

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

Overview:

The Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Education is offered by the NWU Faculty of Education. The Qualification is on NQF level 8. The Department of Basic Education requires working professionals to continuously develop their careers and enhance their knowledge in order to provide appropriate guidance and support to learners who experience special needs in an educational environment. Working professionals with existing qualifications can use continuing professional development learning programmes to strengthen their current qualification. The PGDip (Special Needs) is primarily professionally oriented to offer working professionals the opportunity to undertake advanced reflection on and development of special needs issues in education.

The purpose of this PGDip (Special Needs) qualification is to:

- consolidate and deepen students' expertise in the area of special needs education, as encompassed in the various modules of the programme;
- provide students with a deeper understanding of the professional practices, institutions, and systems that deal with special needs in the school system;
- develop students' potential to act as leaders and experts in the field of special needs education in their area of function in the school system;
- develop students' potential to make responsible decisions and solve specific problems regarding matters of special needs education;
- equip students to conduct independent enquiry into a specific problem they experience in their practice in special needs education; and
- provide students with a deeper understanding of the economic, social and cultural diversity and needs of South African professionals within special needs education.

The primary purpose of this qualification is to undertake advanced reflection and to enhance the professional development of students by means of a systematic survey of current thinking, practice and research methods to strengthen and deepen students' knowledge of special needs in their educational contexts. This qualification will also equip students with the requisite skills to enhance national competitiveness and productivity in a global context. Students who are practising professionals at micro and macro levels will engage with the most recent theory, discourses and practices.

General Information:

The Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Education is offered through the Distance Education mode of delivery. It is not offered through contact or part time modes of delivery. Interactive white board sessions are offered at various distance centres and examinations are also written at different centres. Take note of the following general information:

- This programme is offered online, making use of the eFundi e-learning platform.
- Students must have access to daily, reliable internet to be able to successfully engage, communicate and complete this programme.
- Language of tuition is in English although students may submit assignments in English or Afrikaans. Exam papers may also be completed in English or Afrikaans.

- The minimum duration of the programme is two years and the maximum duration 4 years after which a student's studies may be terminated.
- Ms Debbie Meyer is the contact person wrt applications and registrations (via email only – Debbie.meyer@nwu.ac.za).
- Students should call the e-Fundi call centre for e-Fundi queries on 018 285 2295 or eFundi-PC@nwu.ac.za
- Your student number and a clear indication that you are a distance student must be indicated on all correspondence.
- Students have a first and second examination opportunity. The second opportunity must be utilised during the next examination period. See A-Rules.
- A valid participation mark gives the student access to two examination opportunities, after which a student must generate a new participation mark by re-registering for the module. See A-Rules and Faculty Rules.
- It is the student's responsibility to purchase their own prescribed material. Study material lists will be made available to students. It is the student's own responsibility to order and pay for study material through any provider of academic books. For study material related inquiries please use the following email: UODL-studymaterial@nwu.ac.za
- Study MOD's (Module Overview Document) will be available on e-Fundi.

DIGITAL/ELECTRONIC ASSISTANCE

E-Fundi (student portal for tutorial letters, assignments, recordings, etc)

eFundi is the electronic learning platform where individual module sites are created and all academic information is uploaded, including assignments, important dates, additional reading material, assignment feedback, participation and examination marks, etc. All registered students have access to eFundi. When you sign up to use eFundi, your username is your student number. For the first time you will need to use your RSA ID/passport number as your password. After you have submitted your assignment on eFundi, you will receive a notification via e-mail. As soon as students are registered, they should automatically have access to all the eFundi module sites. If you struggle with access to eFundi, please encourage them to contact the UODL Call Centre at 018 285 5900 or send an e-mail to DistancePotch@nwu.ac.za

Please watch the following videos as an introduction to eFundi: <http://youtu.be/8k6dvp6fZ5w> and <http://youtu.be/WyZiFFSYWJg>

Application & Admission

Students can only apply online via the NWU website.

Note: Select the distance mode of delivery and the code is 4DG D01

Admission requirements

Admission to this qualification takes place according to the A-Rule 1.5 of the university. In particular, the following admission requirements are valid for the PGDip:

- a) a recognised BEd, or
- b) a recognised B-degree + PGCE qualification (NQF Level 7).

- c) a four-year professional teaching qualification(s) as well as a 120 credit Level 7 Advanced Diploma
- d) Aggregate of 60%+ in previous qualification.

Assessment

Assessment is module specific and will be communicated via the eFundi module site. Assessments usually include two or more module assignments that contributes to the participation mark of the student. a) All assignments must be submitted electronically via e-Fundi. In instances where a portfolio is it totals 100% of the module mark. A minimum participation mark of 40% allows the student to participate in the exam. Students need a subminimum of 40% in the exam. To pass a module the student needs a 50% module mark (participation + exam). A participation mark is valid for two consecutive exam opportunities.

