

## 5.4 Doctoral degrees

### 5.4.1 Doctor of Philosophy

#### Specific admission requirements

- You can be admitted to the degree PhD in the Faculty 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 Rules) of the Yearbook, as well as in the General Information on Doctoral Studies in the Faculty, which can be obtained from the Tygerberg Doctoral Office ([tyg-phd@sun.ac.za](mailto:tyg-phd@sun.ac.za)), and the Briefing Document on D degrees.
- You can be admitted to the Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics provided that:
  - you have obtained a master's degree in the field of Biometry, Biostatistics, or Statistics, or a relevant field that is deemed appropriate by Senate.
- 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.
- You can be admitted to the Doctor of Philosophy in Sport Psychology provided that:
  - you are registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA); and
  - you have obtained a master's degree in Psychology (Counselling, Clinical, Educational or Industrial Psychology); or
  - you have obtained a Sport Science qualification and/or other qualification deemed to be adequate for admission to the programme.
- You can be admitted to the Doctor of Philosophy in Sport Science provided that:
  - you have obtained a master's degree in Sport Science from this University;
  - you have obtained another master's degree approved for such purpose by Senate; or
  - you have attained in some other manner a standard of competence in your particular field of

study deemed adequate by Senate for admission to the programme.

- After having consulted with the departmental chair, you apply for admission in writing. State the proposed dissertation topic, supervisor and places of study.
- Selection rests with the academic environment and the infrastructure and capacity of the environment are also taken into account.

*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

Applications may be submitted throughout the academic year. You are encouraged to identify a potential supervisor for your research before submitting a formal application. You may apply online at [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com), but you must also request guidelines and other specific forms from the Tygerberg Doctoral Office ([tyg-phd@sun.ac.za](mailto:tyg-phd@sun.ac.za)). On application for registration and for the duration of your studies, you must provide the Tygerberg Doctoral Office with all necessary documents.

## Duration of programme

The programme will normally require three to four years of fulltime studies. The minimum duration is two years and 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 this period.

## Programme description

The programme requires completion of a written research dissertation worth 360 credits at NQF level 10. The Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) can be obtained in the following disciplines of the medical and health sciences:

Discipline	Programme contact	Email	Telephone
Anaesthesiology (10448-988)	Prof S Chetty	<a href="mailto:seanchetty@sun.ac.za">seanchetty@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9226
Anatomical Pathology (10391-988)	Dr M Sanderson	<a href="mailto:msanders@sun.ac.za">msanders@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 5309
Anatomy (12558-978)	Dr N Rampf	<a href="mailto:nrampf@sun.ac.za">nrampf@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9418
Audiology (46248-978)	Dr S de Klerk	<a href="mailto:sdk@sun.ac.za">sdk@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9494
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (14166-979)	Prof G van der Spuy	<a href="mailto:gvds@sun.ac.za">gvds@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9947
Biostatistics (10408-978)	Dr I Maposa	<a href="mailto:imaposa@sun.ac.za">imaposa@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9007
Chemical Pathology (11622-988)	Prof A Zemlin Prof MJ Kotze	<a href="mailto:azemlin@sun.ac.za">azemlin@sun.ac.za</a> <a href="mailto:maritha@sun.ac.za">maritha@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 4107 021 938 5328
Clinical and Research Ethics (13984-978)	Ms N Cengiz	<a href="mailto:ncengiz@sun.ac.za">ncengiz@sun.ac.za</a>	021 927 7047
Dermatology (11738-988)	Dr W Visser	<a href="mailto:wvisser@sun.ac.za">wvisser@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9322
Emergency Medicine (12333-988)	Dr N van Hoving	<a href="mailto:nvhoving@sun.ac.za">nvhoving@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9804
Epidemiology (40037-978)	Prof P Nyasulu	<a href="mailto:pnyasulu@sun.ac.za">pnyasulu@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9973
Family Medicine (48763-988)	Prof R Mash	<a href="mailto:rm@sun.ac.za">rm@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9170/ 9620
Haematological Pathology (47090-988)	Dr C Swanepoel	<a href="mailto:carmens@sun.ac.za">carmens@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 4103/ 9089
Health Professions Education (11448-978)	Dr M Volschenk	<a href="mailto:mvolschenk@sun.ac.za">mvolschenk@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9447
Health Sciences Rehabilitation (65803-978)	Prof LY Ned	<a href="mailto:lieketseng@sun.ac.za">lieketseng@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9615
Human Genetics (47295-978)	Mr K Claasen	<a href="mailto:mbhgapapplications@sun.ac.za">mbhgapapplications@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9400
Internal Medicine (14974-988)	Prof H Reuter	<a href="mailto:hr@sun.ac.za">hr@sun.ac.za</a>	021 938 9044

