



Interview Information for Applicants

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

These notes are to assist applicants preparing for an 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, e.g., teacher, kaiako, principal, or head teacher.

Shortlisting

Shortlisting will be based on information supplied 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 health and wellbeing of people, tenacity.

Communication Skills and proficiency with Te Reo Māori

Written and oral competencies, e.g., fluency, diction, clarity, quality, technical accuracy, expression. Open to developing knowledge and use of te reo Māori me ka tikaka.

Background Experience

The range and depth of involvement in, and degree of commitment to activities such as cultural, social, sporting, music, drama and community pursuits. Open and willing to learn about te Tiriti o Waitangi; awareness and prepared to demonstrate commitment to biculturalism.

Academic

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

Current Issues

An awareness of how these relate to education.

The Interview

The interview will normally be of up to 20 minutes duration. It will generally be conducted in person if you currently reside in the lower half of the South Island. It will be conducted via Zoom if you are outside of this area. Applicants may bring support people to an 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 e.g., interests, skills. Consider how you might respond to some of the questions that may be asked. Be prepared to discuss your current study or work. Identify any questions that you might want to ask the admission 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 that you think should be discussed has been covered

Further Information

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