



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Mr Ngcobo

### **CONFIRMATION OF GRADE R PRACTITIONERS WILLING TO STUDY AND THE FUNDING FOR THEIR PROGRAMMES OF STUDY**

The Department of Basic Education is pleased to inform you of a significant development regarding the upgrading of qualifications for Grade R Practitioners currently appointed in public schools who do not yet meet the minimum requirement of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 6 qualification to teach in Grade R.

Following the signing of the Collective Agreement and confirmation of funding from the ETDP-SETA, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has secured a partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA) to support your professional development.

#### Key Updates:

- A total of R66 million from the skills development funds, was set aside by ETDP-SETA to fund the upgrading of the qualifications for Grade R Practitioners with an understanding that the funding will be made available for the current financial year and that PEDs will, henceforth, include the Grade R project in their PED Annual Performance Plans (APPs) for Skills Development Funding, to cover the outer years of study and to ensure continuity of funding and successful completion of the qualification
- UNISA Partnership: UNISA has agreed to reopen and extend the application period exclusively for identified Grade R Practitioners.
- New Application Window: Applications will be accepted from 1 November to 1 December 2025.

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### ***Programme Offering:***

UNISA will no longer offer the Diploma in Grade R Teaching. Practitioners must apply for the Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase, using the (Qualification Code: 90102).

### **Application link:**

Eligible Grade R practitioners are urged to use the following link to apply: [UNISA B.Ed Application Link](#) (right click to open) Or scan the QR code below:



### ***Bridging Option:***

Practitioners who do not meet the minimum admission requirements may be admitted into a one-year Higher Certificate Qualification, which serves as a bridging pathway to the B.Ed. Practitioners will only be funded for the Higher Certificate if there is a written commitment that they will enrol for the B. Ed upon completion. (The commitment letter should be attached to the contract).

Please note that the HOD is required to **confirm** the inclusion of all eligible Grade R practitioners and **provide** a signed list to the DBE. Furthermore, HODs are expected to **encourage** the practitioners to apply to UNISA between **1 November and 1 December 2025**. The non-refundable application fee of R150.00 is expected to be paid by the applicants themselves.

Further communication shall be issued regarding Practitioners who are currently registered for the second or any subsequent years of study and qualify for funding in terms of the Collective Agreement.

We encourage the practitioners to seize this opportunity to enhance their professional standing and contribute meaningfully to the Foundation Phase sector. Their commitment

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to upgrading their qualifications is a vital step toward the professionalisation of the education workforce.

**Kindly note that**, this opportunity is only available to those Grade R Practitioners who have indicated their willingness to study. The list of practitioners who qualify and are willing to study is here approved for ease of reference.

For assistance with the application process, practitioners may contact the provincial coordinator or visit UNISA's website at [www.unisa.ac.za](http://www.unisa.ac.za).

Yours sincerely



**DR G WHITTLE**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**  
**DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2025**