



Doctoral candidate

**STEP 1:
Consider your topic**



This programme, as a most advanced level research-based course of study, requires that candidates are able to do original and advanced research on an issue or topic related to subjects, as set out above. The prospective doctoral student must also have reasonable certainty about a topic of sufficient interest to ensure motivated study. A desire to engage in doctoral study without knowing what you will research is inadequate. Therefore, decide on a topic by reading current publications and considering the academic and practice-related debates and also considering issues to which you will have reasonable access for research purposes. The topic may be work-related. Please do not select a topic that you are only vaguely familiar with or where you have no insight into the context. When considering your application, you must submit not only a convincing research proposal, but also your detailed curriculum vitae. Exposure to the context, design and methodology as well as the data suggested in your proposal will be an important consideration in evaluating your application.


**STEP 2:
Select a potential supervisor**



List of potential supervisors


Please consider the areas of research specialisation on offer from our list of potential supervisors. Select a supervisor with an area of research specialisation that matches your topic or corresponds relatively well with your chosen topic. Do not yet contact your preferred supervisor. This step will help you to decide whether the School of Public Leadership will be an appropriate home for this important endeavour you are embarking on. If we do not have a suitable supervisor, it might be advisable to consider another institution. You could visit the [TsamaHub](http://www.tsama.org.za) website (<http://www.tsama.org.za>) to consider its doctoral programme as an alternative if your research interest is in transdisciplinary studies relating to sustainability issues.

**STEP 3:
Prepare a draft proposal according to guidelines**



Develop a draft proposal based on the guidelines provided below. Although this is not the final proposal that you will submit to the Faculty Admission Committee, you must make an effort to prepare this draft in such a manner that it will convince your potential supervisor of your ability to follow a valid research process and write it up in a good-quality narrative.

Contact




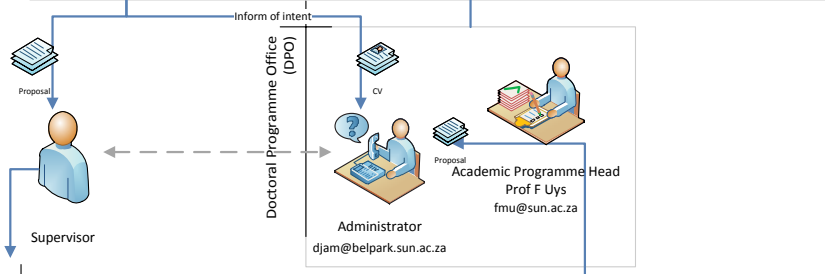
Proposal

Send your draft proposal as well as your comprehensive curriculum vitae to the preferred supervisor. Please cc [Mrs Riana Moore](#), our DPO administrator, when you do this. The preferred supervisor will consider your proposal and her or his capacity.

You will be informed formally by the DPO of the outcome of your application. We strive for a turnaround time of not more than one month after receiving your application, provided that the doctoral programme administrator has been included in your initial contact. If the draft proposal has been accepted by your preferred supervisor, she or he will start interacting directly with you to finalise the proposal for submission to a faculty admission committee consisting of three or more senior academics, of whom at least one is from an academic environment other than the SPL.

**STEP 4:
Make contact**






Decision taken

She or he may then take one of the following steps:

A (Accept) **B** (Merit referral) **C** (Not accepted)



A. Accept to be the supervisor for your research.

B. Forward the draft proposal to the academic programme head of the doctoral programme if she or he does not have the capacity or does not consider the draft proposal to adequately match her or his research specialities, but deems it to be of such relevance for the research mandate of the SPL that space should be created in the School to accommodate you. This option is the exception, because it indicates that we must be prepared to let go of other research commitments to accommodate yours.

C. Turn down the request to be your supervisor. Your request will still be forwarded to the academic programme head for consideration as a potential Option b application.

Registration

**STAGES:
Formal admission Process**

If your draft proposal was accepted, the final approval and administrative process to formalise your admission will commence concurrently with the finalisation of your proposal, as explained above. The doctoral programme administrator will provide you with the necessary information to formalise your application through the Office of the Registrar and submit a request for appointment of the Faculty Admission Committee to the Dean as chair of the Faculty Board. Once the Faculty Admission Committee has been appointed by the Faculty Board, your completed proposal will be circulated among Faculty Admission Committee members for further feedback. An admission meeting will be held where you can present your proposal either in person or through some other suitable process if travelling to Stellenbosch for such a meeting is not possible. Subsequent to the decision by the Faculty Admission Committee and any further adjustments required to the proposal, the final approval process will be completed with a submission to the Faculty Board and finally the SU Senate. Given the sensitivity of some research projects, the final approval process will include obtaining ethical clearance (see Guideline document for more detail on the process and documentation). Although the final approval process is lengthy and will not be finalised before Senate approval, it should not slow down the interaction between supervisor and candidate, ensuring that the research process continues.