

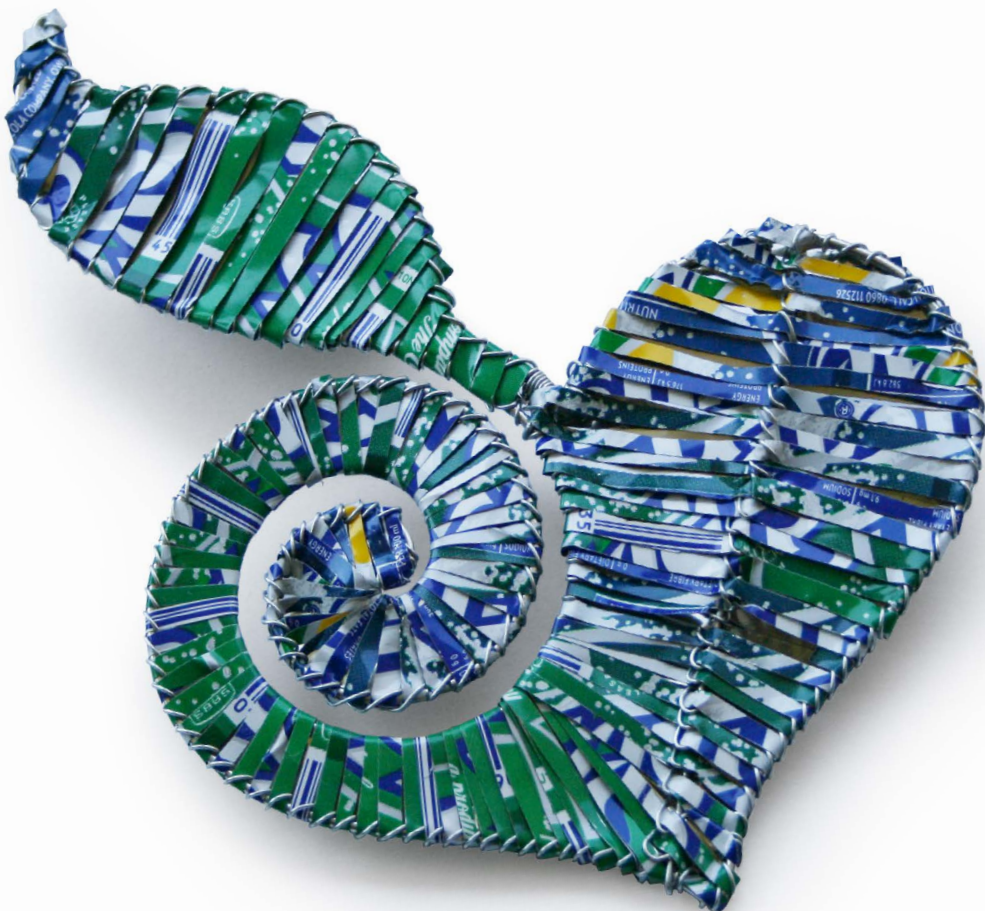


RHODES UNIVERSITY  
*Where leaders learn*

# MASTER IN EDUCATION

[ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ]

2015 - 2016



environmental  
LEARNING RESEARCH CENTRE

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

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The main aim of the degree is to enable course participants to develop research capabilities, and a clear conceptual framework from which to understand and evaluate environmental education practice, social learning and Education for Sustainable Development; globally, regionally and in relation to a diversity of workplaces and learning contexts, from an informed and critical perspective.

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Core to this degree is the question of how education can be re-oriented towards creative agency, sustainable futures, capabilities development and socio-ecological justice. Integral to this programme are issues of educational quality and relevance, within a wider vision which critically probes the role of education in contributing to just and sustainable societies.

The course addresses cross-cutting concerns (such as social-ecological change, human development, educational quality, ethics, policy studies and educational theory) with specialist tutorials and assignments relevant to diverse educational contexts (school, higher education, training for a green economy, development, education and training in government, parastatal and NGO contexts, citizen science and more).



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## HOME OF THE COURSE

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This programme is presented by the Environmental Learning Research Centre and the internationally recognized Murray & Roberts Chair of Environmental Education which are housed within the Rhodes University Faculty of Education.

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The programme is also associated with the Rhodes University Makana Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development (a UNU recognised Centre of Excellence hosted by the Faculty of Education). Rhodes University's Faculty of Education is a Tier 1 Institution in the UNESCO International Teacher Education Network focusing on Education and Sustainable Development.

Lectures on the course will be presented predominantly by Professor Heila Lotz-Sisitka – the Murray and Roberts Chair of Environmental Education, Professor Rob O'Donoghue, Dr Lausanne Olvitt, Dr Ingrid Schudel and Ms Zintle Sonqwaru. In addition we make every effort to invite guests with specific expertise as well as current and past students to share their research and experience in environmental education.

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## WHO SHOULD APPLY

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The degree is designed for practising environmental education, training and development practitioners (including but not limited to teachers with various subject specialisms, lecturers and other adult educators, curriculum or resource developers, journalists, writers, researchers, conservationists, development workers, social learning facilitators) wishing to further their existing knowledge of, and insights in, Environmental Education, social learning and change.

