Cornerstone
Learn to change the world

Brochure 2026/2027

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
Foundation, Intermediate, or Senior/ FET Phase Teaching

YOUR STORY

Do you want to live a life of purpose? Do you worry about the state of the world? Do you genuinely want to make a difference in the lives of others? Are you looking for more than just a qualification? Is leaving a lasting legacy important to you? We would have much in common if you answered yes to any of these questions.

Cornerstone is the institution to help you realise your life's purpose and grow your ambition. While doing so, you will develop and nurture the values you share with Cornerstone Institute, which will assist you in taking your place in a vibrant and thriving economy. Together, we will learn to change the world.

We believe in education with a purpose. At the heart of our educational philosophy is the firm belief that education leads to transformation. Cornerstone Institute has been generating knowledge that benefits humanity since 1970. We began with two black theology students who were barred from attending university because of the colour of their skin. Today, hundreds of Cornerstone graduates from all walks of life are making a difference around the globe.

A MESSAGE FROM FACULTY

Together we can learn to change the world

At Cornerstone Institute, our motto is: Learn to change the world. It's a very simple sentence, but to us, it carries significant meaning.

The obvious meaning is: Learn how to change the world. And that is true because, at Cornerstone, you will learn new knowledge and skills that will equip you to enter the new world of work and build a career that will positively impact society.

The second meaning is the less obvious but, the more important one: To change the world, learn. We believe you can only change the world if you continue learning. To learn is to grow – first, as a person in connection with other human beings. It is a lifelong journey that may include but by far transcends formal studies and qualifications. As we travel this road with other people who share different parts of our journey, we learn from them, and they learn from us.

Will any single individual ever change the entire world? Probably not! But you can change your world. And we would love to be part of that journey.

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (PGCE)

Overview

The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is a specialised qualification designed for graduates who want to pursue a career in teaching. It's the ONLY pathway to professional registration with the South African Council for Educators (SACE) for those holding degrees other than a Bachelor of Education. Cornerstone Institute offers PGCE programs in both Foundation and Intermediate Phase Education. Admission is determined by your undergraduate subjects, in line with Department of Higher Education and Training guidelines.

Why Choose a PGCE?

Are you passionate about teaching or considering a career change? A PGCE not only allows you to shape young lives but also opens doors to global teaching opportunities. Teach locally, or travel the world while earning a competitive salary.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Cornerstone Institute PGCE responds to South Africa's growing need for qualified, professional educators. Our PGCE prepares you for professional registration as an educator, with specialisations in:

• Foundation Phase (Grades R-3)
• Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6)

Start your journey toward becoming a qualified, professional educator with a PGCE from Cornerstone Institute—where you can turn your passion into a career that makes a difference.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

All of our programmes are accredited by the Council on Higher Education and registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training.

Cornerstone Institute (RF) NPC is registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training as a Private Higher Education Institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997. Registration Certificate No. 2001/HE08/006.

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Foundation Phase Teaching: Distance mode. Registered by the DHET. Accredited by the CHE as a 120 - credit learning programme for higher education at NQF level 7. SAQA ID: 101972; CHE reference: H/PRO96/E020CAN

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Intermediate Phase Teaching: Distance mode. Registered by the DHET. Accredited by the CHE as a 120 - credit learning programme for higher education at NQF level 7. SAQA ID: 99724. CHE reference: H/PRO96/E013CAN

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education in Senior Phase and Further Education and Training Teaching: PGCE (SP/FET): Distance mode. Registered by the DHET. Accredited by the CHE as a 125-credit learning programme for higher education at NQF level 7. SAQA ID: 124773; CHE reference: H/PRO96/AR025CAN

LEGAL STATUS

Cornerstone Institute is a not-for-profit company (NPC); registration number 2004/025078/08.

MODE OF DELIVERY

The PGCE in Intermediate Phase is accredited for both Contact and Distance modes but is currently offered via Distance only.

