

PhD specialising in Public Administration

Applications are now being accepted

Important web links: <http://www.up.ac.za/en/school-of-public-management-and-administration/article/42650/postgraduate>

We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the PhD specialising in Public Administration.

Applications are being accepted for the PhD specialising in Public Administration for the January 2026 intake. While most doctoral programmes on the continent follow a “one student, one supervisor” approach, which includes mainly self-study, our programme at the University of Pretoria includes six months of compulsory structured seminars. These seminars include: Advanced research methods; Experimental design; Advanced data analysis tools; Dissertation writing and academic publishing; Public Admin Theory; Public Sector Ethics and Networks; Behavioural Public Administration; Organisational structure; Comparative Public Administration; Public Sector Innovation and Digital Transformation.

Applicants must have excellent English writing skills and math’s ability, as students will be expected to write academic journal articles and perform quantitative statistical analyses and qualitative data analyses. Students must attend compulsory seminars held at the University of Pretoria Hatfield campus over 16 weekends in 2026. These weekends will include full-day Friday and full-day Saturday seminars and some weekdays. 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 seek self-motivated applicants 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 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 research interests and those of the school. Please note that supervisor capacity is limited.

The application process is three-tiered:

1. Apply to UP (online). [Click here](#)
2. Apply to the SPMA (Departmental application form). [Click here](#)
3. The SPMA Selection Committee will commence the selection process after the closing date of 30 September 2025.
4. Shortlisted candidates’ writing skills will be assessed, and interviews will be conducted 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.

The closing date for international citizens is 31 August 2025.

The closing date for South African citizens is 30 September 2025.

Successful applicants will be notified by November 2025 at the latest.