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**NOTE:** The degree's emphasis is on Environmental Education and educational research. Although students work in educational contexts responding to diverse socio-ecological challenges (biodiversity conservation, climate change, conservation, water and resource management and more) the course should not be confused with courses on Environmental Studies where the emphasis may lie more on environmental issues per se.



This degree requires high levels of self-motivation and commitment and it is essential to have a considerable amount of time, beyond the formally scheduled sessions, for wide reading and self-study. Assignments are work-based and will require you to engage reflexively with theory and practice in practice. It is also important to be computer literate before taking this degree, and you must have access to computer facilities at home or in your workplace to complete the degree successfully.

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# CURRICULUM

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The masters is an inter-disciplinary two-year course that combines lectures, excursions and on-course practical tasks to explore and research the complexities, challenges and possibilities in the field of environmental education.

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The course is offered in different formats requiring two choices:

- 1 - DO YOU WANT TO DO THE COURSE FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME (FIVE ONE WEEK CONTACT SESSIONS PER YEAR OVER TWO YEARS)?
  - 2 - DO YOU WANT TO FOLLOW THE COURSE WORK PLUS A HALF THESIS OPTION OR THE FULL THESIS OPTION?
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The coursework/half thesis option includes compulsory contact sessions (4 weeks in Year 1 and 4 weeks in Year 2). Coursework sessions are normally in Jan/Feb; April; June/July and Sept in Year 1, while in Year 2 the compulsory course sessions are completed by July. Coursework sessions are complimented by an exam preparation session in Year 1 and three focused supervision weeks in Year 2. These complimentary sessions are not compulsory, but highly recommended. The full thesis option requires more independent work and a more extensive thesis. Even if you select the full thesis option you are encouraged to participate in the coursework sessions and to locate your own research in the field of environmental education as well as in relation to specific research programmes in the Environmental Learning Research Centre.

The Centre runs a number of research programmes focusing on three main research areas: Educational Quality and Relevance in Formal Education contexts; Community Education and Social Learning; and Workplace Learning and Sustainability Practices. Within these three broader research programmes scholars can work with a range of research topics which include but are not limited to topics such as curriculum research in schools, heritage and indigenous knowledge in education for sustainable development, citizen science education, various workplace-based learning topics, and social learning processes in community and other learning contexts.

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The coursework curriculum is developed around five broad themes; with context specific applications:

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- 1 - EDUCATIONAL CONTEXTS, POLICY AND HISTORIES  
Society, Science and Sustainability
  - 2 - EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES  
Access, Quality, Inclusion and Relevance
  - 3 - EDUCATIONAL PROCESSES  
Learning and Learning Support Processes, Ethical Praxis
  - 4 - EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES  
Policy, Programme and Curriculum Development, Assessment and Evaluation
  - 5 - EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH  
Methodology, Design and Practice
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## APPLICATION PROCESS

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Applicants should be in possession of either a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree or an Honours degree in a related discipline. Exceptions may occasionally be made. Selection criteria for the course include:

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1 - ACADEMIC RECORD

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2 - DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IN A RELEVANT FIELD

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3 - LEADERSHIP AND CATALYTIC IMPACT AT LOCAL, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

All applications **MUST** be on an official Rhodes University post-graduate application form which can be downloaded from: [www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/registrar/documents/forms/2013\\_App\\_form\\_for Master's & Doctoral Degrees.pdf](http://www.ru.ac.za/media/rhodesuniversity/content/registrar/documents/forms/2013_App_form_for_Master's_&_Doctoral_Degrees.pdf)

Applications **MUST** also be accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae and a 200 word letter of motivation with emphasis on environmental education experience, leadership roles and catalytic impact in the field locally, regionally and/or nationally.

Completed applications must be sent to:  
'The Registrar', Rhodes University, PO Box 94,  
Grahamstown, 6140, South Africa.

Email queries, or completed email applications can also be sent to the Registrar on: [registrar@ru.ac.za](mailto:registrar@ru.ac.za)

For enquiries phone: +27 46 603 8127

Further enquiries and more detailed information on the course curriculum can be obtained from on the ELRC website: [www.ru.ac.za/elrc/courses](http://www.ru.ac.za/elrc/courses) or Zandi Gedze on [z.gedze@ru.ac.za](mailto:z.gedze@ru.ac.za)

Any specific research or curriculum enquiries can be directed to: Dr Ingrid Schudel (course co-ordinator) on [i.schudel@ru.ac.za](mailto:i.schudel@ru.ac.za)

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## COURSE COSTS

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Academic fees for next year have not yet been finalised, but will be approximately:

\* Full time (per annum for first two years): R13 000

\* Part time (per annum for first two years): R 10 000

In addition students will be charged for printing of course materials, excursions and departmental teas which will be approximately R700 /annum.

Students will need to budget for travel and subsistence, accommodation while at Rhodes, and other miscellaneous expenses.

**International and SADC students need to pay a surcharge, the details of which are available on the website of the student fees office:**

[www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/](http://www.ru.ac.za/studentfeesandfinancialaid/) or queries can be directed to student fees: [student-fees@ru.ac.za](mailto:student-fees@ru.ac.za)

All other financial queries can be directed through the fees office using the contacts listed above.

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Closing date for all applications

15  
SEPTEMBER  
2014

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for further information visit  
[www.ru.ac.za/elrc/courses](http://www.ru.ac.za/elrc/courses)

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