Discipline	Programme contact	Email	Telephone
Medical Microbiology (43737-978)	Dr M Newton-Foot	maen@sun.ac.za	021 938 4009
Medical Physics (13269-978)	Prof C Trauernicht	cjt@sun.ac.za	021 938 6027
Medical Physiology (13072-978)	Prof H Strijdom	jgstr@sun.ac.za	021 938 9387
Medical Virology (43745-978)	Prof C de Beer	cdeb@sun.ac.za	021 938 9453
Molecular Biology (11042-978)	Mr K Claasen	mbhgapplications@sun.ac.za	021 938 9400
Morphological Sciences (64874-978)	Dr N Rampf	nrampf@sun.ac.za	021 938 9418
Neurosurgery (3220-988)	Prof AJ Vlok	ianvlok@sun.ac.za	021 938 9265
Nuclear Medicine (38792-978)	Prof J Warwick	jw@sun.ac.za	021 938 4352
Nursing (20966-978)	Prof P Jordan	pjordan@sun.ac.za	021 938 9760
Nutritional Sciences (39950-978)	Prof XM Mbhenyane	xgm@sun.ac.za	021 938 9135
Obstetrics and Gynaecology (16594-988)	Prof MH Botha	mhbotha@sun.ac.za	021 938 9209
Occupational Therapy (10464-978)	Dr S de Klerk	sdk@sun.ac.za	021 938 9017
Ophthalmology (17159-988)	Prof L Visser	lindav@sun.ac.za	021 938 9552
Orthopaedic Surgery (17396-988)	Dr M Burger	mcburger@sun.ac.za	021 938 9268/ 9266
Otorhinolaryngology (17183-988)	Tygerberg Doctoral Office	tyg-phd@sun.ac.za	021 938 9813
Paediatrics (17450-988)	Prof R van Toorn	vtoorn@sun.ac.za	021 938 9506
Pharmacology (12823-978)	Prof E Decloedt Prof T Kellermann	ericdecloedt@sun.ac.za tkellermann@sun.ac.za	021 938 9045
Physiotherapy (13110-988)	Prof D Ernstzen	dd2@sun.ac.za	021 938 9300
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (22950-988)	Prof N Kairinos	kairinos@sun.ac.za	021 938 9585
Psychiatry (18031-988)	Prof S Seedat	sseedat@sun.ac.za	021 938 9227
Public Health (13094-988)	Prof R English	renglish@sun.ac.za	021 938 9566
Radiobiology (11082-978)	Prof JM Akudugu	jakudugu@sun.ac.za	021 938 9942
Radiological Diagnosis (18082-988)	Prof RD Pitcher	pitcher@sun.ac.za	021 938 5622
Radiotherapy and Radio Isotopes (10004-978)	Dr H Burger	henrietteburger@sun.ac.za	021 938 5992
Speech-Language Therapy (54607-978)	Dr B Gerber	berna@sun.ac.za	021 938 9494
Sport Psychology (42935-978)	Prof HW Grobbelaar	hgrobbelaar@sun.ac.za	021 808 4771
Sport Science (42935-978)	Prof R Lamberts	roblam@sun.ac.za	021 808 9085
Surgery (11673-988)	Prof J Lubbe	jal@sun.ac.za	021 938 9271
Thoracic Surgery (20761-988)	Prof JT Janson	jjanson@sun.ac.za	021 938 9432

Discipline	Programme contact	Email	Telephone
Urology (20818-988)	Prof A van der Merwe	arvdm@sun.ac.za	021 938 9094

## 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 on the basis of published articles. More details regarding the different formats can be obtained from the Tygerberg Doctoral Office.
- 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 Rules) of the Yearbook, as well as in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences' guidelines document, General Information on Doctoral Studies, which is available from the Tygerberg Doctoral Office.
- 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 Tygerberg Doctoral Office 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.