LANGUAGE POLICY

All classes and communication with students, staff and the public are in English, except in modules based on other languages.

DISCLAIMER

Cornerstone Institute makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in this brochure is accurate and up to date. However, it may be necessary for Cornerstone Institute to make some changes to the information presented in the following document.

This document should be read together with the policies, rules, and regulations of Cornerstone Institute (as may be amended from time to time).

Please look at the latest yearbook for details about programmes and modules in which you may be interested.

Postgraduate Certificate in Education: Foundation Phase Teaching (PGCE FP) (Recommended completion time two years part-time; minimum completion time one year full-time; maximum three years part-time; minimum 120 credits; NQF 7) Mode of delivery: distance

Admission requirements

- A candidate must have complied with all the requirements of a bachelor's degree (or an approved diploma of minimum 360 credits at NQF level 6) from a DHET registered higher education institution before the beginning of the academic year for which he/she has been selected.
- The prior bachelor's degree (or approved national diploma) must include a selection of subjects/disciplines that will provide a teacher with appropriate disciplinary knowledge to effectively teach Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills to young learners and lay foundations for learning in future grades.
- Holders of multidisciplinary degrees (or approved diplomas) without a main focus in a single field related to teaching could be allowed into the PGCE FP, provided that the disciplines underpin the learning requirements for the foundation phase and, where relevant, the subjects to be taught are taken to at least NQF 6 (with a minimum 30 credit weighting over a minimum of two semesters).

For specific admission requirements, please scan the QR code.

Programme-specific outcomes

Students who have completed this qualification should be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in reading, writing and speaking the language/s of instruction in ways that facilitate their own academic learning and learning in their classrooms
- Demonstrate competence in interpreting and using numerical and elementary statistical knowledge to facilitate their own academic learning, and manage teaching, learning and assessment
- Demonstrate competence with regard to the knowledge base underpinning the learning areas or subjects they will be teaching
- In their area/s of specialisation (foundation phase and subject/learning area), demonstrate competence in planning, designing, and reflecting on learning programmes appropriate for their learners and learning context
- Demonstrate competence in selecting, using and adjusting teaching and learning strategies in ways that meet the needs of the learners' and the context
- Demonstrate competence in managing and administering learning environments and supporting learners in ways that are sensitive, stimulating, democratic and well organised
- Demonstrate competence in monitoring and assessing learner progress and achievement in their specialisation
- Demonstrate that they can function responsibly within the education system, the institution where they are working, and the community in which the institution is located
- Demonstrate a respect for and commitment to the educator profession.

Postgraduate Certificate in Education: Intermediate Phase Teaching (PGCE IP) (Recommended completion time two years; maximum three years part-time; minimum 120 credits; NQF 7) Mode of delivery: Currently offered via distance mode

Admission requirements

- A candidate must have complied with all the requirements of a bachelor's degree (or an approved diploma of minimum 360 credits at NQF level 6) from a public or private higher education institution accredited by a recognised local or foreign accrediting body before the beginning of the academic year for which he/she has been selected. The prior bachelor's degree (or approved national diploma) must provide a broad knowledge base adequate for teaching in the intermediate phase (IP) i.e. English, Afrikaans and two IP teaching subjects, at NQF level 6 (university degree studies at first year level) or NQF level 6 (second year degree level). The IP teaching subjects are mathematics, science and technology, social science and life skills
- Conversational competency in an official African language (Conversational isiXhosa is offered as a 5 credit module for those without this competency)
- Holders of multidisciplinary degrees (or approved diplomas) without a main focus in a single field related to teaching could be allowed into the programme, provided that the disciplines underpin the learning requirements for the IP and the subjects to be taught are taken to at least NQF level 6 (with a minimum 30 credit weighting over a minimum of two semesters)
- Holders of focused degrees (or approved diplomas) that lack an adequately broad knowledge base or an adequate specialisation in IP subjects may be required to enrol simultaneously in teaching subjects (minimum NQF 6) whilst enrolling for the PGCE IP.

