



Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION BROCHURE

PhD (Finance and Investment)

(Code 07267205)

Applications: 2025 academic year

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Department of Financial Management! This brochure contains important information regarding the degree PhD (Finance and Investment) offered by the Department of Financial Management at the University of Pretoria. This PhD is a research degree requiring supervised and independent research resulting in a unique scientific contribution to existing knowledge and culminating in a thesis and peer-reviewed publication.

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A relevant Masters degree is required **with an average of at least 65%**. Prospective students have to apply through the Student Service Centre (SSC, see Section 9 below). Applications are subject to a selection process taking into account, amongst others an applicant's previous academic performance and research outline as well as the departmental research focus areas and supervisory capacity.

3. GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH OUTLINE

A candidate's research outline (see the template in Section 12 below) is needed by the department to assess the feasibility of the planned research, and the availability of a supervisor. **What is the planned unique and scientific contribution suitable on PhD level?** It is not limited to but should at least cover the following:

- What are the research objectives?
- What is the gap in existing academic knowledge that this research will fill?
- What is **the planned unique and scientific contribution of the study?**
- Which data will be used to achieve the research objectives?

Naturally the outline will also include at least a short list of references. The research outline is to be sent to the programme coordinator before or concurrent with submitting an application to the SSC. Please note: **If the outline is more than 2000 words, it may perhaps be rejected immediately.** (See guidelines for the outline in Section 12 below).

4. CURRICULUM INFORMATION

- The PhD is conferred by virtue of a thesis and peer-reviewed publication.
- The research component weighs 100% towards the degree requirements.
- A compulsory module in Research Methodology must be completed.
- The head of department has the right to prescribe any additional modules/seminars.
- Regular personal contact is regarded as very important.
- The modules for the PhD are:
 - FBS 995: Thesis, Financial Management
 - FBS 884: Research Methodology

5. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Candidates with international degrees need to submit an accreditation certificate from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) when they apply. You can contact SAQA at www.saga.org.za. For other requirements regarding non-South African citizens (international students), please visit <https://www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division>.

6. FEES AND FUNDING

Please visit the Fees & Funding website at <https://www.up.ac.za/article/2749200/fees-and-funding>.

7. NATURE OF STUDY

Once an applicant's 2000 words research outline is accepted by the departmental Research Committee he/she can start preparing a more extensive 45-50 page research proposal. About six months later this proposal must be presented to the departmental Research Committee. As soon as this committee is satisfied with the **planned unique and scientific contribution of the study**, the student may formally enrol for PhD. Under the guidance of the supervisor the student completes the study, conforms to all scientific requirements including those of the Faculty's Ethics and Postgraduate Committees, and submits the thesis and concept articles for publication. The research component forms 100% of the

requirements for the degree. The degree is only completed once all requirements have been met.

8. DURATION OF STUDY

PhD studies must be completed within three years after the first registration for the degree. On the other hand, if a student's academic progress is not satisfactory, the Dean may, at any time and at the recommendation of the Postgraduate Committee, cancel a student's registration.

9. APPLICATIONS

Prospective students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible after applications open in March of the year preceding the study. Due dates for applications for the 2025 academic year are:

- 31 August 2024 for non-South African citizens.
- 30 September 2024 for South African citizens.

Only online applications are accepted. (Please visit <https://www.up.ac.za/online-application> for more detail or contact the SSC at ssc@up.ac.za).

10. PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

Prof Elda du Toit

Tel. +27 (0)12-420-3818

E-mail: elda.dutoit@up.ac.za

Candidates are encouraged to contact the programme co-ordinator **before** they apply.

11. OTHER ENQUIRIES

Additional information pertaining to the PhD degree appears in the postgraduate brochure of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.

Student Administration: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Ms Khomotso Matebane

Tel: +27 (0)12-420-5387

E-mail: khomotso.matebane@up.ac.za

Student Service Centre: University of Pretoria

Information regarding possible financial support, application forms, study fees, closing dates, postal address, etc.

Tel. +27 (0)12-420-3111

E-mail: ssc@up.ac.za

12. TEMPLATE FOR RESEARCH OUTLINE

See the **Research Outline Template** starting on the next page with the words “**Proposed title.**” Please follow this template closely.

PROPOSED TITLE

Type the proposed working title of your research project in capital letters in place of the words “PROPOSED TITLE” above. The title should be positioned horizontally (i.e., from left to right) and vertically (i.e., from top to bottom) in the middle of the page.

Name and Surname

MPhil or PhD Finance and Investment

Delete the contents of this page and all blue guiding text once you have read and checked your documents against the requirements outlined below. Your document should have the following basic format:

Paper size	A4
Font (body text)	Arial, 12pt
Line spacing (body text)	1½ spacing
Language setting	Use the English (South African) or English (UK) language settings in MS Word. DO NOT use the English (US) setting.
Length	1500 to 2000 words
Margins	
▪ Left & right	2 cm
▪ Top & bottom	2 cm
Heading numbering and format	As shown in document. Leave a blank line open before and after each heading.
Paragraph formatting	All paragraphs should be justified (i.e., the text should be aligned evenly along both the left and right margins to form a square box).
Page numbers	Bottom right-hand corner

1. Introduction and background

Provide context and background to your study by including a brief overview of the literature as a way to introduce and motivate your topic. Note that you need to add citations to support this section.

2. Problem statement

Provide a clear problem statement. Remember that a problem statement is a statement of fact, indicating the problem to be addressed to fill a gap in the body of knowledge. The fact that something has not been done before is not sufficient motivation.

3. Research objectives and/or questions

Provide research objectives that are the aims or goals of the research that address the the problem identified in the problem statement. This can be supplemented with research questions.

4. Research contribution

The contribution of the research is of utmost importance.

The **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)** degree generally requires a student to make a significant and original contribution to knowledge in their field. Some key aspects are making a substantial contribution to the academic field through original research, and demonstrating a deep understanding of the subject matter through a written dissertation. The level of contribution required for an MPhil typically involves originality and an independent investigation that adds to existing knowledge. The research should showcase critical analysis, innovation, and a comprehensive understanding of the topic or area of study.

A **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** degree is the highest academic qualification achievable and typically demands a substantial and original contribution to knowledge in a specific field. The work should display a profound understanding of the subject matter and demonstrate a high level of intellectual independence. The contribution expected for a PhD is considerably more substantial compared to a Master's degree. It should present original, innovative, and substantial findings that add new knowledge or perspectives to the field.

5. Data sources and methodology

The research outline must set out clearly what data is going to be used, and where the data will be obtained from. If the data source is not a licensed data provider, uncertainties with respect to data permissions should be clearly addressed. The broad research methodology also needs to be discussed.

References

Use APA 7th for citations and referencing.

Details are available at <https://apastyle.apa.org/>