

# PhD Finance and Investment

The main goal of a doctoral degree is to extend the body of scientific knowledge in the specific research area. Whereas an appropriate masters degree is a prerequisite for a PhD, the level of academic contribution on the PhD level is naturally higher than that of the masters.

In general, PhD graduates must be able to critically reflect on theory and its implementation. They must be able to deal with complex issues in a systematic and creative manner, design and critically appraise research, make sound judgments using data and information at their disposal, and clearly communicate their conclusions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. They should demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks with a theoretical underpinning, and continue to advance their knowledge.

The Department of Financial Management offers a PhD in Finance and Investment. The PhD programme requires that a student produces a thesis under supervision over a period of at most three years. A research methodology module is a prerequisite for the thesis. The module is presented online through self-paced learning.

After completion of the thesis and before graduation the student is required to prepare at least one draft research article. This article should be based on the research done for the thesis.

To apply, all applicants are required to submit a research outline. This outline will be considered by the Department of Financial Management to ascertain the viability of the research topic and the availability of a suitable supervisor. The research outline (approximately 2 000 words) should contain the following:

- Background information regarding the specific proposed topic area.
- Preliminary research question / research objectives.
- Gap in current knowledge to be filled by this research.
- What is, on PhD level, your planned unique and specific contribution?
- Data to be used and its sources

The research focus areas of the Department of Financial Management can be found on the website (<https://www.up.ac.za/financial-management/article/38798/research-focus-areas>).

For more information, please consult the information brochure at this link:

<https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/53/Brochures/2023/phd-finance-and-investment-brochure-for-2023.zp219521.pdf>