



RHODES UNIVERSITY  
*Where leaders learn*

# master of education [environmental education]

regenerative african futures and sustainability education

2023 - 2024

## course overview

This degree is aimed at researchers wanting to understand and strengthen environmental education practice, transgressive learning or 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 regenerative African futures and sustainability.

## home of the course

The degree is offered through the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) in the Education Department at Rhodes University, Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown). The ELRC hosts the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Global Change and Social Learning Systems. The centre is also a 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 kind 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
- Youth and community learning for sustainable futures
- Reflective social practice in the biodiversity conservation sector
- Arts-based teaching and research methodologies
- Curriculum / learning programme evaluation
- Citizen science and environment
- People-Nature relations and environmental ethics education
- Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) and environmental sustainability
- Pedagogical innovations and development of learning support materials
- Environmental learning at the Science-Arts interface.

## course structure

The MEd (EE) is examined via a full thesis (a research report of 120 - 150 pages). The programme accommodates full-time and part-time students. All students are expected to attend compulsory, structured 5-day teaching blocks: five 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 research contexts and possibilities in the field of environmental education.

### provisional dates for MEd (EE) teaching blocks 2023:

- 06-10 March
- 24-28 April
- 19-23 June
- 02-06 October

Dates of the short course in Qualitative Research Design are to be confirmed.



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; students are required to attend the teaching blocks in person on the Rhodes University campus in Makhanda where relevant COVID-19 protocols are observed.

## course requirements

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.

Applicants for the MEd (EE) programme should:

- Hold an Honours degree (or equivalent). Exceptions may occasionally be made; this involves submitting a portfolio of evidence demonstrating academic capabilities equivalent to NQF level 8.
- 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 in the sector.

## course costs

Detail of fees can be obtained from the Rhodes University Fees Booklet. Fees for 2023 have not yet been confirmed but are expected to be approximately R14 500 for part-time and R19 500 for full-time Masters studies. In addition to general course fees and residence fees, students will be charged a modest levy 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 should make enquiries through the student fees office regarding additional requirements: [www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/](http://www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/) or direct queries to the student fees office: [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). Applicants with qualifications from outside of South Africa must obtain confirmation of equivalence from SAQA.
- 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 abridged 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 do you anticipate conducting this research and why?
  - c. What research has already been done in this area?  
When, where and what were the findings?
  - d. What is the research gap that you feel your study will be addressing?

**{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, ASSOC. PROF LAUSANNE OLVITT, TO LOOK OUT FOR YOUR APPLICATION}.**

For further enquiries about the course curriculum, email

**Assoc. Prof 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: 12 January 2023**

Start the journey by clicking on the 'admissions' tab for an online application form at this link:  
<https://ross.ru.ac.za/>

