

5.2 PhD programmes

Admission requirements

To be admitted to a PhD programme:

- you must have a master's degree from a reputable university approved by Senate for this purpose, *or*
- you must have in some other manner attained a standard of competence in your field of study, which is deemed adequate by Senate for this purpose.

Contact the relevant environment (department, school or research body) for their specific requirements. You will find their contact details in the chapter "General Information", at the beginning of this book.

Also consult Part 1 (General) of the University Calendar and the Faculty's PhD guidelines for more on admission to the PhD. The Faculty's PhD guidelines can be found on our website, www.sun.ac.za/ems, under "Prospective students".

Application procedure and research proposal

Most of the environments in the Faculty offer a PhD programme. Please contact the relevant environment if you are interested in doing a PhD (contact details are in the chapter "General Information").

Once the suitability of your proposed study has been assessed by the head of the relevant environment, a supervisor(s) will be nominated to supervise your study. You will then work on a research proposal in consultation with your supervisor(s) and submit the proposal to the departmental admissions committee for approval. The admissions committee will make a recommendation to the Faculty Board who will make a recommendation to Senate for final approval. Once your proposal has been approved, you may formally register for the PhD programme.

See the Faculty's PhD guidelines for more detail regarding the process of initiating a PhD application and preparing your proposal, as well as more detail on the approval process. (Find the PhD guidelines at www.sun.ac.za/ems under "Prospective students".)

For the complete University provisions for the doctorate, including matters like the code of conduct regulating the relationship between students and their supervisors, continuation of registration, interruption of studies and failure to register, consult the relevant section in Part 1 of the University Calendar.

Duration of programme (minimum period of registration)

You must be registered formally for the PhD programme for at least **two** academic years before the PhD may be conferred on you (see Part 1 of the University Calendar, at 6.1 under "The Doctorate"). For more information on enrolment beyond two years, see the Faculty's PhD guidelines under "Prospective students" on our website.

Programme outcomes

You must conduct advanced, original research of a high quality in the area of Economic and Management Sciences or Administrative Sciences, which must be approved by the University. The work you submit must:

- be of a high standard,
- deal with a central theme, *and*
- demonstrate that you have, in the Senate's view, substantially contributed to enriching the knowledge in the field of Economics, Business Science or the Administrative Sciences (in other words, have made an original subject contribution). Senate acts on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, which is based on the decision of the Faculty's doctoral examination panel.

Assessment and examination

The examination process for all PhDs in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is handled entirely by the office of the Vice-Dean (Research). Consult the Faculty's PhD guidelines for Faculty-specific detail (under "Prospective students" at www.sun.ac.za/ems).

For the complete University provisions concerning matters like awarding the degree, dissertation regulations, the format of dissertations, fees payable, publication of dissertations and sensitive dissertations consult the section on the doctorate in Part 1 (General) of the University Calendar.

Submitting your doctoral dissertation

- You must submit all the required copies of your dissertation for examination around the **end of July or beginning of August** of a particular year, if you wish to graduate in December of that year; or around the end of September if you wish to graduate in March/April of the next year. Exact submission dates vary from year to year and are communicated to departments when they are available. Please ensure that you find out in time what they are.
- Your supervisor must inform the PhD coordinator in the office of the Vice-Dean (Research) at least two weeks before the deadline for submission that you are planning to submit your dissertation for examination.
- You must submit an electronic copy by the deadline, as well as a ring-bound, hard copy for each examiner who prefers this option.
- Your supervisor must confirm to the Vice-Dean (Research) that the appointed examiners are still available, together with a written confirmation that the dissertation is ready to be examined. Paragraph 1.5 in the Faculty's PhD guidelines explains the assessment to determine whether the dissertation is ready for examination. This assessment must include confirmation that the document has been language-edited by an accredited language editor and has been assessed for potential plagiarism using appropriate software.

Oral examination

- You must participate in an oral examination to the examiners' satisfaction who will advise the Faculty Board and Senate on the awarding of the degree. See Part 1 of the University Calendar and the Faculty's PhD guidelines for more detail on the oral examination.

Enquiries

Direct your enquiries about a PhD in a specific field to the relevant environment. You can find the necessary contact details in the chapter "General Information" at the beginning of this book.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2023 Economic Management Sciences Calendar (Yearbook). Make sure to consult the full [Economic Management Sciences Calendar](#) to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the Calendar under section ***1. General Information for all Postgraduate Programmes.***