

**Where leaders learn**

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**M Ed (Mathematics Education)**

**Namibia 2015 - 2016**

**Information Sheet**

# COURSE RATIONALE AND ORIENTATION

The overarching theme of the M Ed course in Mathematics Education centres around the development and growth of critically reflexive practitioners who will actively contribute to, and have the capacity to act as agents of change in the transformation process of Mathematics Education in Southern Africa. The underpinnings of the course outcomes are two-fold:

1. to enable and facilitate professionals to develop a broad and critical perspective on Mathematics Education in the context of their personal space, current national developments and global trends;

1. to develop research capacity through practical and theoretical engagement.

The course will be of particular relevance to:

* + practicing teachers/educators
  + aspiring researchers in the field of Mathematics Education
  + subject advisors
  + policy advisors
  + educational planners
  + college lecturers
  + technikon lecturers
  + university lecturers
  + human resources practitioners
  + training consultants and
  + adult basic education practitioners.

Applicants should normally be in possession of an **Honours or B Ed (Honours) degree** in the discipline Mathematics Education and/or Mathematics. Ideally applicants should be in posts where they are involved in teaching, administering and/or researching Mathematics Education.

## COURSE OUTCOMES AND CURRICULUM

This degree is designed to meet the demands of students who have completed the B Ed (Honours) with a Mathematics and/or Mathematics Education specialization. In a South African context it articulates with the NQF requirements. Successful candidates should demonstrate that they have acquired at least the following **outcomes** in the context of Mathematics Education:

* Competences related to specialist bodies of theoretical and applied knowledge relevant to Mathematics Education
* Competences related to the practices of systematic, critical and disciplined thinking
* Competences related to the practices of Mathematics educational research with specific reference to a Southern African context.

In particular candidates will:

1. integrate their learning with their practice and their personal experiences
2. work both as individuals and in a team of professionals
3. communicate their understanding, perceptions and research in a variety of forms
4. think critically, analytically, creatively and participate actively in debates on

Mathematics Education

* research topical issues within a Southern African context, using appropriate techniques and methodologies

1. take ownership for their own thesis and/or research projects
2. analyse, evaluate, synthesise and challenge:

* existing and emerging theories underpinning education both globally and nationally specifically within the context of Mathematics Education
* appropriate approaches to teaching and learning of Mathematics
* their role as professionals in the Southern African Mathematics Education context

1. operate as responsible and informed agents of change in Mathematics Education

Based on this competency framework, the course curriculum consists of a core around which there is ample room for individuals and groups of students to explore areas of interest relevant to their own practice. The **themes** which will guide the coursework can include:

1. Mathematics as a social construct
2. Philosophy of Mathematics
3. Curriculum and Assessment
4. Investigative Mathematics and problem-solving
5. Mathematics and language
6. Mathematics and multi-culturalism
7. Spatial conceptualization and Mathematics
8. Mathematics and Technology Education
9. Mathematics and Information Technology
10. Learning and teaching theories
11. Teacher development in Mathematics Education
12. Quality in Mathematics Education
13. Proficiency in learning and teaching Mathematics
14. Numeracy Education

These are subject to some negotiation with students.

Candidates will be required to engage in some Mathematical content. This will be embedded in the coursework aspect of the M Ed.

## PROGRAMME ORGANISATION

The course runs part-time over two years. There are two components to the course:

**Coursework** is presented through formal lectures, seminars, workshops, excursions and individual and group assignments. Students are expected to attend nine 5-day sessions over the two year period (see projected dates below). Assessment of the coursework occurs through assignments, presentations, seminars, workshops and portfolios. Further, the coursework component of the course will be examined during November of the first year. Class-work (presentations, assignments and other tasks) accounts for 50% of the course-work mark and the examination for the other 50%. All assignments are compulsory and must be handed in on time (usually the first day of each session). Sub-minima for both (classwork + examination) are 50% in order to pass. There are no supplementary examinations at Master’s level and no candidate is permitted to repeat the course. Normal rules regarding aegrotat and suspension apply in the case of illness or injury or unfortunate personal circumstances.

