We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the learning programme for doctoral degrees in the field of Management Sciences.

Applications are being accepted for the PhD in Public Administration and Management for students beginning study in January 2021. While most doctoral programmes on the continent follow a “one student one supervisor” approach, which includes mainly self-study, our programme includes one year of structured seminars at the University of Pretoria. Seminars include training in theory and the body of academic literature, and in quantitative and qualitative research methods. Seminars are led by globally renowned scholars from the University of Pretoria and leading international academic institutions. Note that all doctoral degrees offered by the SPMA in 2021 will follow this learning programme.

We are looking for outstanding students to join this innovative programme. Applicants must have excellent English writing skills and excellent maths ability, as students will be expected to write academic journal articles and perform quantitative statistical analyses as well as qualitative data analyses. Students will be required to attend compulsory seminars held at the University of Pretoria Hatfield campus over 16 weekends in 2021. These weekends will include full day Friday and full day Saturday seminars. It is expected that students will complete their degree in three years.

Our programme will make a substantial investment in the skills development of students. Thus, we are looking for self-motivated applicants who are interested in becoming scholars in South Africa or internationally. In deciding whether the School of Public Management and Administration is suitable for completing your doctoral studies, please consider your career goals, and also review the research interests of the faculty members in the School. Links to the research of the staff in the School of Public Management and Administration can be found here: https://www.up.ac.za/school-of-public-management-and-administration/article/42713/research-focus-areas

As a general recommendation, there should be a match between your particular research interests and those of the School. Please note supervisor capacity is limited. Only 7 students in total will be accepted for 2021 in the following thematic areas:
1. Gender Studies in Public Administration
2. Public Service Ethics
3. Public Service Innovation
4. Behavioural Public Administration
5. Food Security
6. Municipal Service Delivery
7. Public Policy

The application process is three tiered:
1. Apply to UP (online). Click here
2. Apply to the SPMA (Departmental application form). Click here
3. Selection will commence. Shortlisted candidates’ writing skills will be assessed and interviews will be conducted either in person or digitally.

Students with international qualifications need to take note of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) requirements as explained in the SPMA departmental application form.

Closing dates for all applications are for both international and South African citizens. Successful applicants will be notified no later than early November 2020.