

Education @ Unisa

A guide to preparing for
career opportunities



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The information in this publication is correct as of 15 December 2025. Visit the Unisa Counselling and Career Development [downloads page](#) to check for updates.

Please check the Unisa qualifications webpage (<http://www.unisa.ac.za/qualifications>) regularly for updates related to available qualifications and the admission requirements to study.

How will this brochure help you?

- It will provide you with some insight into what studying education involves.
- It will help you explore career opportunities and work environments related to education.
- It will help you gain more information about the skills needed in the field of education.
- It will assist you with finding relevant qualifications offered by Unisa.

What problems do you want to solve

“Don’t ask kids what they want to be when they grow up but what problems they want to solve. This changes the conversation from who do I want to work for, to what do I need to learn to be able to do that.”

Jaime Casap, Google Global Education Evangelist

One way to think about your career is by focusing on the **problems you care about**, not only on job titles. This shifts the question from “*What do I want to become?*” to “*What do I want to contribute?*”

Activity

1. Write down some problems or challenges you care about — in your family, community, South Africa, Africa, or the world.
2. Think about how you might contribute to solving them.
3. Ask: *What skills or knowledge would I need to prepare myself for that role?*

Example: You may want to contribute to improving access to quality education and meaningful learning experiences in your community. Consider the range of professionals who can help address this challenge: teachers, lecturers, instructional designers, curriculum

developers, educational psychologists, learning technologists, school managers, education policy makers, and community education practitioners.

As an educator, you may work directly with learners to develop knowledge, skills, and confidence. An instructional designer may design engaging learning materials, online courses, or blended learning experiences that support diverse learners and expand access to education. A curriculum developer might ensure that learning programmes are relevant, inclusive, and aligned with societal and workplace needs. An educational psychologist can support learners' cognitive, emotional, and developmental needs, while learning technologists use digital tools to enhance teaching and learning. School managers and education officials help create supportive learning environments and shape education systems through leadership and policy.

Together, these roles show that improving education is a collaborative effort. An education-focused qualification can open pathways to meaningful work in teaching, design, research, policy, and community development.

What is education?

Education studies focus on how people learn and develop across the lifespan. The field explores different perspectives on the nature of knowledge, how learning takes place, and how education systems are designed, implemented, and evaluated. Education also examines the influence of social, cultural, political, economic, and historical contexts on teaching and learning practices.

In South Africa, education plays a critical role in addressing inequality and supporting social and economic development. Although education receives a significant portion of the national budget, many learners still face challenges related to socio-economic conditions, infrastructure constraints, and unequal access to quality learning opportunities. These realities highlight the importance of skilled, reflective, and adaptable education professionals.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have significantly reshaped education in recent years. Digital learning environments, online platforms, and blended learning approaches are increasingly part of schooling, higher education, and workplace training. While e-learning and educational technologies offer powerful opportunities, their implementation in a developing context such as South Africa is complex and uneven.

Education professionals, therefore play a vital role in supporting learners and organisations to navigate these changes and develop relevant skills for a rapidly evolving, technology-driven world.

Studying education is therefore not only about teaching in classrooms. It is about contributing to learning, skills development, and knowledge creation in diverse contexts and communities.

What do education professionals do?

Education professionals work across schools, training organisations, higher education institutions, community settings, and the private sector. While many graduates pursue careers in formal teaching, education qualifications also prepare students for a wide range of roles beyond the traditional classroom.

Primary and secondary education focus on teaching and learning within formal school environments. Adult education includes Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET), skills development, and workplace learning in corporate, government, and community contexts.

In addition to teaching and training, education graduates may work in areas such as:

- Curriculum and learning materials development
- E-learning and instructional design
- Assessment, monitoring, and evaluation
- Education management and leadership
- Quality assurance and accreditation
- Education research and policy support

Where do education professionals work?

