

Psychological factors contributing to students' completion of Master's degrees  
at a higher education institution in South Africa

by  
Sil Umko

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Social Sciences at Stellenbosch University*

Supervisor: Prof. Tom D Harry  
Co-supervisor: Dr Jan Alleman

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## Declaration

By submitting this thesis electronically, I declare that the entirety of the work contained therein is my own, original work, that I am the sole author thereof (save to the extent explicitly otherwise stated), that reproduction and publication thereof by Stellenbosch University will not infringe any third party rights and that I have not previously in its entirety or in part submitted it for obtaining any qualification.

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## **Abstract**

In her thesis guide for students, Prof. Nelleke Bak (2002) suggests that the abstract should “provide a crisp summary of what the thesis undertakes and what major conclusions are drawn. Someone reading the abstract must be able to form a fairly accurate impression of what is in the thesis.” She goes on to say that “as the abstract will be reproduced in various registers and publications (like *Dissertation Abstracts International*) available in libraries across the world, it is important that it should be accurate and well-written. A good abstract greatly improves the chances of a thesis being referred to by other scholars.”

Prof. Bak also says the following: “The abstract should reflect the balance of the thesis. You should not give much weight to what is a relatively minor part of the thesis, and you should give appropriate weight to an important part of your thesis. The abstract is written last, when you know exactly what the thesis covers and what its main conclusions are. Being thoroughly familiar with the work, you should be able to write it fluently and quickly. You may need assistance in translating your abstract. It is your responsibility to ensure that the translation is accurate, fluent, and grammatically correct” ([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275040616\\_Thesis\\_Guide](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275040616_Thesis_Guide)).

## **Opsomming**

All theses and dissertations at SU should have an English abstract and an Afrikaans abstract, or a second abstract in another suitable language\* in place of the Afrikaans abstract of no more than 500 words each. \*For example, where the thesis or dissertation is part of a joint degree where the joint institution's primary language is French, the second abstract may be in French.

## **Acknowledgements**

This is optional. You thank your supervisors and all others who supported you. You acknowledge if the research was funded by any organization – this is so that you can declare your interest. You mention if the work has been presented at any conference either orally or as a poster or has appeared in any publication. Give full details.

## **Dedications**

This is also optional if you would like to dedicate your work to someone or the memory of someone (quite personal).

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## List of Abbreviations

If applicable

## **Glossary**

(Optional)

A glossary contains brief explanations of words within a certain topic or field of research. The entries are arranged alphabetically and will typically include terms that are uncommon, specialized or newly introduced into a field.

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

