

4.2.4 MPhil (Science and Technology Studies)

Programme Code

51225 – 899(180)

Specific Admission Requirements

- An appropriate Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma regarded by Senate as relevant for the Master's programme.
- An average final mark of at least 65% with demonstrated academic ability.

Closing Date for Applications

- South African students:
 - Apply by **30 September** of the preceding year.
- International students:
 - Apply by **31 August** of the preceding year.

Programme Structure

The one-year programme focuses on the social study of science and technology. It comprises three options:

- General;
- Research Management and Evaluation; and
- Science and Public Engagement.

You obtain the Master's degree after completion of eight modules of 15 credits each and a research assignment of 60 credits.

The "Science and Public Engagement" option in the MPhil programme focuses on the relationship between science and society from a "sociology of science" perspective. If you are interested in the study of science mass communication (including science journalism), contact the Department of Journalism for more information.

Duration of Programme

The programme extends over one academic year.

Programme Content

Compulsory Modules for all options

10279 : Sociology of Science	871(15)
10280 : Science Policy Themes	871(15)
12936 : Assignment (Science and Technology Studies)	871(60)

plus

Elective Modules for Option 1: General

Choose **six** of the following modules.

13320: Research Systems in Africa	871(15)
12938: Research Evaluation	871(15)
10284: Bibliometrics	871(15)
13530: Advanced Scientometrics	871(15)
13529: Research Uptake and Societal Impact	871(15)
10282: Science, Technology and Development	871(15)
10287: Science and its Publics	871(15)
13527: Scientific Communication	871(15)

Compulsory Modules for option 2: Research Management and Evaluation

13312: Research Management	871(15)
12938: Research Evaluation	871(15)
10284: Bibliometrics	871(15)
13530: Advanced Scientometrics	871(15)
13529: Research Uptake and Societal Impact	871(15)
13527: Scientific Communication	871(15)

Compulsory Modules for option 3: Science and Public Engagement

10284: Bibliometrics	871(15)
13529: Research Uptake and Societal Impact	871(15)
10287: Science and its Publics	871(15)
13527: Scientific Communication	871(15)
13525: Science Engagement in Society: Theory and Practice	871(15)
13526: Science Engagement in Society: Actors and Platforms	871(15)

Assessment and Examination

Structured coursework modules are assessed by means of tests, essays, reading assignments, group and individual participation, and practical assignments. The research assignment is assessed according to the standard procedures of the University.

Enquiries

Programme Leader: Prof N Boshoff
Tel: 021 808 3708 E-mail: scb@sun.ac.za

Website: www.sun.ac.za/crest

Postgraduate Programmes

For more information on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' postgraduate programmes, consult the University's Postgraduate Prospectus or the various departmental websites.

1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Special admission to the postgraduate programmes in the Faculty is available to you if you:

- were denied opportunities to formal learning environments earlier because of systemic or other limitations, but you can demonstrate that you can now participate at a particular level in such learning opportunities; or
- can receive retrospective recognition for them.

If you do not have a Bachelor's degree, you must follow the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedure for admission to a postgraduate diploma, Honours, MPhil or MA programme. Not all departments have the possibility of admission by means of the RPL procedure. A Bachelor's degree awarded by a university of technology or a private provider of higher education will be recognised only if your degree is registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the same level as the required university qualification.

Please note: It remains the responsibility of a Department to establish if your existing qualification is up to standard.

More details of the Faculty's RPL procedure are available from the Faculty Administrator, Arts and Social Sciences, in the Admin A building.

2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes

2.1 Postgraduate diploma

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least one year after obtaining an appropriate Bachelor's degree.
- b) The following postgraduate diplomas are only offered on a part-time basis over a residential period of two years:
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Knowledge and Information Systems Management
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Public Mental Health
- c) Admission requirements are determined according to your specific programme.
- d) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information on the admission requirements and programme contents of the specific postgraduate diploma you wish to follow.
- e) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.2 Honours degree programme

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least one year after obtaining an appropriate Bachelor's degree.
- b) You must follow the Honours degree programme in one of the major subjects of your Bachelor's degree.
- c) You will be admitted to the Honours degree programme if you –
 - have a Bachelor's degree that has been approved by Senate for this purpose;
 - have passed the subject at third-year/fourth-year level in which you want to take the Honours discipline; and
 - have achieved a final mark of at least 60% or more in the major.
- d) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information on the admission requirements and programme contents of the specific Honours degree programme you wish to follow.
- e) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.3 MA degree programme

- a) You can be considered for admission to the MA degree if you –
 - have an appropriate Honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have an appropriate postgraduate diploma approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have achieved a standard of proficiency in your specific field of study in another manner that Senate considers as adequate for this purpose and, upon written application, were admitted by the Executive Committee to the Master's programme concerned.
- b) As a MA student you follow an approved curriculum of research and/or advanced study of at least one year (after obtaining an appropriate Honours degree or postgraduate diploma) at this University or another institution approved by Senate.
- c) You must follow the MA degree programme in the same field as the postgraduate diploma or Honours degree.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.4 MPhil degree programme

- a) You can be considered for admission to the MPhil degree if you –
 - have an appropriate postgraduate diploma or Honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have achieved a standard of proficiency in your specific field of study in another manner that Senate considers as adequate for this purpose and, upon written application, were admitted by the Executive Committee to the MPhil programme concerned.
- b) As MPhil student you follow an approved curriculum of research and/or advanced study of at least one year (after obtaining an appropriate Honours degree or postgraduate diploma) at this University or another institution approved by Senate.
- c) Admission requirements for the MPhil degree are determined according to the specific programme.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.5 PhD degree programme

- a) You must, after consulting the departmental chairperson concerned, apply in writing for admission to doctoral study. In your written application you must mention the proposed title of the dissertation and the supervisor.
- b) You can obtain the guidelines for a doctoral research proposal or registration without an approved research proposal from the Faculty Administrator.
- c) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.6 DPhil degree programme

- a) The DPhil degree (an advanced doctorate) can be awarded to you if –
 - you have been registered at the University for at least one year, after obtaining the PhD degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University, or some other degree or qualification that Senate considers of adequate standard; and
 - a period of at least five years has elapsed since obtaining the PhD degree, or comparable qualification and the conferment of the DPhil degree.
- b) Enquiries regarding the DPhil degree can be addressed to the Faculty Administrator.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Arts and Social Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Arts and Social Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes**.