

Short Course in Instructional Coaching for Teacher Professional Development

2025



What is the purpose of the course?

Research has shown that providing on-site coaching for teachers is one of the most effective ways of improving the quality of teaching and learners' achievement. This Short Course will introduce participants to key elements of successful coaching and provide them with opportunities to put this into practice in their own workplaces.

Who is the course intended for?

The course is intended for all those involved in teacher professional development, for example, subject advisors, HoDs/DHs, principals and their deputies, and coaches working for NGOs. It will assist with QMS and the setting up of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

How is the course structured?

The course has 13 credits at Level 6. It is offered fully online using the Rhodes University learning management system, RUconnected, plus Zoom sessions and structured, independent work.

The course has 6 modules plus a short onboarding session and a concluding session which rounds off the course



Module	Focus of the Module	Date of Session
Onboarding	Introduction to the course on RU Connected	3 April 2025
1	Instructional coaching roles and responsibilities	10 April 2025
2	Setting priorities for instructional coaching	8 May 2025
3	Types of coaching	12 June 2025
4	Coaching strategies/ cycles	10 July 2025
5	Adult learning and professional learning communities (PLCs)	14 August 2025
6	Revisiting roles and responsibilities	11 September 2025
Closing Session	Final, formal conclusion of the course	Sometime in November

How long will the course take?

The course takes 6 months. Each module has one Zoom session plus independent work and assignments. You will be expected to put aside approximately 5 hours per week in addition to the zoom sessions, to successfully complete the course. On successful completion, you will be awarded a Rhodes University Certificate of Competence. The course has been endorsed for 30 SACE PD points.

Minimum entrance requirements

A teaching qualification at Level 5. Ideally, you should have a laptop or tablet; however, you could manage with a smartphone.

Further information

For further information, contact Sarah Murray at csd@ru.ac.za