

3.18.6 PhD (Visual Arts)

Programme Code

59846 – 978(360)

Specific Admission Requirements

An MA degree in Fine Arts or MA degree in Visual Studies or an acceptable equivalent qualification regarded by the Senate as adequate for admission to the programme that provides evidence of the ability to conduct advanced independent research.

Details of the selection process is available from the Department.

Closing Date for Applications

Apply by **30 November** of the preceding year.

Programme Structure

Doctoral degrees in the arts are research degrees culminating in a dissertation. The study as a whole can consist of theoretical work or it can be the results of an integrated study of the creative processes and theoretical work which are reported in a dissertation. The unique nature of the integrated option is derived from the coherence and interdependency of the study of the creative process and theoretical dimensions of the research leading to an original contribution to knowledge and insight into the arts.

You must present your research for comment on a regular basis. You must, from time to time, present papers dealing with your research at seminars for informal discussion.

Programme Content

Compulsory Module

59846 : Visual Arts	978(360)
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Assessment and Examination

A dissertation that is assessed according to the regulations of Stellenbosch University. You must do an oral examination in addition to the dissertation. Also consult Yearbook Part 1 (General Rules) on doctoral studies.

The dissertation must comprise a minimum of 50 000 words. All the material presented for the dissertation, including the creative work where applicable, is assessed as a whole by the examiners appointed according to the normal procedures of the University.

Enquiries

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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**.