These Frequently Asked Questions will help solve all the lingering issues you may have, but please feel free to contact Rod should you have any other questions.

Click on a question to see the answer.

You can also click the Dowload as PDF link at the left (below the menu buttons) to download a copy of these questions.

The Course

How long is the course?

To complete a full professional Diploma takes 3 years.
For a practitioner's Certificate, it takes 2 years.
A beginner's course for amateur work takes 1 year.
People with existing qualifications or knowledge may take only 1 or 2 years to complete a Diploma (see question below.)

Where is the course held?

The course is held in a state-of-the-art virtual classroom on the internet. This means you do not need to travel away from your home to attend classes. More details can be found in the questions below, and in the 'Course Information' and 'Virtual Campus' links on the left hand side menu.

When does the course start?

The course starts at the beginning of February each year.

What special abilities or qualifications do I need?

No special abilities or qualifications are required except a passion to learn. It is an advantage to have good mathematical abilities, although computers make up for a lot of those challenges. You will benefit from an ability ro retain knowledge and grasp abstract ideas, and of course inerpersona skills or counselling abilities are enormously beneficial when it comes to doing readings for others. There are no "psychic" talents required at all in astrology.
But if you just are a passionate, eager student with a strong curiosity and fascination for the human condition, astrology is probably the best way you can further that passion!

Can anyone do it?

Yes, the course is open to anyone. You don't need any knowledge or experience of astrology to start at Level I, but if you do you may be able to start further along in the course.

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If I already know astrology can I start at a higher level?

Yes, if you have previous qualifications or experience with astrology you may be able to start at Level II or Level III. In these cases, you will be required to take an examination to assess your suitability to start at a higher level.

Why should I choose this course over others?

Rod Suskin is known not only for his decades of experience in the field, but is especially recognised for his extensive knowledge and his outstanding teaching skills. Not every knowledgeable person makes for a good teacher, but Rod's experience with public speaking and broadcasting makes him as good a teacher as he is an astrologer. His skills as an astrologer and as a creator of professional astrologers at the highest level is recognised world wide amongst his peers.

The course is one of the few to provide a solid grounding in the proper estblished traditions of astrology while putting it in a modern 21st century context for today's students and practitioners. It is designed to be as thorough and practical as a university education in any profession - once qualified you are guaranteed to emerge with a confident ability to practise responsible and accurate astrology, something other courses and self-taught astrologers take many times longer to achieve.

Will I be qualified enough to practise as a professional?

Yes, you will be able to practise with confidence and your astrological readings will be of the highest quality, enabling you to charge professional fees and achieve high levels of accuracy right from the first day of practise.

Will my qualification be recognised?

While qualification as a professional astrologer is not recognised formally outside of the field anywhere in the world, professional astrologers worldwide know of Rod's course, his high standards, his professional competene and the high quality of astrologers he produces. Amongst your future colleagues, then, your qualification will certainly be recognised, and many future clients are also aware of Rod's excellent reputation - your Diploma with the name of his school on it will be recognised by many of them too.

How much work is involved?

You should expect to work as hard as any student in a part-time university course. This means there will be some reading every week, and frequently a written assignment. Outside of the 2-hour class, you should ecxpect to work up to 4 additional hours a week.

Are there scholarships available?

Not at this time.

Can I pay in installments?

For Level I (Foundation) you need to pay the full course fee. In subsequent years there are payment plans available.

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The Classes

Where are the classes held?

Classes are held in a virtual (online) classroom that you access by clicking a link in a special email that is sent to you. The virtual classroom has all the facilities of a real classroom - and more.
This means that you don't need to leave home to attend the class, and your fellow students may be anywhere on the planet in the real world.
Classes are held at the same time every week.

When are classes held?

Classes are weekly at 5.30 pm South African time (GMT +2). Which day of the week depends on which level you're studing - see the link at left called "Date•Time•Cost" for more details.

The year is divided into 3 semesters: Februay through April; June through early September; and mid-October through November. This means there are no classes during Januay, May and December.

