



AFRICA CENTRE For HIV/Aids Management

INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

NOTES:

1. Incomplete, hand-written and/or late applications will NOT be considered.
2. After the initial screening of applications, a short list of successful candidates will be selected.
3. Unsuccessful candidates will be informed in writing.
4. Successful candidates will be invited to further submit a comprehensive research proposal to the Centre's admissions committee for review. The Centre reserves the right to invite successful candidates for an interview with the Centre's admissions committee for a defence of the research proposal.

PLEASE NOTE: THE MPhil PROGRAMME IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE DUE TO LIMITED ADMISSION SPOTS AVAILABLE!

SECTION 1: NAME AND CONTACT OF APPLICANT

Surname: _____ First names: _____
Cell number: _____ Email: _____

SECTION 2: ACADEMIC HISTORY

SU APP/ID: APP/ _____ Student number: _____

Did you complete the PGDip in HIV/Aids Management offered by Africa Centre? Yes No

SECTION 3: CONCEPT NOTE ON PROPOSED TOPIC

Please provide a concept note of **no more than 5 pages (2000 words)** about a research topic you would like to pursue for the research component of the MPhil. **See Appendix A for concept note guidelines.**

SECTION 4: DECLARATION

I HEREBY DECLARE -

1. That **ALL ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION** required in terms of the Instructions and Application Procedure, as described on the front page of this application form, **IS INCLUDED** with this application and that I am aware of and accept the fact that **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**
2. That the information submitted with this application is true and accurate.
3. That Stellenbosch University may cancel my registration immediately should it become apparent that any information submitted with this application is untrue, inaccurate, or intended to mislead.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

APPENDIX A: Guidelines to preparing a concept note.

Consider the following guidelines to structure your concept note.

1. **Research topic title**
2. **Reasons for selecting this topic and experience** in this field.
3. **Background/rationale:** Give an introduction of the topic to enable the reader to contextualize it.
4. **The research problem, aim, and objectives:**
 - What is it that you do not know? What is the knowledge gap?
 - What do you want to study (unit of analysis) and to what purpose?
 - It is advisable to have one overarching **aim** that the study sets out to achieve, which can then be broken down into two or three specific research **objectives**
5. **Research question(s):** What is it that you are trying to find out?
6. The preliminary **literature study:**
 - Provides the background to your study.
 - What are the key publications relevant to your proposed topic/ study?
 - How are you going to structure your literature review?
7. **Research methods: approach, design and data collection:**
 - **Approach:** Quantitative, qualitative or both: it must align with your research question. What specific research design will you use?
 - **Method(s) for collecting data:** How are you going to get your data? What sampling method will you choose? Your data needs to be accessible and there needs to be a limit on how much data you're going to collect.
 - **Method(s) for analyzing data:** What are you going to do once you have your data? How are you going to get something meaningful out of your data?
8. **Justification for the study:** Why should it be done? Who will be interested in the results of your study? How are your results going to change policy, practice or both?

For applicants who have done the Africa Centre PgDip, please note that the assignment submitted for the Research Methodology module of Course 6 of the PGDip (HIV/AIDS) Programme will not suffice as concept note. As communicated to PGDip students, the evaluation criteria for the assignment submitted for the Research Methodology module of Course 6 of the PGDip (HIV/AIDS) Programme did not take into account whether the proposed research topic is viable or whether it will be sufficient as a proper research project at MPhil level.