

Basics for Prospective Doctoral or Master's Students at UP Philosophy

**Admissions requirements are straightforward: normally, your previous degree must have been in philosophy and you must have earned at least 65% (or international equivalent). Speak to the Master's and Doctorate Coordinator if you don't meet these requirements but are still interested.

**Master's dissertations are by research only (approx. 32,500 words) and take two years; PhD theses (approx. 75,000 words) are by research only and take three years. (The Department expects a Master's by coursework to be available only in 2024.)

**There is only full-time study; no part-time study is possible. Extensions are possible, but must be motivated and are not guaranteed. (However, if you knew early on what you want to do and found a willing supervisor now, you might be able to work informally with that person for the rest of this year, getting the proposal ready. Then, when you registered in January of next year, you would be ahead of things and presumably able to complete in the required time.)

**Distance (purely online/electronic) study is in principle possible, although it is not ideal. Normally the Department would expect an overseas student to be sure to engage with it and the field in other ways, to round out the student's education. This could mean visiting UP on occasion, consistently participating in online seminars, watching videos, organizing extra lectures.

**Applications are normally due in August or September; registration begins in January. Applications are done online [here](#), but should be submitted only after having first contacted a prospective supervisor/department and been encouraged to apply.

**Seek a potential supervisor prior to applying by writing up a short, two page proto-proposal that poses a question (or list of possible questions) you'd want to answer in your research (and, in the case of the PhD, why you think doing so would make an original contribution to the literature). Send that along with your cv, which should include prior degrees and marks, to the person you might like to supervise you (or to the Master's and Doctorate Coordinator, who can help you find a potential supervisor). If correspondence ensues, there is no obligation on either side to continue the relationship. If there is a match, then you would be encouraged to apply formally in August or so.

**Foreign students are most welcome, but can be enrolled for a programme only with the necessary verification of their prior degrees by the South African Qualifications Authority ([SAQA](#)). NB: This process may take more than six months, and so SAQA application should be done immediately if you have a non-South African prior degree and are interested in studying at a South African institution. Any foreign student wanting to enroll for a programme should contact the [International Office](#), which will assist such a student to acquire the necessary documentation to be allowed to study, including a visa. The International Office can also answer questions about the cost of living, medical aid, and other things related to relocating to South Africa.

**Fees are listed [here](#), and are approximately R20,000-R21,000 per year for South African residents. There are additional fees for international students, information about which is [here](#).

**Funding opportunities are listed [here](#) and [here](#). Regarding the UP bursaries, which at best cover your fees, it is not an application process, but a nomination process that is driven by budget availability. Ensure you read the conditions to understand the criteria applied.

**The UP Philosophy Master's and Doctorate Coordinator (for 2022): Professor Thaddeus Metz, th.metz@up.ac.za