

## 3.7 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Engineering Faculty

### 3.7.1 Admission requirements and continued admission after your first year of study

To be considered for admission to the PhD-programme you must:

- hold at least an MScEng, MSc, MEng, or MTech degree, all with a significant research component; *or*
- have reached (in another manner) a standard of competence in your field of study which is deemed sufficient for this purpose by the Senate.

Also refer to the postgraduate admission model in Figure 3.1 in Section 3.2 near the beginning of this chapter.

Within your first year of PhD studies, you must get permission to continue your registration. To get this permission you must:

- complete a formal assessment of your research proposal to the satisfaction of the Faculty Board (please refer to the Faculty's "Postgraduate Processes for the Faculty of Engineering"; see Section 1.6 for access details); *and*
- after completing this assessment, receive the Faculty Board's approval of your dissertation topic and supervisor(s).

### 3.7.2 Selection

Irrespective of the admission requirements above, you must be selected for the PhD programme by the home department of the relevant field of study.

### 3.7.3 Application procedure

You must apply for admission as a PhD student on the University's online application portal: [www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/apply](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/apply). Provide the information as required on the portal, which will include the following:

- your contact information,
- qualifications you have already completed (also provide certified copies of these qualifications if you did not obtain them from Stellenbosch University),
- the date you intend to begin your PhD studies,
- the name of a supervisor and, if applicable, the names of one or more co-supervisors.

### 3.7.4 Duration and periods of enrolment

Table 3.1 in Section 3.4.1 earlier in this chapter shows the minimum, normal and maximum time available to you to complete your PhD studies as a full-time or part-time student. Many full-time PhD students complete the programme in three academic years by starting in February of the first year and receiving the degree in March of the fourth year.

### 3.7.5 Programme composition and requirements for obtaining the PhD degree

The PhD programme comprises 360 credits of research on NQF level 10 that leads to a dissertation.

The University can award the PhD degree to you if you have, in addition to meeting the minimum registration requirements:

- done original research in the field of engineering sciences:
  - under the supervision of a supervisor; and
  - to the satisfaction of the University.

- submitted a satisfactory dissertation which in the Senate's view shows that:
  - you have made a specific contribution that enriches knowledge in the particular subject area, and
  - that you have exhibited independent critical judgement.

Also note that along with the dissertation you must submit a declaration stating that the dissertation has not already been submitted at another university for the purpose of obtaining a degree, and that it is your own work.

- satisfactorily completed an oral examination, except in special circumstances where the Senate has approved exemption from the oral examination; and
- submitted proof at your oral examination that you have already submitted a journal article to a journal of acceptable standard. The article must report the research of your dissertation. If the dissertation is classified as confidential or secret, you must submit the journal article to the examination committee at the oral examination.

You must normally be present at your host department when the oral examination is conducted.

Details about the examination process are given in the Faculty's "Postgraduate Processes for the Faculty of Engineering" (Section 1.6 above indicates how to access this document).

### 3.7.6 Submitting your dissertation for examination

The examination is arranged according to the procedures given in the Faculty's "Postgraduate Processes for the Faculty of Engineering" (Section 1.6 above indicates how to access this document).

If you want to graduate at the **December graduation** ceremony, you must submit your dissertation for final examination on or before **1 August**, unless your home department specifies differently. For the **March graduation** ceremony, you must submit your dissertation on or before **1 November**, unless your home department specifies differently.

As a PhD candidate you must get written permission from your supervisor(s) to submit your dissertation for examination.

You can submit your dissertation in any of the formats described in the relevant section of the chapter "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 of the Yearbook. The requirements regarding the number of copies you must submit, as well as the other requirements you must meet before the degree can be awarded to you, are set out in the same chapter.

If your dissertation contains research in the form of published and/or unpublished articles:

- it should at least contain:
  - an introductory overview,
  - an overview of the dissertation's structure with a summary of the most important results,
  - conclusions that detail the originality and importance of the research, and
  - recommendations that explain the basis of future work;
- it may only present research if the research work and the originality of the research are substantially your own work. For each article, the dissertation must include a declaration in which you indicate your contribution to the article in the format prescribed in the relevant section of the chapter "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 of the Yearbook.

## Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 Engineering Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full *Engineering* 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.***