Programme outlay

Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Education (Programme code: 4DG D01)

Module code	Descriptive name	Credits
PGER 511	Education Research Theory	16
PGSN 511	School guidance and lay counselling	20
PGSN 512	Learners with special needs and barriers to learning	20
PGSN 521	Health promoting schools	20
PGSN 522	Learner Support in the diverse classroom	20
PGSN 571	Applied Learner Support	32

Year 1 (2021)		Year 2 (2022)	
First semester		First semester	
Module code	Cr	Module code	Cr
PGSN 511	20	PGSN 571 (*1)	16
PGSN 512	20	PGER511	16
Total 1st semester	40	Total 1st semester	32
Year 1 (2020)		Year 2 (2021)	
Second semester		Second semester	
Module code	Cr	Module code	Cr
PGSN 522	20	PGSN 571 (*1)	16
		PGSN 521	20
Total 2nd semester	20	Total 2nd semester	36
Total year 1	60	Total year 2	68
		Module total	128

(*1) 36-credit module presented across both semesters

Programme Outcomes

The competence developed in the qualification is reflected in the exit level outcomes. The alignment of the outcomes with the appropriate NQF level 8 is as follows:

On completion of this qualification, students should demonstrate:

- a willingness to take responsibility for their judgements within an inclusive society, which is based on a strong value system, and an awareness and understanding of moral and social issues;
- integrated knowledge of underlying theories relevant to special needs education and learner support, as well as a critical understanding of school guidance and lay counselling, learners with special needs, health-promoting schools, learner support in a diverse classroom, applied learner support and education research;
- the ability to contribute to the current knowledge framework of educational matters and issues within special needs and learner support by evaluating different knowledge sources;
- an acquired in-depth expertise within the field of special needs and learner support education by demonstrating specific skills to identify and solve real-life problems regarding key matters in special needs and learner support education, as well as competence with regard to ethical issues and professional practice that deal with special needs and learner support within the South African school system.
- an ability for effective teamwork with e.g. staff members and learners in the educational environment, demonstrating their expertise in the field of special needs and learner support education, the capacity for argumentation and reasoning, based on their own values, beliefs and practices, as well as the ability to critically analyse alternative approaches and solve specific problems within the field of special needs education;
- accountability for their own self-directed learning when dealing with a problem in special needs and learner support education, as well as the ability to present new insights into and solutions to known problems in an academically appropriate way; and
- appreciation for their own limited knowledge, and an intellectual curiosity for new ideas as lifelong learners, who question established ways of understanding current educational issues.

Prescribed books


As the programme is offered for the first time in 2021, only the 1st year, 1st semester book lists are available. Other book lists will be made available in the 1st semester 2021.

Module	Textbook	ISBN Number
PGSN 511	The Skilled Helper Egan Gerard 2013	9781408093788
	Emotional intelligence in the classroom. Coetzee, M & Jansen, C Cape Town: Juta. 2007	9780702172649
PGSN 512	Addressing barriers to learning. A South African perspective. Landsberg, E, Swart, E. & Kruger, D. 2011	9780627033759
	Inclusive education: An African Perspective. Pasha, N. & Condy, J. 2016 Oxford.	9781305670389
	At-risk youth: a comprehensive response for counsellors, teachers,	9780199078486

	psychologists and human services professionals. McWhirter, J.J. McWhirter, B.T., McWhirter, E.H., & McWhirter, A.C. 2017	
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Contact Details:UNIT FOR OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING (UODL)

UODL academic manager, Faculty of Education

	<p>Dr Susan Greyling UODL Academic Manager in the Faculty of Education</p> <p>Contact details: +27 18 299 4542 B11 - G57 12422150@nwu.ac.za</p>
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UODL administrative staff members

SECTION	TELEPHONE
CALL CENTRE: <i>(Student enquiries)</i>	+27 18 285 5900
email	DistancePotch@nwu.ac.za
Email: Subject line: PGDip_Surname_Student number_Request/Matter	

UODL contact information

Link: <http://distance.nwu.ac.za/>

Faculty of Education: <http://distance.nwu.ac.za/Education>

Website: <http://distance.nwu.ac.za/>

Contact details: <http://distance.nwu.ac.za/contact-us-general-information>

E-mail: DistancePotch@nwu.ac.za

Subject line: PGDip Surname_Student number_Request/Matter

List of PGDip NQF 8 lecturers: Distance MoD

PGDip Programme Leader				
Dr CP van der Vyver	+27 18 299 4587		B11 G61	13267876@nwu.ac.za



(Please note that this list is subject to change)

Subject Group: Curriculum Studies, Philosophy, Research Methodology				
Name	Phone number	Module	Office	Email address
Dr CP van der Vyver	+27 18 299 4587	PGER 511	B11 G61	13267876@nwu.ac.za
Subject Group: Learner support and Education Psychology				
Dr Marinda Neethling	+27 18 2852071	PGSN512 PGSN571	B11 G12	Marinda.Neethling@nwu.ac.za
Dr Elmari Fouché	+27 18 2852876	PGSN511	B11:	Elmari.Fouché@nwu.ac.za
Dr Illasha Kok	+27 18 299 2143	PGSN521	B11 G23	10317724@nwu.ac.za
Will be appointed		PGSN522		

Fees

For any information about study fees please contact

PC-studyfees@nwu.ac.za or (018) 299 2667/ 2668/ 2669/ 2670/ 2671/2672/ 2673