

## DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS

### GUIDE ON SELECTING A SUPERVISOR:

**PROSPECTIVE DOCTORAL STUDENTS**  
(PhD in Mathematical Sciences; PhD in Science and Mathematics Education)  
and  
**PROSPECTIVE MASTER'S STUDENTS**  
(MSc in Mathematics, MSc in Applied Mathematics, MSc in Mathematics of Finance and  
MSc in Mathematics Education)

Admission to PhD/MSc studies is subject to the availability of a suitable supervisor for the thesis/dissertation in a field where research is actively being done within the Department.

Selecting a supervisor for your creative work, i.e. your PhD thesis/MSc dissertation, is of critical importance for your success.

In order to communicate constructively with researchers you should make yourself aware of your strengths, weaknesses, interests and aspirations which you will be expected to express.

For information on the research areas and the names of possible supervisors, please go to the departmental webpage at <http://www.up.ac.za/math>.

The following applicable links at the left hand column should be consulted:

1. **Research** – select *Research areas*. The associated staff is listed underneath each of the four Research areas.
2. Acquaint yourself with the possible supervisors by selecting **Personnel** – then go to *Postgraduate Teaching Personnel*. Please note that the Extraordinary Professors are not available to act as supervisors. The areas in brackets after each staff member's name are very general, but together with point 1, it will give you a good overview.
3. The final step is to view the recent publications (past five years) of the active researchers. Go to **Personnel** and select *Academic Personnel*. Their **contact details** are listed there and to access their publications, click on the **name of the researcher**.

Approach the possible supervisors by e-mail, enquiring about their availability and possible topics. Attach all your relevant academic records, your CV and other documents that you feel are necessary. PhD applicants should **add their Master's dissertation**. If possible make an appointment for a personal meeting. However, these enquiries can in principle be handled by e-mail. In order to make an informed decision about a topic/field of research and a supervisor it is strongly suggested that you approach at least two or three researchers. If you need assistance in this process you may approach Prof John van den Berg (for areas in pure mathematics), Prof Roumen Anguelov (for areas in applied mathematics), Dr Rodwell Kufakunesu (for mathematics of finance) or Prof Ansie Harding (for mathematics education).

If any researcher confirms that he is willing to be your supervisor, please inform the Department by e-mail sent to [yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za](mailto:yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za).

Please note that the final decision for approval of the supervisor lies with the Head of the Department, but meanwhile you can continue with your official application for admission for PhD/Master's studies at UP. The acquirement of a supervisor is not compulsory for **application**, but it is a prerequisite for **admission**.