Programme-specific outcomes

Students who have completed this qualification should be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in reading, writing and speaking the language/s of instruction in ways that facilitate their own academic learning and learning in their classrooms
- Demonstrate competence in interpreting and using numerical and elementary statistical knowledge to facilitate their own academic learning, and manage teaching, learning and assessment
- Demonstrate competence with regard to the knowledge base underpinning the learning areas or subjects they will be teaching
- In their area/s of specialisation (intermediate phase and subject/learning area), demonstrate competence in planning, designing, and reflecting on learning programmes appropriate for their learners and learning context
- In their area of specialisation, demonstrate competence in selecting, using and adjusting teaching and learning strategies in ways that meet the needs of learners and the context
- Demonstrate competence in managing and administering learning environments and supporting learners in ways that are sensitive, stimulating, democratic and well organised
- Demonstrate competence in monitoring and assessing learner progress and achievement in their specialisation
- Demonstrate that they can function responsibly within the education system, the institution where they are working, and the community in which the institution is located
- Demonstrate a respect for and commitment to the educator profession.

Additional Information

(PGCE FP & IP)

1. Teaching Practicals
You will undertake three Teaching Practicals while doing your PGCE. Please note:
• Two of the Three Teaching Practicals are required to be completed within South Africa)
• Teaching Practicals A, B, and C are to be completed at three different schools.

2. For admission into the Didactics modules

Please scan the QR code to see the admission requirements for specific didactics modules.

3. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
RPL is available for
• those who have been disadvantaged because of their inability to obtain formal qualifications
• those who have inadequate entrance qualifications but have equivalent work or life experience which qualifies them to be admitted as students.

Please contact rplandcat@cornerstone.ac.za to explore this option.

For specific admission requirements, please scan the QR code.

Disclaimer for potential low enrolments per programme

If the required number is not reached by the end of the registration period, the programme will only receive new students in the next registration period. New students already registered for the programme will be advised on available options, and paid fees will be refunded where applicable. Students who have already completed one or more semesters will not be affected.

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION: SENIOR AND FET PHASE (PGCE SP/FET) (Recommended completion time two years part-time; minimum completion time one year full-time NQF 7)
Mode of delivery: distance

Admission Requirements

The minimum admission requirement is an appropriate Bachelor's degree which includes two appropriate teaching subjects, one at second-year level or NQF Level 6, which corresponds with a relevant subject at school level for the Senior Phase, and one at third-year level or NQF Level 7, which corresponds with a relevant school subject for the Further Education and Training Phase.

Students should have sufficient disciplinary (subject) knowledge underpinning the specific teaching specialisations (subjects) to teach that particular school subject in the specific phase.
The admission requirements exclude TVET studies (National N Diploma).

Programme-specific Outcomes
Students who have completed this qualification should be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in reading, writing, and speaking the language/s of instruction in ways that facilitate their own academic learning and learning in their classrooms
- Demonstrate competence in interpreting and using research and elementary statistical knowledge to facilitate their own lifelong learning, and manage teaching, learning, and assessment
- Demonstrate competence regarding the disciplinary knowledge base underpinning the learning areas or subjects they will be teaching
- In their area/s of specialisation, demonstrate competence in planning, designing, and reflecting on learning programmes appropriate for their learners and learning context
- In their area of specialisation, demonstrate competence in selecting, using, and adjusting teaching and learning strategies in ways that meet the needs of learners and the context
- Demonstrate competence in managing and administering learning environments and supporting learners in ways that are sensitive, stimulating, democratic, and well organised
- Demonstrate competence in monitoring and assessing learner progress and achievement in their spe cialisation
- Demonstrate that they can function responsibly within the education system, the institution where they
  are working, and the community in which the institution is located
- Demonstrate a respect for and commitment to the educator profession.

For specific admission requirements, please scan the QR code.

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION