



Shaping minds  
of business  
leaders in  
Africa

**PhD** IN **BUSINESS** ADMINISTRATION

## OVERVIEW

The PhD programme (PhD in Business Administration) of the NWU Business School is a research-based doctoral degree offered at NQF Level 10. It is expected of prospective candidates to demonstrate experience, enthusiasm, research expertise, control of and focus on the topic and field of study during their doctoral study before they are selected for their doctoral studies. The NWU Business School's selection process is transparent and seeks exceptional research candidates who can contribute to the improvement of the Business School's research outputs that can make a theoretical and practical contribution in the field of business studies.

The PhD in Business Administration programme at the NWU Business School follows a four-phase approach: (a) a pre-doctoral workshop for conditional acceptance to the programme, (b) a full proposal colloquium for unconditional admission into the programme, (c) a methodology presentation colloquium, (d) results and findings colloquium, and (e) final thesis submission. We allocate the most relevant and highly experienced promoters and co-promoters to our admitted students, who are sourced from within the School and from relevant industries so that there is blending of theory and practice in the learning process.

## APPROVAL OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Approval of the PhD study programme and the procedure that must be followed takes place in terms of general academic rule A.5.3. The study programme must, to the satisfaction of the director of post-graduate studies/Business School scientific committees (General Management and People's Management Scientific Committees), contribute to the research programme(s) of the University as determined by the different research focus areas/units. All PhD students are required to submit at least one article in Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)-accredited journals and provide proof with final submission for examination. In the case of an article format thesis, a minimum of three published OR publishable articles should be presented, of which at least one must have been submitted and accepted by an editor of an accredited DHET journal for graduation.

### Specific admission requirements

- The research ability of the student must be to the satisfaction of the school director/scientific committee members and the director of the research area/unit;
- Students whose abilities in research methods are deemed not to be adequate by the school director/scientific committee members and research director will only be accepted into a PhD programme after successfully completing the Faculty's short course in research methodology.
- The PhD in Business Administration is a part-time programme and students are registered on a part-time basis after they have successfully defended their full research proposal in a colloquium and accepted by the Business School/Faculty.
- A student must have a SAQA approved master's/MBA degree or the status of a relevant and applicable master's degree as approved by the Faculty's board and senate at NQF Level 9;
- The study field must be approved by the relevant school director and research unit director;
- The student must at least pass the research component (**Research module + Mini/full Dissertation**) of the abovementioned master's degree with an average of at least 65%.
- In case the candidate did a master's by dissertation only, the final mark of the overall degree average must be above 65%.

- The student must at least pass his/her master's degree with an overall average of at least 65% and above.
- The final number of conditional accepted applicants into our PhD programme for an academic year is influenced and guided by the number of PhD students who graduated in the previous year (e.g. if 10 graduated in 2020, then only 10 will be conditionally accepted for the 2021 academic year).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should complete the formal PhD application documents for the PhD NWU Higher Degree Administration (HDA):

- 018 389 2827 (Mahikeng);
- 018 299 4130 (Potchefstroom and Vaal), or
- Complete the application form by clicking on the following link:  
<http://studies.nwu.ac.za/postgraduate-studies/higher-degree-admissions>, or
- Contact the Business School Research Administration staff:
- +27 (0)18 389 2827 (Mahikeng), and
- +27 (0)18 299 4130 (Potchefstroom).

Applicants should submit a preliminary proposal (**See Appendix 1**) that should be sent to the various research clusters of the Business School for selection.

## Application dates

Applications are open from the 1<sup>st</sup> of February each year to the 31<sup>st</sup> of January the following year. Vetting of application only commence after the closing of application the following year and final selection depends on the availability of space and promotion (supervisory) capacity. Successful applicants will be granted **Conditional Acceptance** and be registered for non-degree purposes, without any module. A sum of **R2 020 (adjusted annually)** will be payable to the University. The relevant research cluster/research director/unit manager will indicate who will be acting as promoter for the applicant. Final admission into the PhD programme with module **Code DBAA 971 (New)** will be granted to the candidate upon successful presentation of the full proposal in a **PhD proposal colloquium** at most six months after the conditional admission.

## Important notice

The University Higher Degree Administration (HDA) will confirm all applications received. Incomplete applications will not be submitted onto the system until all outstanding documents have been received.

## PAYABLE FEES

Please contact Student Fees & Debtors Office for any financial enquiries:

Tel: 018 389 2410/ 2478/2020 /2503/ 2516 (Mahikeng)

Tel: 018 299 2667 / 2668 / 2669 / 2670 / 2671 / 2672 / 2673 (Potchefstroom and Vaal)

E-mail: [MC-studyfees@nwu.ac.za](mailto:MC-studyfees@nwu.ac.za)

[PUK-studyfees@nwu.ac.za](mailto:PUK-studyfees@nwu.ac.za)

### **Bursaries**

Enquiries with regard to bursaries may be directed to Financial Support Services at 018 389 2521, 018 299 2045/6 and 016 910 3157 or e-mail [MC-PostGradBurs@nwu.ac.za](mailto:MC-PostGradBurs@nwu.ac.za), [PUK-PostgradBurs@nwu.ac.za](mailto:PUK-PostgradBurs@nwu.ac.za) and [VC-PostGradBurs@nwu.ac.za](mailto:VC-PostGradBurs@nwu.ac.za)

The University's target date to pay out all academic, arts, culture, leadership as well as support bursaries is the end of March and no bursary will be paid out earlier.

### **DURATION OF A PhD**

The minimum duration of the PhD study is two years and the maximum duration four years, taken from the date of first registration (proof of registration) as a PhD candidate for this programme.

### **ENQUIRIES**

Contact persons (Mahikeng)

Miss Sophy Mogorosi

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## PhD APPLICATION

**PLEASE EXPLAIN IN TWO PAGES YOUR INTENDED STUDY UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS**

1. TITLE
2. INTRODUCTION
3. MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY
4. PROBLEM STATEMENT
5. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE AND SECONDARY OBJECTIVES
6. PRELIMINARY LITERATURE (at least 10 leading scholars in your area of specialisation)
7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
8. ETHICAL CONSIDERATION
9. CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY
10. REFERENCES
11. WORK EXECUTION PLAN

