning that admission to the degree will also depend on the number of spaces available.

I want to know which modules are still outstanding for my degree.

Consult the published information on [Unisa's registration website](#), before contacting a student advisor at the Student Admission and Registration section (educare@unisa.ac.za) or a Unisa regional centre to clarify any questions regarding your qualification.

I completed a trade-related qualification (e.g. hairdressing or diesel mechanic) and I now want to teach at a TVET college in this field.

Where do I start?

Unisa does not offer teaching qualifications related to vocational training. You can explore options with other Universities and Universities of Technology. Also see answer submitted by Minister of Higher Education and Training in response to a question related to the 2013 Policy on Professional Qualifications for Lecturers in Technical and Vocational Education and Training here:

<https://pmg.org.za/committee-question/4994/>.

I want to become an educational psychologist. Where do I start?

Currently, Unisa does not offer professional postgraduate qualifications that have been accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa for professional registration as an educational psychologist. Kindly take note that Unisa used to offer the MEd in School Guidance and Counselling. This qualification is currently under revision and it will not be available until further notice. Download the [List of Accredited Universities in South Africa](#) from the HPCSA website for more details about universities that are accredited to offer this training. You will need to contact the Universities you are interested to apply to in order to verify the requirements for applying for admission to a professional Master's degree in educational psychology.

What should I study to be a lecturer at a university or university of technology?

You do not need a teaching qualification to become a university lecturer. It is more important to be a subject specialist with a Master's or preferably a Doctorate in your field of study.

What options do I have if I completed a 3-year teaching diploma and I now want to upgrade my qualification?

At Unisa, you should consider applying for a BEd. Once you have been admitted to a qualification, and you register, you may apply to be exempted from modules based on your completed qualification.

You may also explore options at other universities and universities of technology (e.g. to complete an Advanced Certificate in Education). Some of these institutions offer online and part-time programmes.

I am a professional teacher and now want to be able to teach other school subjects – where do I start?

For example, you are a Life Orientation and English teacher and you now want to be able to teach Mathematics and Physical Science.

At Unisa, you should consider applying for a BEd. Once you have been admitted to a qualification, and you register, you may [apply to be exempted](#) from modules based on your completed qualification.

You may also explore options at other universities and universities of technology (e.g. to complete an Advanced Diploma in Education). Some of these institutions offer online and part-time programmes.

I am a professional teacher and now want to be able to teach another age group – where do I start?

For example, you completed a BEd Intermediate and Senior Phase and you now wish to specialise in the Senior and FET phase.

At Unisa, you should consider applying for the relevant BEd. Once you have been admitted to a qualification, and you register, you may [apply to be exempted](#) from modules based on your completed qualification.

I started with a Higher Diploma in Education 10 years ago but did not complete. Where must I start to upgrade my qualification?

You can apply for admission to BEd degree. No credits will be granted for modules completed more than ten years ago.

I am a school teacher, but I don't want to work in a school any more. What other options do I have?

You need to consider what changes you are imagining for yourself. Are you considering a complete change, as far away as possible from a teaching and/or training environment; or, would you want to use your skills and apply them in another sector such as a trainer or facilitator in the corporate environment? Contact the Directorate: Counselling and Career Development (counselling@unisa.ac.za) for a further conversation about your career.

Can I teach in another country with my South African teaching qualification?

If you want to teach abroad with your Unisa teaching qualification, you need to enquire about the teaching requirements with the education governing body of the country you want to teach in. You could contact the embassy, consulate or High Commission for the country you are interested in to explore options with the person

responsible for education, since the teaching qualifications of the country you want to teach in may be structured differently to the Unisa teaching qualifications.

Counselling and career development services at Unisa

The Unisa Directorate: Counselling and Career Development offers career-, academic- and personal counselling services to Unisa students and the broader community. You can talk to a counsellor about:

- **Career decisions.** I am not sure which career path to follow; I don't know which qualification would be best; I want to change my career direction...
- **Career information.** How can I find out more about a career in ..?
- **Employability.** How do I market myself to employers? How can I look for work? How can I compile an effective CV? How do I go about networking with others? How do I put together my career portfolio? How can I meet potential employers? How can I improve my interview skills?
- **My studies at Unisa.** How can I get started with my studies? How do I plan my studies? How can I study more effectively? I don 't feel motivated to continue with my studies... I feel worried about preparing for/ writing the exams. I failed my exams – what now? I need to improve my reading/ writing/ numeracy skills
- **Personal issues.** How can I have better relationships with others? How can I cope more effectively with issues that impact on my studies?

Visit our website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za/counselling> to access many self-help resources, or talk to a counsellor by e-mail to counselling@unisa.ac.za.