

Transdisciplinary doctoral programme focusing on complexity and sustainability studies

Admission requirements

The admission requirements of the Faculty where you are to be registered will apply (see “PhD programmes” above for the EMS Faculty’s PhD admission requirements).

Application procedure and research proposal

PhD study opportunities that arise within supervisory capacity and research focal areas of Complex Systems in Transition’s (CST) will be communicated on the CST website. If you have a research idea which is in line with CST’s research focal areas you may submit a one-page outline of your research idea and CV to the Centre by e-mail. If there is a possibility of conducting studies at the CST, a provisional supervisor will ask for a more detailed set of research ideas and set up a meeting with you. If your expression of interest passes this initial screening, you will liaise with your supervisor to prepare a doctoral research proposal. You will then present your proposal to a PhD Admissions Committee for evaluation. The usual criteria and processes of admission, registration and appointment of doctoral supervisor(s) of the faculty where you are to be registered will apply (the PhD guidelines of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences regarding these matters can be found on the Faculty website, www.sun.ac.za/ems, under “Prospective students”).

Duration of programme

- This is a full-time three-year programme.
- As far as practically possible, you will be located together with fellow students at the Complex Systems in Transition’s (CST) research commons so as to ensure maximum transdisciplinary synergy among students and supervisors.
- You will be allowed additional time to complete your dissertation, if necessary.

Interdepartmental and interfaculty collaboration

You may complete your studies in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, or in cooperation with departments in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, AgriSciences, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science and/or Theology.

You will receive the doctoral qualification of the faculty in which you are registered.

Programme description

The dissertation for this programme bears the full credit load of the programme. Non-credit-bearing short courses will be offered from time to time to support student development. These short courses are presented by international and local experts, in the areas of sustainability, transdisciplinary epistemology, methodology and methods, social-ecological systems, resilience and complexity theory. You are also encouraged to attend the Complex Systems in Transition’s (CST) postgraduate seminar series, which will afford you the opportunity to present and discuss your work in progress with fellow students and academics.

Assessment and examination

The usual examination procedures of the University and the faculty in which you are registered apply.

Enquiries

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