**Research** comprises the second component of the degree. Candidates will be expected to write a half-thesis (with maximum of 30 000 words), for submission by mid-December of the second year of registration. The thesis will be examined both internally and externally over a period that will allow the student to graduate in April of the following year. Both course-work (classwork + examination) and the research component must be passed with a minimum of 50%, for the degree to be awarded. A candidate must normally obtain a minimum of 60% for the year mark (classwork) AND a minimum of 60% for the examination in order to be allowed to proceed to the research component. For the degree to be recommended for award with distinction, the research component must receive a distinction (75% or more) and the candidate must have achieved a minimum of 70% for the course-work component. The average of the two parts must not be less than 75%.

Your attention is also drawn to the following University regulations in respect of the

M Ed:

* Attendance of the entire course is compulsory and sub-minimum attendance will be applied
* All assignments must be handed in by the due date
* Candidates’ proposed research needs to be approved by the **Education Faculty Higher Degrees Committee.** To this end candidates are required to write research proposals, which need to be submitted as early as possible (usually February of the first year) for consideration by the committee
* Candidates are expected to complete the degree within the two years allocated and only in exceptional circumstances will any extension be granted.

## CONTACT SESSIONS FOR 2015/16

**Year 1: Dates still to be finalized (These are the proposed dates)**

Session 1 5-9 January 2015

Session 2 16-20 March 2015

Session 3 11-15 May 2015

Session 4 Research Design course in Grahasmtown August 2015

Session 5 12 - 16 October 2015

Examination 9-13 November 2015

**Year 2: Dates still to be finalized.**

4 contact sessions in year 2

Session 4 is a one-week session on research methods.

**FULL RESEARCH OPTION**

An alternative route to the M Ed in Mathematics Education is by full thesis. Candidates will be expected to conduct independent research and write a full-thesis (with maximum of 50 000 words). Candidates’ proposed research needs to be approved by the Education Faculty Higher Degrees Committee. Full-time candidates are expected to complete the degree within one year, whereas part-time candidates are expected to complete within two years.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

**Application forms** are available from:

**Ms Willemien Wannberg / Ms Kuzeue Tjivikua**

NIED

Private Bag 2034

OKAHANDJA

Namibia

Tel: 062-50 9027 / 062-509096

Cell: 081-256 3821 (only sms)

Fax: 062-509073

e-mail: [wwannberg@nied.edu.na](mailto:wwannberg@nied.edu.na)

OR

**Ms Phoebe Ngalo**

Departmental Secretary

Education Department (Grahamstown)

Rhodes University

P O Box 94

GRAHAMSTOWN

RSA

6140

Tel: +27 46 603 8383

Fax: +27 46 622 8028

e-mail: [P.Ngalo@ru.ac.za](mailto:P.Ngalo@ru.ac.za)

OR

**Website**

1. Open browser (Netscape or Explorer) and type http://www.ru.ac.za/

2. Click ADMISSION

3. Click New Applications

4. Scroll to the end of this page and click on Post Graduate application in PDF format

5. Print

6. Complete (with signature and associated documents)

1. Post to Registrar

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| **The closing date for application forms is 19th September 2014.**  **ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO MS WANNBERG AT NIED IN OKAHANDJA** |

**You will be required to present yourself for a one-on-one interview with the course co-coordinator in October in Okahandja. You will be asked to present:**

* **your CV**
* **a written motivation, articulating your desire to register for this course and your research interest/s.**

The course coordinator is **Prof Marc Schäfer**, FRF Chair in Mathematics Education at Rhodes University.

Send your application documents, marked:

**RHODES UNIVERSITY APPLICATION FORM:**

**FOR ATTENTION:**

**Mrs Willemien Wannberg**

**c/o NIED**

**Voortrekker Street**

**Private Bag 2034**

**OKAHANDJA**

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| **Please note:** An application fee of **N$100,00** (**cheque or postal order made out to Rhodes University**) must be submitted with the forms (unless you have been previously registered as a student at Rhodes University, then you are not required to pay the registration fee).  **You cannot pay via bank transfer as you do not yet have a student number to link you to the system.**  **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**. This payment is a non-refundable administrative fee. |