

## Interview Information for Applicants

All students who apply to join the University of Otago College of Education Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes are required to participate in an interview and complete literacy and numeracy screening assessments. The purpose of these requirements is to assess your suitability for teacher education and a subsequent career in teaching.

These notes are intended to assist applicants in preparing for the interview.

### The Interview Panel

The University of Otago College of Education administers the interview process. Your interview panel will include a College of Education teacher education staff member and a member of the local education community, for example, a teacher, kaiako, principal, or head teacher.

### Shortlisting

Shortlisting will be based on the information provided in your application and referee reports.

### The Admissions Criteria

The following criteria are used by the Admissions Panel to assess your suitability for teaching.

#### *Personal Qualities*

Commitment, reliability, self-confidence, adaptability, sense of humour, vitality, ability to observe and relate to a range of people, initiative, maturity, social skills, leadership abilities, resourcefulness, open-mindedness, industry, integrity, concern for the health and wellbeing of people, and tenacity.

#### *Communication Skills and Proficiency with Te Reo Māori*

Written and oral communication competencies, for example, fluency, diction, clarity, quality, technical accuracy, and expression. Openness to developing knowledge and use of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga.

#### *Background Experience*

The range and depth of involvement in, and level of commitment to, activities such as cultural, social, sporting, music, drama, and community pursuits. Openness and willingness

to learn about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and awareness of, and preparedness to demonstrate, a commitment to biculturalism.

#### *Academic*

Entry requirements must be met. A disposition to teach, coupled with a proven academic record, appropriate levels of literacy and numeracy, and a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including te reo Māori proficiency, will be sought.

## ***Current Issues***

An awareness of current issues and how these relate to education.

## **The Interview**

The interview will normally be up to 20 minutes in duration. It will generally be conducted in person if you currently reside in the lower half of the South Island. If you are outside of this area, the interview will be conducted via Zoom.

Applicants may bring support people to the interview. Please ensure you advise the Interview Coordinator if you intend to bring more than one support person.

If possible, prior to the interview, visit a school or early childhood centre. Talk to a range of people (including teachers, kaiako, principals, or head teachers) about your career decision.

Be prepared to discuss your commitment to the teaching profession and any previous experience. Think about what you have to offer the teaching profession, for example, interests and skills. Consider how you might respond to some of the questions that may be asked. Be prepared to discuss your current study or work and identify any questions you may wish to ask the Admissions Panel.

## ***Some Hints for the Interview***

During the interview, you should endeavour to:

- Relax
- Listen carefully
- Speak clearly
- Seek clarification if you are unsure what the interviewer is asking
- Take time over your answers
- Be positive
- Be yourself
- Share your sense of humour
- Dress comfortably but smartly
- Ensure that everything you think should be discussed has been covered

## **Literacy and Numeracy Assessments**

As part of the application process, the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand requires you to meet mathematics and literacy requirements prior to entry into initial teacher education programmes. This is in addition to meeting any English Language Competency requirements.

You will therefore need to complete assessments for mathematics and literacy and meet the required standard prior to being offered a place in the programme. These assessments will occur either just before or just after your interview. If you do not meet the required standard for your

programme on the first attempt, you are entitled to a further attempt. Further information will be sent closer to the time.

Although all candidates will complete the same online mathematics assessment, the Teaching Council has set a higher entry requirement for primary teaching candidates. Prior to the assessment, candidates are advised to revise fractions, decimals, percentages, BEDMAS, ratios, proportional reasoning, metric conversions, and calculations related to time, perimeter, circumference, area, volume, and surface area of three-dimensional shapes.

## **Further Information**

**Phone:** (03) 479 4914  
0800 TO TEACH

**Email:** [education@otago.ac.nz](mailto:education@otago.ac.nz)