

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MANAGEMENT AND POLICY STUDIES

PHD STUDIES

The purpose of the PhD is to develop doctoral students in the disciplinary and academic tradition related to Education Management, Law and Policy studies. Through the study students are developed into independent and critically minded researchers who can make a contribution to educational development in our country. Students could do their research in a field related to education management, or education law or education policy.

The requirements for acceptance into the PhD programme is (1) an average of 60% for the master's degree, (2) a preliminary research proposal that shows both a unique research interest and an acceptable level of methodological understanding, and (3) a satisfactory personal interview with a panel of academics from the Department.

As far as the 7-9 page application research proposal is concerned, the only guideline is that the topic should fall within the scope of our Department's field of interest, namely education law, management, policy and leadership. Although this proposal will (a) help us make an informed decision on whether to admit you or not (it's not the ONLY factor though - see below) and (b) help us to assign you to a supervisor if you are admitted, this proposal is not cast in stone, and both you and your supervisor may decide to make changes to it as the proposal writing process unfolds.

Your proposal should include the background to the problem you would like to investigate, a statement of the actual problem that you have identified, the research questions you would like to answer, a short review of literature (journal articles etc.) related to your topic, and the methodology (approach, design, data collection instruments, sampling strategy and participants) that you propose to use. Please also remember to include a reference list.

Once received, your application is passed through an initial screening at Student Admin to determine whether it meets the basic criteria - 60% for the master's degree or, for foreign students, some other valid post-graduate qualification (all foreign students are requested to have their qualifications vetted by the South African Qualifications Authority - SAQA - before submission of an application. The SAQA

website can be found at www.saga.org.za). Once this initial screening has been completed, the applications are passed on to the Programme Coordinator for the PhD programme for further vetting - at this point the preliminary proposal is read to determine whether the application fits into the Department's research focus and whether it represents a viable research project.

Applicants whose applications pass this second round of vetting are then invited to attend a 20 - 25 minute individual interview with a panel consisting of members of the Department.

Once all the applicants who made it to the interview stage have been interviewed, the Programme Coordinators in cooperation with the Head of Department of EMPS make the final decision on admittance, based on (1) the results of the interviews, (2) the suitability and 'researchability' of the preliminary proposal and (3) the supervision capacity available in the Department for the following year - understandably, each supervisor in each Department has a maximum supervision capacity, in other words each supervisor has a maximum number of Masters and PhD students that he or she can supervise. This number is determined by among other things each supervisor's research and teaching work load and also on their supervision experience and current supervision load. The supervision capacity for the Department for any given year also depends on how many M and PhD students graduate at the end of that year, which in turn determines how many M and PhD applications can be accepted for the following year. This is also the reason why, although you may indicate on your application your preference of supervisor, the Department is unfortunately not always able to guarantee that you will be assigned to your first choice of supervisor.

The application process is open from February, and the closing date is 31 August every year. Please find the application form at

<http://www.up.ac.za/en/faculty-of-education/article/15752/academic-programmes>

Please also note that although the Programme Coordinator (Prof Weber) coordinates and can therefore answer questions on the academic side of this programme, the administration and application process is dealt with by Student Administration, and all inquiries regarding the actual application process and the submission of

applications must be directed to Mrs Bronwynne Swarts (bronwynne.swarts@up.ac.za).

Successfully admitted PhD students must:

- submit a full research proposal during the first year of registration and defend it successfully before they can start with the research;
- attend all research capacity building sessions on quantitative and qualitative research;
- submit a thesis for examination on a topic approved by the Post-Graduate Committee of the Faculty; and
- submit proof of submission of an article issued by an accredited journal