



DEPARTMENT OF CHILHOOD EDUCATION

05.02.2016

Dear B Ed Honours student

Welcome to the B Ed honours in Childhood Education. This is the first year that this qualification is being offered and thus will only be available as a part-time course in 2016.

Programme co-ordinator

The programme co-ordinator is Prof Caroline Long. Her contact details will be available on ULINK. The other two lecturers for the first year are Prof Lara Ragpot (lrapot@uj.ac.za), Prof Kakoma Luneta (kluneta@uj.ac.za) and Prof Nadine Petersen (nadinep@uj.ac.za). Our offices are in the Robert Sobukwe building.

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of the BEd Honours in Childhood Education is to develop expertise and research capacity in childhood education. The specific emphasis is on children's learning and development and on ways to assess this in the birth to 12 years age-group, based on current theories of the developing child. This also entails the study and the use of applied methods of research with which to capture individual children's learning and development, specifically also their learning in the different subject areas of the primary school. The overall purpose is thus to educate a new generation of scholars in the field of childhood education

Design of the programme

The programme is designed in a way that will enable students to engage with critical issues in the learning of mathematics and science, language and literacy, the social sciences and culture, and human movement and physical education. Towards this end the design logic of the program is that students will apply their knowledge of the literature and of the world of practice to construct custom-designed instruments for assessment, while also learning to use standardised instruments that are available to practising teachers.

The proposed qualification consists of five modules that share the central design logic and the completion of a minor research project (a sixth module). It aims to develop

applied research capacity by exposing students to the process of constructing assessments and conducting evaluations, and by exploring the theories of assessment and evaluation with particular emphasis given to how they apply to the various content domains of childhood education.

A compulsory module on learning and development in childhood will form a foundational module in which students will learn the cornerstone theories of cognitive-, physical-, social- and emotional development of children. Two additional compulsory modules on research methodology and assessment and evaluation will inform the choice of elective and the research project. This means that students will be given the choice of two elective modules from the following four: of four electives, namely 1) mathematics and science, 2) language and literacy, 3) the social sciences and culture and 4) human movement and physical education in their second year of study (2017).

Programme credits are allocated as follows to each module:

Module Name	Compulsory or elective	Year of study	Credits
Learning and development in childhood	Compulsory	One	20
Assessment and evaluation in/of childhood education	Compulsory	One	20
Research methodology for/in childhood education inquiry	Compulsory	One	30
a)Learning in the primary school: Mathematics and science b)Learning in the primary school: Language and literacy c)Learning in the primary school: The social sciences and culture d)Learning in the primary school: Human movement and physical education	Elective <i>Students chose two</i>	Two	10 X 2 = 20
Research project	Compulsory	Two	30

Contact sessions

There are 12 contact sessions scheduled for each of the modules. These take place on a Saturday between 08.30 and 16.30 at the lecture venues at the Funda UJabule School on the Soweto campus. Entrance to the venue is from the access road after the main university entrance (on Chris Hani Baragwanath). Please see attached timetable and map.

It is incumbent on you to attend all contact sessions. Out-of-class learning will be promoted through the use of learning groups and all communication is uploaded onto ULINK. Thus please consult your course link regularly to see communication from your lecturers and to download readings and access other course materials. No printed study guides will be available. You are welcome to download and print these yourself from ULINK.

Textbooks and prescribed readings

Your individual course lecturers will advise you about the prescribed readings and texts to read. As a start the following are fundamental texts to procure:

1. Henning, E, van Rensburg, W & Smit, B. 2014. Finding your way in qualitative research. Pretoria: Van Schaik.
2. Mouton, J. 2001. How to succeed in your Masters & Doctoral studies. A South African guide and resource book. Pretoria: Van Schaik.

Further details of the programme and the first year modules will be shared with you during the orientation session and in the first lectures on Saturday 20 February 2016.

The Department of Childhood Education team