How does the virtual class work?

Each week you will receive an email with a link that you click. The first time you do that, your computer will download a small program that allows you to enter the virtual teaching space (on subsequent occasions the software is already on your machine.)

Once you're in the class, you are able to see whatever the teacher wants to show you - a whiteboard, a powerpoint presentation, software demonstration or anything else. You can hear the teacher and other students, and are able to communicate by speaking and by typing in a window for private chat with the teacher. There is also a button that lets you raise your hand to show that you have a question. During the lesson, there are also special online activities that your teacher may present to keep you involved and make sure that you are following the lesson. The teacher and the students also have the option to transmit video to see and be seen by the other students.

Can students communicate with each other?

Students are able to interact both by speaking and by typing. Before and after the actual session, there is time for students to chat with each other just as occurs in a normal classroom. Students can also enable their video and see the video feed of other students and the teacher.

Are there assignments and homework?

Yes, there is regular homework, two major assignments during each year, and an examination at the end of the year.

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What happens if I miss a class? Are they recorded?

All classes are fully recorded and students can watch the recording for up to a month after the class was live. This ensures you can keep up and catch up.

The Virtual Campus

What do you mean by 'Virtual Campus' - is this different from the classes?

Just like a regular school or university, there is more than one space where you learn an interact.
There are three parts to the virtual campus:
First, the online classroom where your lectures are held (Described above).
Second, the Main Campus. This is a special website where you can download resources, upload assignments, engage in prescribed activities and interact with other students via 'chat mode' (i.e. typed live chat.)
Third, the Forums. These are lively forums where you post messages, questions and other interactions with fellow students and they can respond in their own times. These forums are very popular and a very important part of your learning experience.

What equipment do I need?

You need a computer - PC or Mac, headphones with a microphone, and a broadband internet connection.

What kind of internet connection do I need?

You need an ADSL, fibre, wireless or satellite broadband connection. 3G/4G will work, but is not recommended as it is more expensive and not always 100% reliable.

Are real-world classes ever held?

Generally not, but occasional optional classes may be held on rare occasions.

How much bandwidth will I use?

Each class uses around 120MB, meaning that you will use about half a gigabyte per month for the 9 months of the year when classes are held.

Questions about E-Learning

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What are the advantages of learning this way?

The virtual classroom allows the teacher to present more and varied information, using a greater variety of tools, because he or she can transmit anything onto your computer screen. The new technology has given rise to a whoe variety of new teaching methods and interactive tools that also make learning more stimulating and have better results.

There are also a huge host of practical benefits:
* students can be located anywhere in the world and yet still receive all the benefits of a live, in-class course.
* guest lecturers and experts can contribute without the need and expense of travel
* students are saved the hassle and expense of travel to class
* e-learning is MUCH friendlier to the environment - less carbon, less pollution, less paper, the list goes on ...
* students are in a safer and more comfortable environment (their homes)
* students have access to all their resources while in class - computer, their library, etc
* students make life-lasting friends and colleagues from all over the country and the world

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Are there disadvatages to learning this way?

That's a matter of opinion. To some extent, the lack of physical human contact can be a disadvantage, as it may make for less interaction amongst students and may make it easier for a student to stay under the radar and not get the work done. It must be pointed out that the technology has been specifically designed to help overcome these issues.

The main disadvantage is really that people struggle with new and unknown things. We have all sorts of assumptions that the internet and computers have challenged. The biggest obstacle may simply be these assumptions!

Is online learning as effective as classroom learning?

Studies show that online learning can be even more effective than an actual classroom. As long as the student sets aside time and space to give to the class, the fact tht there is no need for travel or concern about what's happening at home means the student learns more in the 2 hours than the would in a classroom.

Online learning is different, but it involves a whole lot of new teaching methods that in themselves make teaching a better and more rewarding experience. This astrology course uses the state of the art methods and technologies, you'll end up getting a lot more out of it than any classroom can offer.

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