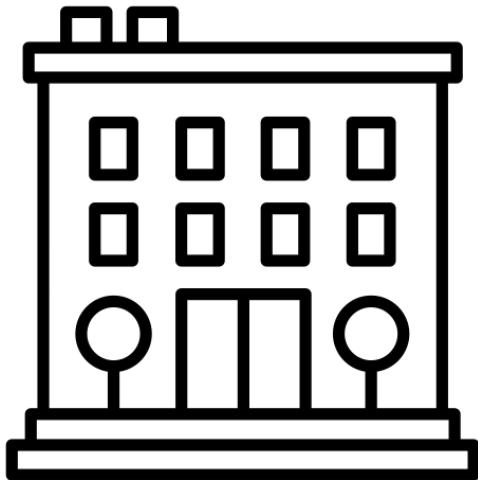


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# Which universities produce the most teachers who enter public schools?

Nic Spaull & Poppie Ntaka (10 Nov 2022)



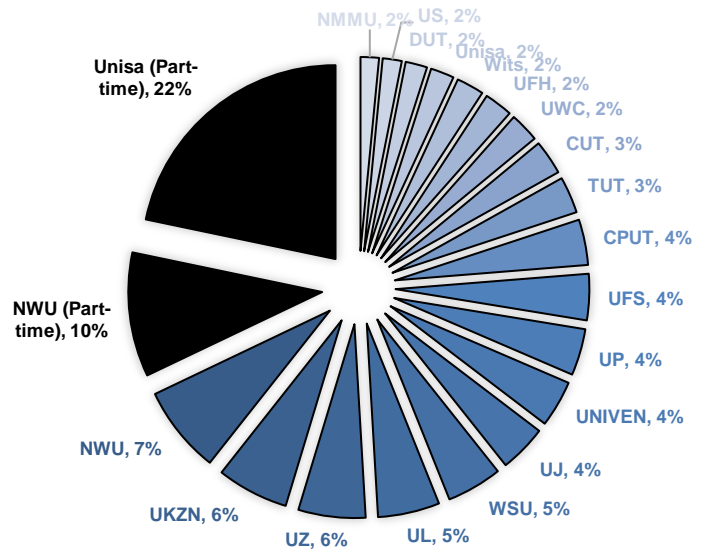
**Overview:** The impending teacher shortage will require universities to train thousands of teachers. There is therefore a need to understand whether or not universities have the capacity to meet the future demand. To do so, it is helpful to consider which universities are best placed to meet the projected future demand for teachers. This note provides information on which universities produce the most teachers and details the flow through rates of full-time and part-time Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) and Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) students.

**Just four universities train half of all teachers who enter public schools in SA:**

By merging higher education information (HEMIS) with teacher salary information (PERSAL) it is possible to identify where teachers who enter public schools were trained. Just four universities (UNISA, NWU, UKZN and UZ) trained half (51%) of all teachers entering public schools in 2017. Although there are 19 universities supplying teachers to public schools, two thirds (65%) come from the largest seven universities.

**One third (32%) of teachers who entered public schools in 2017 studied part-time, either at UNISA (22%) or at North West University (10%)**

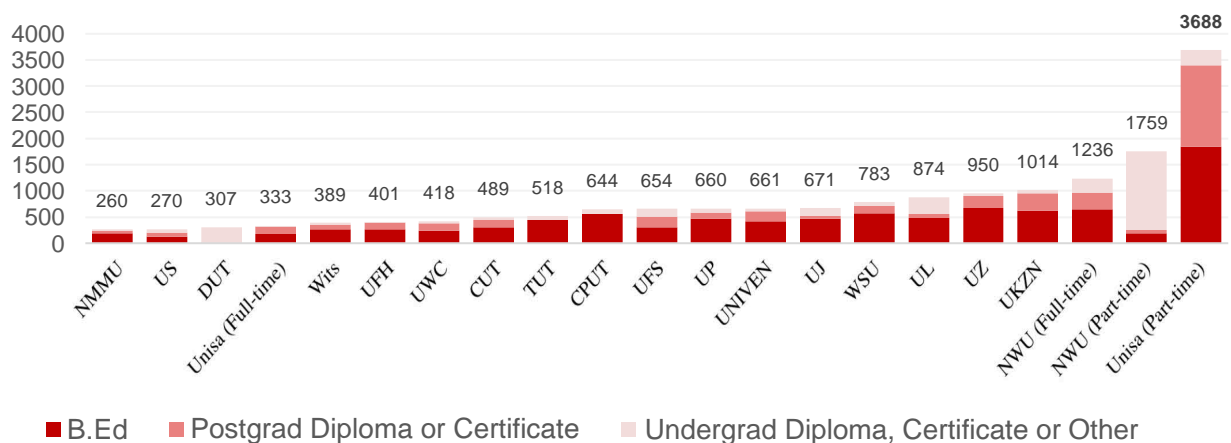
**Figure 1:** The relative contribution of universities to training teachers who go on to be employed in public schools in SA



Source: DHET, 2020: pp. 95-96.

**Improving the quality of graduate training should focus on part-time (i.e. distance) students and those which supply public schools with teachers.** Figure 1 and 2 illustrate quite clearly the outside role that part-time (distance education) students play, and UNISA in particular. Improving the quality of ITE at Wits (2%), Stellenbosch (2%) or NMMU (2%) is unlikely to improve overall quality of teachers entering public education. Focus should be on the largest providers.

**Figure 2:** Of those 16,979 teachers who joined PERSAL in 2017, which universities did they come from and what programs did they study?



Source: DHET (2020). Table 35, pp. 95-96. School teacher supply and demand in South Africa in 2019 and beyond. Pretoria.