Teachers across all age groups are in demand in South Africa. The following teaching specialisations are listed on the **List of Occupations in High Demand** (Department of Higher Education and Training, 2020):

- Foundation Phase School Teacher (Grades R–3)
- Intermediate Phase School Teacher (Grades 4–6)

- Senior Phase School Teacher (Grades 7–9)
- FET Phase School Teacher (Grades 10–12)
- Early Childhood Development Practitioner
- TVET Educator
- Special Needs Teacher

Possible job titles include:

- Early Childhood Development and Foundation Phase Teacher
- Intermediate and Senior Phase Teacher
- Senior and Further Education and Training Phase Teacher
- Inclusive Education Practitioner
- School Principal or School Manager
- Training Facilitator
- ABET Facilitator
- Skills Development Practitioner
- Education, Training and Development Practitioner (ETDP)
- Curriculum Specialist
- E-learning Facilitator or Developer
- Instructional Designer
- Monitoring and Evaluation Practitioner
- Lecturer
- School Guidance Counsellor

Possible work environments include:

- Community-based and non-profit organisations
- Schools (public and private)
- Private colleges and TVET institution
- Higher education institutions (universities and universities of technology)
- Government departments and education-related agencies
- Corporate training and skills development units
- Publishing and educational content development companies

Skills and qualities needed in the education field

According to the Department of Basic Education (2016), teaching and education-related work require passion, commitment, resilience, and a strong sense of social responsibility. Education professionals work with diverse learners and must be prepared to respond to varied needs, contexts, and challenges.

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

Beyond subject knowledge, effective educators and education practitioners typically demonstrate:

- Strong communication skills
- Interpersonal and relationship-building skills
- Organisational and planning skills
- Teamwork and collaboration skills
- Conflict resolution and mediation skills
- Problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Motivation and facilitation skills
- Mentoring and leadership abilities
- Time management skills
- Confidence and professionalism
- Patience and emotional intelligence
- Adaptability and openness to change
- Commitment to lifelong learning and professional development

Exploring and researching careers

Making informed career decisions means going beyond what you already know. Career research helps you explore opportunities in education, understand what employers are looking for, and identify the steps you can take to prepare yourself.

Try this:

Here are some simple activities to help you explore opportunities in education. Choose 2–3 to start with:

1. **Online search**
Search “career in education South Africa” or “entry-level jobs related to education” and make a list of the qualifications and skills mentioned.
2. **Occupational information websites**
Visit the South African Department of Higher Education and Training’s [National Career Advice Portal](#). Search for specific job titles (for example, teacher or instructional designer) and read about work activities, skills, and job outlook.
3. **Job search portals**
Check portals like [Indeed](#), [Career Junction](#) or [PNet](#). Type in specific job titles and see which employers are currently hiring and the requirements.
4. **LinkedIn**
[Search for Unisa alumni](#) who studied education and see where they work now. What career paths do they follow?
5. **AI tools**
Use ChatGPT or Google Gemini to ask: “What are emerging careers in education in South Africa?” Compare the results with what you see on job portals.
6. **Talk to others**
Set up an informal chat with someone working in the field or at an organisation you are interested in to learn more about their career journey and daily work.
7. **Attend a careers fair**
When Unisa or professional organisations host career fairs, look for employers related to education. Prepare 2–3 questions to ask them about entry routes into the profession.
8. **Join a professional organisation**
Many professional bodies offer student registration categories to enable those who are still studying towards a qualification in the field to join and receive specific benefits such as training, development and networking opportunities. The professional bodies’ websites are also valuable sources of information, should you wish to do research related to specific occupations. Many professional websites also list practitioners or organisations in the field and allow you to identify individuals whom you could contact for further conversations about your career.
9. **Volunteering**
Look for volunteering or vacation work opportunities. Note the skills you develop through these experiences.

For more detailed steps and extra activities, see our [Career Research brochure](#).

Preparing while you study

Many students believe that a degree will lead directly to a specific job. In reality, your career path is shaped by more than your major. It is also about the **skills you build, the experiences you gain, and how you prepare along the way**. While you study, there are many things you can do to get ready for opportunities.

Your degree is one part of your career journey. By building skills, gaining experience, keeping a portfolio, and investing in your confidence, you'll be better prepared for opportunities during and after your studies.

Develop your transferable skills

Your studies give you subject knowledge and valuable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, working independently, and adapting to new situations. Reflect on what you're learning and practise explaining these skills in ways that employers will understand.

Activity

- List three skills you've strengthened this year and one example of how you've used each.
- List three skills you intend to strengthen and how you plan on doing so.

Build a career portfolio

A portfolio helps you keep track of your achievements, experiences, and goals. Include your skills, certificates, volunteering, work experience, and career ideas. Over time, this will become a powerful tool for applications and interviews.

