

## **PhD specialising in Public Policy**

### **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 accept applications for the PhD specialising in Public Policy.

Applications are being accepted for students beginning study in January 2026. While most doctoral programmes on the continent follow a “one student, one supervisor” approach, mainly self-study, our programme at the University of Pretoria follows a hybrid approach. These seminars cover a comprehensive range of topics, including Advanced Research Methods; Experimental Design and Advanced Data Analysis Tools; Dissertation Writing and Academic Publishing; Theoretical Perspectives of Public Policy; Advanced Public Policy Analysis; Economics and Public Policy; Governance and Public Policy and Leadership and Decision-Making.

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. Applicants must have excellent English writing skills and math ability, as students will be expected to write academic journal articles and perform quantitative statistical and qualitative data analyses. Requirements for this programme include academic qualifications as per the yearbook.

Weekly face-to-face seminars will be offered in the first 6 months of the first year of study and the last 6 months students will focus on defending their proposals. In the second and third years of study, students then focus on writing up their PhD theses. It is expected that students will complete their degrees in three years.

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 particular research interests and those of at least one of the school's staff.

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 online.

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.