## Enquiries

Tygerberg Doctoral Office  
 Tel: 021 938 9813 Email: [tyg-phd@sun.ac.za](mailto:tyg-phd@sun.ac.za)

Website: <http://www.sun.ac.za/fmhsdoctoraloffice>

# Postgraduate programmes

For more specific information on the Faculty's postgraduate programmes, consult the University's webpage on Postgraduate Studies (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/>) or the various departmental websites.

## 1. Programme offering

The following postgraduate diploma and degree programmes are presented by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences:

Postgraduate Diplomas	Abbreviation
Postgraduate Diploma in Addiction Care	PG Dip (Addiction Care)
Postgraduate Diploma in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies	PG Dip (Disability and Rehabilitation Studies)
Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine	PG Dip (Family Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care Management	PG Dip (Health Care Management)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics	PG Dip (Health Research Ethics)
Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases	PG Dip (Infectious Diseases)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Toxicology	PG Dip (Medical Toxicology)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medicines Development	PG Dip (Medicines Development)
Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine	PG Dip (Occupational Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Medicine	PG Dip (Rural Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery	PG Dip (Specialist Nursing/Midwifery)
Honours Degrees	Abbreviation
Bachelor of Science Honours	BScHons
Master's Degrees	Abbreviation
Master of Addiction Care	MAddiction Care
Master of Audiology	MAud
Master of Global Surgery	MGlobalSurg
Master of Human Rehabilitation Studies	MHumRehab
Master of Medicine	MMed
Master of Nursing	MNurs
Master of Occupational Therapy	MOccTher
Master of Pathology	MPath
Master of Philosophy	MPhil
Master of Physiotherapy	MPhysio
Master of Public Health Nutrition	MNutr in Public Health
Master of Science	MSc
Master of Speech-Language Therapy	MSpeech
Master of Therapeutic Nutrition	MTherNutr
Doctoral Degrees	Abbreviation
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD
Doctor of Science	DSc

## 2. Commencement of postgraduate studies

As postgraduate student you must register for your particular programme at the start of the academic year. The only programmes that still take on students at the start of the second semester are MMed programmes. If you are accepted for an MMed programme, you will be able to register at the start of the second semester. You can submit a request for exclusion from this rule to the Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, with special motivation.

### **3. Recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer (RPL&CAT)**

Consult the RPL&CAT guidelines of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for more information on the procedures and guidelines regarding the recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer in the Faculty. These guidelines are available at [www.sun.ac.za/tygststudentadmin](http://www.sun.ac.za/tygststudentadmin) under "Policies and Guidelines".

### **4. Class fees**

From 2010 class fees for all structured M degree programmes will be levied per module. Until further notice the class fees for MMed programmes will be levied per annum, as in the past, with the exception of the class fees for the MMed (Fam Med) programme which will be levied per module.

The class fees for the research modules within the structured M degree programmes will be spread over two years (70% of the class fees in the first year of registration and 30% in the second year) to prevent you from having to pay the full amount for two consecutive years. If you complete your research module within one year of study, you will therefore pay only 70% of the class fees for the specific module. But if you fail to complete the research module within the prescribed two years, you will pay, as of the third year of study, the full amount for the module.

If you register for a research master's degree, you must pay the full amount in the first year of study with a continuation levy in the second and third year. However, in the fourth and following years of study the continuation levy will double.

### Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Medicine and Health 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 **1. Programme offering**.