



Faculty of Education

FACULTY FACT SHEET



ON GOOD AUTHORITY



A message from the executive dean, Prof. Lloyd Conley

The Faculty of Education is committed to delivering high-quality, innovative professional teacher education that responds to both national and international educational contexts. Through the integration of cutting-edge technologies, relevant and responsive teaching methodologies and meaningful knowledge transfer, we actively engage in teaching, research and community involvement that advance the education sector.

As a leading institution in the higher-education and training landscape, we embrace the principles of lifelong learning. Our mission is to cultivate academically strong, ethically grounded and socially responsible graduates who are equipped to lead and inspire transformation in education.

We remain dedicated to empowering our students to become high achievers and to preparing future teachers who will serve as visionary leaders, contributing positively to schools, communities and society at large.

THIS IS US

Faculty facts

- The Faculty of Education is one of the largest providers of both contact and distance-learning teacher education in South Africa, offering programmes that cater to diverse needs – from pre-service teacher training to advanced postgraduate studies.
- The Faculty of Education has a growing international reputation and contributes significantly to the global standing of the NWU which is recognised among leading universities worldwide.
- The faculty continues using technology-enhanced learning, distance platforms and blended-learning models through its distance-learning structures.
- The Faculty of Education at the NWU focuses on creating a student-centred learning environment where both theoretical and practical knowledge is emphasised. The goal is to produce well-rounded, competent teachers who can adapt to various classroom settings.
- The programmes of the faculty are accredited by the Council on Higher Education and recognised by the South African Council for Educators, ensuring that students are equipped with internationally recognised qualifications.



A legacy of excellence in teacher education

The Faculty of Education carries a proud legacy in teacher education, with roots dating back to 1919. For more than a century, the faculty has played a vital role in preparing teachers who contribute meaningfully to schools, communities and society.

Today, the faculty is recognised as one of the largest providers of both contact and distance teacher education in South Africa. Through a comprehensive range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, the faculty prepares future teachers while also advancing the professional development of practising teachers.

Academic excellence in the faculty is supported by strong research initiatives that address key educational priorities. Scholars and students actively contribute to research in areas such as human rights education, diversity and inclusion, literacy development, self-directed learning and community-based education.

Internationally recognised

The Faculty of Education maintains strong connections with schools, communities and educational organisations. Through teaching practice, strategic partnerships and engagement initiatives and research partnerships, students gain meaningful opportunities to apply their knowledge while making a positive impact in both urban and rural communities.

As part of a globally recognised university, the faculty also engages in international collaborations that strengthen research, innovation and knowledge exchange in education. These partnerships enable the faculty to remain responsive to global developments while addressing the educational needs of South Africa and the African continent.

Guided by a commitment to academic excellence, innovation and social responsibility, the Faculty of Education continues to prepare teachers who are equipped to lead, inspire and transform education for future generations.

Our faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 1 April 2026)



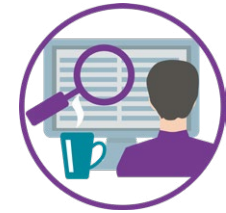
Undergraduate students:
14 834



Postgraduate students:
1 254



International students:
82



NRF-rated researchers:
21



Academic staff:
312



Support staff:
118





SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMMES

The faculty consists of five academic schools:

- School of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education
- School of Commerce and Social Studies in Education
- School of Professional Studies in Education
- School of Languages in Education
- School of Psycho-Social Education

Additional programmes and courses

Distance learning at the NWU offers a range of in-service and further training programmes, designed to enhance the skills and qualifications of teachers. These programmes are designed to provide flexible learning opportunities, eliminating barriers relating to time, location and pace of learning.

- Diploma in Grade R Teaching
- Advanced Certificate in Teaching (ACT)
- Advanced Diploma in Education (ADE)

[More information](#)

[Click here to see which undergraduate programmes we offer](#)

[Click here for our honours-degree studies and postgraduate certificates/diplomas](#)

[Click here for our postgraduate programmes](#)

RESEARCH

Research chairs

- UNESCO Chair on Multimodal Learning and Open Educational Resources (OER)
- ETDP SETA Early Childhood Development Research Chair

Research units

- Education and Human Rights in Diversity (Edu-HRight)
[More information](#)
- Self-directed Learning (SDL)
[More information](#)
- Community-based Educational Research (COMBER) Research Focus Area
[More information](#)
- Research and Incubation Hub
[More information](#)

Specialised centres

- Centre for Higher Education Professional Development (CHEPD): Focused on professionalising academics as higher-education teachers through short learning programmes and formal qualifications.
[More information](#)
- Centre for African Language Teaching (CALT) – Setswana: Dedicated to advancing Setswana as a language of teaching and learning. This centre fosters research, community engagement and partnerships.
[More information](#)

APPLICATIONS

Admission requirements for BEd

- Click [here](#) for detailed undergraduate programme-specific admission requirements.
- Click [here](#) for detailed postgraduate programme-specific admission requirements.
- Click [here](#) for detailed in-service and further training programmes.

How do I apply?

Applications can be submitted online via the NWU website. Visit [this page](#) for step-by-step guidance.

Financial aid and scholarships

A wide range of bursaries and financial assistance is available. For more details, contact 018 299 2672 or visit the [NWU financial aid page](#).

We want to hear from you

Contact us for specific programme enquiries and faculty contacts. Please visit the [Faculty of Education webpage](#) / [Facebook page](#).