Useful resource

- [Unisa Career Portfolio](#)

Gain experience (volunteering or part-time work)

Getting experience outside your coursework helps you explore fields of interest, build networks, and develop workplace skills. Volunteering is especially valuable when done responsibly and with respect for the community.

Think about

- Which organisations could benefit from your skills?
- What could you gain in return (skills, networks, insights)?
- How will this experience link to your career goals?

Enhance your employability

Employability means your ability to get, keep, and grow in fulfilling work. Today's careers are flexible: people change jobs and industries often, and success can mean many different things. You can boost your employability by:

- Managing your personal brand (how others see your professionalism).
- Developing job search skills (CVs, cover letters, interviews, networking).
- Exploring flexible career paths and lifelong learning opportunities.

Useful resources

- [Unisa Prepare for Job Opportunities](#)
- [Counselling and Career Development YouTube channel](#)
- [PNet Grad Pack](#)
- [GradNext](#)

Grow your self-confidence

Believing in your ability to succeed is just as important as skills and knowledge. Low self-confidence can hold you back from studying effectively, applying for opportunities, or connecting with others.

Ways to strengthen your confidence

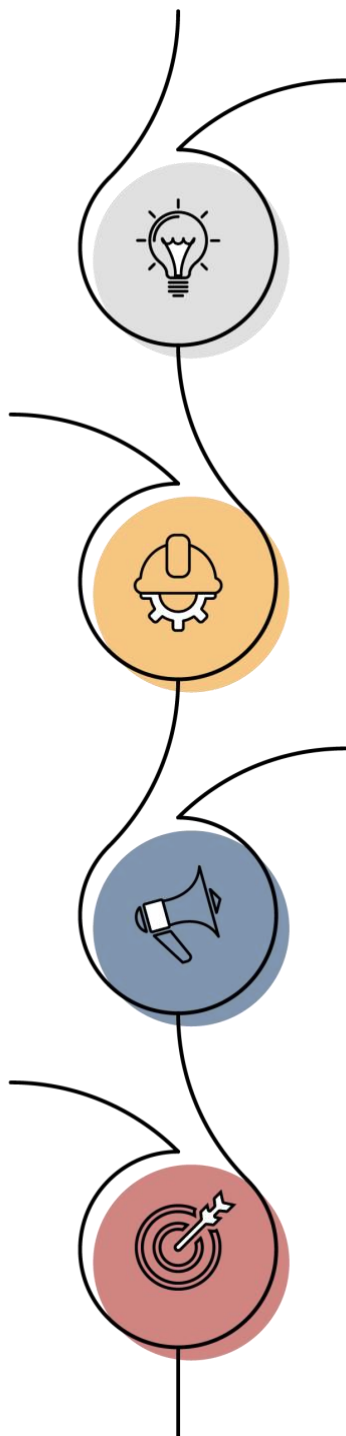
- Focus on your strengths and successes.
- Ask for help when needed: it's a sign of strength, not weakness.
- Practise self-talk that encourages growth instead of fear.

Remember: confidence grows with action. The more you try, the more you'll believe in yourself.

Your roadmap to success

Embarking on a career journey while studying can feel exciting and overwhelming. This roadmap will guide you year by year, helping you to stay intentional, informed, and adaptable.

Careers are rarely straight lines. Think of this roadmap as a flexible guide: you can move between stages depending on your opportunities and goals.



Year 1: Explore and build foundations

- Reflect on your interests, strengths, and career goals.
- Research career paths linked to your qualification.
- Plan your modules and think about postgraduate options.
- Identify key employability skills to develop.
- Create a basic CV and LinkedIn profile.
- Join a student or professional organisation.

Year 2: Grow and gain experience

- Focus on excelling in your studies.
- Apply for internships, part-time jobs, or volunteer work.
- Attend workshops, webinars, or conferences.
- Gain certifications (if relevant).
- Expand your professional network.
- Update your CV and portfolio with new experiences.

