

# Doctor of Philosophy

## *Specific admission requirements*

- You can be admitted to the degree PhD in Medical Sciences provided that:
  - a minimum period of two years has passed since obtaining the degree MBChB or BChD; or
  - you have obtained a relevant honours degree in Medical Sciences directly following an MBChB or BChD degree; or
  - you have obtained a master's degree in Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Nutrition/Dietetics, Physiotherapy, Speech-Language Therapy or Health Related and Social Sciences; or
  - you have obtained a relevant MSc degree (Master of Science) of the University, or another university approved by Senate; or
  - you have obtained another qualification (and have allowed for the required period following the qualification) that is deemed sufficient by Senate.
- You must comply with all the other provisions for doctorates, as stipulated under Postgraduate Qualifications in Part 1 (General) of the Calendar, as well as in the Briefing Document on D degrees.
- You can be admitted to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Health Professions Education (PhD in HPE) provided that:
  - you have obtained a relevant qualification in the Health Sciences and/or have relevant experience in the Health Sciences, and you have been awarded an M degree in Health Professions Education or Higher Education, or you have proven and relevant experience with educational research and/or relevant research in the social sciences; or
  - you have obtained another qualification (and have allowed for the required period following the qualification) that is deemed sufficient by Senate, and you have proven and relevant experience with educational research and/or relevant research in the social sciences.
- You can be admitted to the Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Research Ethics provided that:
  - you have obtained an MBChB degree or a basic degree in the Health Sciences, a master's degree in the field of Bioethics, the Health Sciences or a relevant field, and a postgraduate diploma in Applied Ethics or Health Research Ethics;
  - you have appropriate qualitative research experience in the field of Bioethics; and
  - you are working in a Health Sciences or Bioethics environment.

*Please note:* Admission requirements are subject to amendment based on new requirements of the Department of Higher Education and Training.

## *Application procedure and closing date*

You may apply online at [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com), but you must also request guidelines and other specific application forms from the Doctoral Office (Tygerberg Campus). On application for registration, you must provide the Doctoral Office with all application forms, accompanied by recently certified copies of certificates if previous qualifications were not obtained at Stellenbosch University.

### ***Duration of programme***

The maximum duration is five years. Your supervisor may submit an acceptable motivation for the extension of the period to the Committee for Postgraduate Research of the Faculty, at least six months prior to the expiry of the five years.

### ***Programme description***

The Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) can be obtained in the following disciplines of the Medical and Health Sciences:

- Anaesthesiology
- Anatomical Pathology
- Anatomy
- Audiology
- Chemical Pathology
- Clinical and Research Ethics
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Epidemiology
- Family Medicine
- Haematological Pathology
- Health Professions Education
- Health Sciences Rehabilitation
- Human Genetics
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Microbiology
- Medical Physics
- Medical Physiology
- Medical Virology
- Molecular Biology
- Morphological Sciences
- Neurosurgery
- Nuclear Medicine
- Nursing
- Nutritional Sciences
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- Occupational Therapy
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Otorhinolaryngology
- Paediatrics
- Pharmacology
- Physiotherapy
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

- Psychiatry
- Public Health
- Radiobiology
- Radiological Diagnosis
- Radiotherapy and Radio Isotopes
- Speech-Language Therapy
- Sport Psychology
- Sport Science
- Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Urology

### ***Assessment and examination***

- The PhD degree is awarded in recognition of high quality, original research and is conventionally assessed based on a dissertation.
- In addition a PhD degree may be obtained in an alternative way, namely primarily based on published scientific articles. However, it is not possible to obtain a PhD degree exclusively on the basis of published articles. More details regarding the different formats can be obtained from the Doctoral Office (Tygerberg Campus).
- With regard to the date of submission of the dissertation, the number of copies to be submitted, as well as the further requirements with which you have to comply in order to graduate, the general provisions for doctorates will apply as stipulated under Postgraduate Qualifications in Part 1 (General) of the Calendar, as well as in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences' guidelines document, General Information on Doctoral Studies, which is available at the Doctoral Office (Tygerberg Campus).
- The PhD degree is not regarded as basis for registration as a specialist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa or the South African Nursing Council, but can be registered as an additional qualification (Medical Sciences only).
- The PhD degree may be awarded to you:
  - after you have been registered for the PhD degree at the University for at least two academic years;
  - on the condition that – with the supervisor's consent – you give written notice to the Doctoral Office (Tygerberg Campus) of your intended submission date at least six months prior to the desired date of graduation;
  - based on a dissertation – under supervision by a supervisor – that covers a problem from an area in the Medical and Health Sciences or Health Professions Education (in the case of a PhD in HPE). The dissertation must provide proof to the satisfaction of the University of advanced, original work, which contributes to the enhancement of fundamental, theoretical and/or clinical knowledge in the particular field of research;
  - provided that the dissertation is accompanied by a statement confirming that it has not previously been submitted to another university or institution in order to obtain a degree or diploma, and that it is your own work; and
  - after you have passed an oral examination. An oral examination for the doctorate is a general requirement, apart from the advanced doctorates, but subject to the approval of Senate, exemption from this examination may be granted in specific cases based on sufficient motivation.