



RHODES UNIVERSITY  
*Where leaders learn*



# Master of Education [Environmental Education]

**2022 - 2023**

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This degree is aimed at researchers wanting to understand and strengthen environmental education practice, transformative learning and Education for Sustainable Development. New researchers will join a vibrant group of postgraduate researchers in a suite of programmes researching how education can be re-oriented towards creative agency, sustainable futures and social-ecological justice.

## HOME OF THE COURSE

The degree is offered through the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) in the Education Department at Rhodes University, Makhandla (formerly Grahamstown). The ELRC hosts the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Global Change and Social Learning Systems. The centre is also recognised as a United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development. Rhodes University's Faculty of Education is a Tier 1 Institution in the UNESCO International Teacher Education Network focusing on Education and Sustainable Development. Find out more about the ELRC here: <https://www.ru.ac.za/elrc/>

## WHAT TYPE OF RESEARCH IS POSSIBLE?

The MEd (EE) programme is designed for practising environmental education, training and development practitioners. These include (but are not limited to) teachers with various subject specialisms, lecturers and other adult educators, curriculum or resource developers, journalists, writers, researchers, conservationists, activists, development workers, and social learning facilitators.

The ELRC's postgraduate supervision team brings wide-ranging educational research experience. Research projects are mostly qualitative and strongly oriented to educational quality, sustainability and social justice. For example, we support educational researchers who are interested in:

- ✓ Interventionist research methodologies
- ✓ Arts-based teaching and research methodologies
- ✓ Environmental learning at the Science-Arts interface
- ✓ Curriculum / learning programme evaluation
- ✓ People-Nature relations and environmental ethics education
- ✓ Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and environmental sustainability
- ✓ Pedagogical innovations and development of learning support materials
- ✓ Citizen science and environment

## COURSE STRUCTURE IN 2022

The MEd (EE) is examined via a full thesis (120 - 150 pages). The programme accommodates full-time and part-time students. All students are expected to attend compulsory, structured 5-day teaching blocks: six in Year 1 and four in Year 2. These teaching blocks use lectures, excursions and collaborative tasks to develop ideas for students to apply to their own specific research complexities and possibilities in the field of environmental education.

### Provisional MEd (EE) Teaching Blocks 2022:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | 7 – 11 February  |
| 2 | 4 – 8 April      |
| 3 | 27 June – 1 July |
| 4 | 3 -7 October     |

Additionally, MEd (EE) students join other Faculty of Education students to complete a two-part **Qualitative Research Design**. Dates are unconfirmed but it is likely that the **Level 1** course will be offered in March (online) or June (face-to-face), and the **Level 2** course in September (face-to-face) or November (online).

In between these teaching blocks, students will be required to read academic texts, complete learning exercises and have regular meetings with their research supervisors. Year 1 focuses mostly on developing a comprehensive research proposal, and Year 2 focuses on data generation, analysis and writing the research report (thesis).

Please note that the MEd (EE) course is not an online or distance learning qualification. Unless COVID-19 restrictions necessitate a temporary return to an online learning model in 2022, students will be required to attend the teaching blocks in person on the Rhodes University campus in Makhanda where all relevant COVID-19 protocols are observed.

This degree requires high levels of self-motivation and commitment. It is essential to have sufficient time, beyond the formally scheduled sessions, for wide reading and self-study.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the MEd (EE) programme should:

- ✓ Hold an Honours degree (or equivalent NQF level 8 qualification such as a PGDip). Exceptions may occasionally be made.
- ✓ Have a minimum of 65% average in their Honours degree.
- ✓ Have experience in some form of environmental education (as described above), or be working currently in an educational context aligned with environment and sustainability.
- ✓ Show potential for leadership and catalytic impact at local, national or international levels.

## COURSE COSTS

Detail of fees can be obtained from the Rhodes University Fees Booklet. In addition to general course fees and residence fees, students will be charged for printing of course materials, copyright costs on readings, excursions and departmental teas. Students will need to budget for travel and subsistence, accommodation while at Rhodes, and other miscellaneous expenses.

International and SADC students have additional requirements and need to pay an additional levy. Details are available through the student fees office: [www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/](http://www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/) or queries can be directed to student fees: [studentfees@ru.ac.za](mailto:studentfees@ru.ac.za)

## HOW TO APPLY

Apply online by completing the Rhodes University general application for postgraduate studies. Click here: <https://ross.ru.ac.za/>

Select 'Admissions' if you are not a current Rhodes University student. Follow the prompts to the online application form. The Department option is 'Education' and the Degree is 'MEd Full Thesis'.

In addition to the general requirements for applying for a Masters degree at Rhodes University, your MEd (EE) application should be accompanied by:

- ✓ Full transcripts of previous degrees (unless they are Rhodes University degrees)
- ✓ If the transcript from your latest qualification does not include a comment on 'conduct', you will need to submit a separate certificate of conduct from the institution.
- ✓ An abbreviated CV, highlighting the areas that are of relevance to your studies.
- ✓ A two-page motivation covering the following information:
  - a. What will be the focus of your research?
  - b. Where will you conduct this research and why?
  - c. Who else has researched this, when, where and what are their findings?
  - d. What is the research gap that you feel your study will be addressing?
  - e. How do you want to research this?

{As applications can take time in the wider university administration system, or are stalled if you submit incomplete information, we strongly recommend that you notify the MEd (EE) programme coordinator, Prof Lausanne Olvitt, to expect your application}.

For further enquiries about the *course curriculum*, email Associate Professor Lausanne Olvitt  
[L.Olvitt@ru.ac.za](mailto:L.Olvitt@ru.ac.za)

For enquiries about the *status of your application*, phone: +27 46 603 8889 or email The Registrar:  
[registrar@ru.ac.za](mailto:registrar@ru.ac.za)

### CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:

**Monday 29th November 2021**

Shortlisted and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by 10 December 2021.

Start the journey by clicking on the 'admissions' tab for an online application form at this link:

<https://ross.ru.ac.za/>