Year 3: Refine and specialise

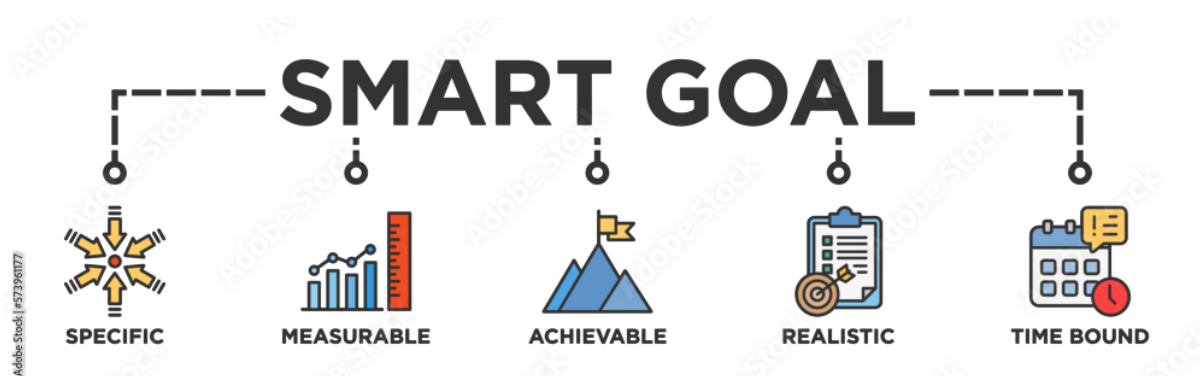
- Revisit your career goals and explore specialisations.
- Connect with alumni and seek mentorship.
- Strengthen your professional presence (LinkedIn, portfolio, personal website).
- Practise with mock interviews and improve communication skills.
- Contribute to professional discussions online or at events.

Final Year: Launch your career

- Start an intentional job search (LinkedIn, job boards, company websites).
- Tailor your CV and cover letters for each application.
- Practise interviews and refine your elevator pitch.
- Attend career fairs and networking events.
- Evaluate and negotiate job offers with guidance from mentors.
- Commit to lifelong learning and professional development.

My career learning plan: Next steps

Your next step is to plan how you will get the information that you still need to make optimal career decisions. Use SMART goals to help you plan your career research.



S – Specific: What exactly do I want to find out?

M – Measurable: How will I know I've done it?

A – Achievable: Can I realistically do this step?

R – Relevant: Does this help me make better career decisions?

T – Time-bound: By when will I do it?

What career questions do I still need answers to?

My career question	What steps will I take?	By when?	Who/what can help me?	Done?	What's next?
E.g. What jobs can I do with an education qualification?	Search LinkedIn profiles of Unisa education graduates	15 Oct	LinkedIn, Alumni page	Yes	Connect with 3 alumni

Career planning is not about having all the answers right now. It is about staying curious, setting small goals, and building momentum.

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 (Mathematics and Life Skills OR Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Technology, OR Mathematics and Social Sciences) (Grades 4-7)
- BEd in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching (various [subject specialisation streams](#)) (Grades 7-12).

More information about the admission requirements for these degrees is available on the [Unisa application website](#).

Higher Certificates

- [Higher Certificate in Education Foundation Phase and Intermediate Phase \(90093 - FIP\)](#)
- [Higher Certificate in Education Senior Phase Maths and Science Education \(90093 - SMS\)](#)
- [Higher Certificate in Education Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching \(90093 - SPF\)](#)

The purpose of these Higher Certificates is to enable candidates 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.

Diploma

Unisa offers a [Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education \(90187\)](#).

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

Unisa offers the PGCE (Senior Phase and Further Education and Training). More information about the [subject areas offered](#) is available on the Unisa website.

Please check the [Unisa application website](#) for the admission requirements for these PGCE qualifications. Students who do not meet the admission requirements for a PGCE are encouraged to apply for admission to the BEd degree.

Advanced Certificate and Advanced Diplomas

Unisa offers the following Advanced Certificate:

- [Advanced Certificate in Intermediate Phase Mathematics and English First Additional Language Teaching \(90177\)](#)

and the following Advanced Diplomas:

- [Advanced Diploma in Adult and Community Education and Training \(90190\)](#)
- [Advanced Diploma in Education in Intermediate Phase Mathematics Teaching \(90113\)](#)
- [Advanced Diploma in Teaching and Learning Support \(90184\)](#)

The primary purpose of the Advanced Certificate and Advanced Diplomas are to enable teachers to deepen their subject content knowledge. 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

Unisa offers the following Postgraduate Diploma qualifications:

- [Postgraduate Diploma in Disability Studies \(90167\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Inclusive Education \(90100\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Language Education \(90164\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics Education \(90175\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology of Education \(90163\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning Care and Support \(90110\)](#)

Honours degree

Unisa offers the [Bachelor of Education Honours](#) degree with different specialisations.

Master's and Doctoral degrees

Unisa offers several [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, practical training. The duration of these programmes varies from six to 24 months and covers 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 the 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. His 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 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 food. Mahier is a supporter of Earthlife Africa and bases 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 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.

Check the [Unisa application website](#) for a list of the BEd in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching.

Teaching Practice

Teaching Practice is a compulsory component of all teaching qualifications. You need to arrange for your teaching practice at a suitable school (in South Africa or internationally, with specific requirements). The Unisa Teaching Practice Office is responsible for Unisa students completing teaching practice modules, and all students are required to submit information about their intended school placement as part of the registration process for the Teaching Practice Office to process and finalise.

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, has 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) and register with the South African Council for Educators (SACE) as a teacher. 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 availability

of the PGCE specialisations as well as the admission requirements to assist you with choosing a relevant undergraduate degree.

You will study for a minimum of four years to become a teacher.

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

The first step to studying 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.

I know that I don't, or I am not sure whether I qualify for admission to a BEd degree- what should I apply for?

You will note that there are three different requirements for each undergraduate qualification:

- statutory requirement (e.g. an NSC with a degree admission),
- College-specific requirements (e.g. English and Mathematics for a BCom degree), and
- the academic points score (APS).

Check the [admission requirements for the BEd](#) you are interested in. If you do not meet all the requirements for a qualification, it is recommended that you apply for admission to the Higher Certificate in Education. [This document](#) contains more information about the higher certificates related to specific study fields.

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

You will first need to complete a relevant 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](#) and in [this document](#).

What if I have completed a Higher Certificate in Adult Basic Education and Training (HC ABET)?

Please note that the HC ABET does NOT articulate into the BEd qualification. Students who completed an HC ABET are advised to study towards either a BA, BCOM, or BSc qualification, followed by the PGCE.

What should I do if I have applied for several years in a row and have not been admitted to the Higher Certificate in Education?

Unisa must limit the number of new students for each qualification in line with guidelines provided by the Department of Higher Education and Training. Unisa receives more applications for the Higher Certificate in Education, and only a specific number of students can be offered a space to study. You should consider study options at other institutions that offer accredited qualifications (as on the [DHET Register](#) of Private Higher Education Institutions or Private Colleges). Alternatively, you can consider alternative career options. Please [contact](#) the Unisa Directorate: Counselling and Career Development for further discussion about your career and related study planning.

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 reapply 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](#)
- Private Colleges: <http://www.dhet.gov.za/SitePages/DocRegisters.aspx>
- Completing an N4, N5, or 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) Upgrade matric subjects:

If you completed your Senior Certificate before 2008, you may contact your local district of the [Department of Education](#) for more information about completing the Amended Senior Certificate or search for institutions that offer tuition for this online.

You can search for institutions that offer contact and distance learning options to complete or upgrade your NSC. Search online for institutions that offer this option.

[Enquire about the accreditation of programmes](#) offered by private institutions before you register for a qualification or programme.

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 register for the degree, you can [apply to be exempted](#) from modules based on your previous studies.

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. If you do not meet the admission requirements for the PGCE, you are encouraged to apply for admission to the BEd degree.

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 the 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 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 on the [Unisa Directorate for Student Funding](#) website.
- The Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority provides 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, the 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 registered 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 \(Inclusive Education\) \(90019 - IED\)](#)

Does Unisa offer a diploma in education?

- Unisa offers a [Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education \(90187\)](#).

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. Contact the [Unisa Centre for Continuing Education](#) for more information.

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 a 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.

You must 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.

I started with a BEd degree, and now I wish to change to another age group or 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 register for the new qualification, the relevant modules 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 the answer submitted by the 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. See the [Psychology @ Unisa](#) brochure for further details.

What should I study to be a lecturer at a university or a 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 it. Where must I start to upgrade my qualification?

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

I am a school teacher, but I no longer want to work in a school. 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 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 from the Unisa teaching qualifications.

Counselling and career development services at Unisa

The Unisa Directorate for 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 and mental health.** How can I have better relationships with others? How can I cope more effectively with issues that impact my studies?

Contact us

- Send an email to counselling@unisa.ac.za.
- Make an appointment to see a counsellor:
 - [In-person at a Unisa Centre](#)
 - [Online \(on MS Teams\)](#)

Further self-help resources for career, academic and personal development

Our website: www.unisa.ac.za/counselling

Our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/unisacareers