

Shaping Executive Minds in Africa

*PhD in Economic and Management
Sciences with Business Administration*



OVERVIEW

The PhD programme (PhD in Economic and Management Sciences with Business Administration: Qualification Code 5CAR12, Curriculum Code E901P, Module Code DBAA971) of the NWU Business School is a research-based doctoral degree offered at NQF Level 10. It is expected of prospective candidates to demonstrate experience, enthusiasm, research expertise, control of and focus on the topic and field of study during their master's study before they are to enrol in this doctoral programme. The NWU Business School's selection process is transparent and seeks exceptional research candidates who can contribute to the improvement of the Business School's research outputs and can make a theoretical and practical contribution to the field of business studies.

The PhD programme at the NWU Business School follows a two-phase approach: (1) a selection workshop by the Scientific Committee (SC) for admission into the programme, and (2) once admitted students are expected to pay their registration fees and register between January and March 31st of each year. Following registration, students are to (a) present a full proposal at a PhD Colloquium in their first year; (b) complete and present methodology at a colloquium in their second year; (c) complete and present results and findings at a colloquium in their third year; and (d) submit the final thesis for examination. We allocate the most relevant and highly experienced promoters and co-promoters to our admitted students, who are sourced from within the school and from relevant industries so that there is a blend of theory and practice in the learning process.

At the NWU Business School, we are committed to providing our students with a world-class education that prepares them for success in the global business landscape. We invite you to join us and take the first step towards a brighter future.

APPROVAL OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Approval of the PhD study programme and the procedure that must be followed take place in terms of general academic rule A.5.3 **Completion requirements for a doctoral degree**. The study programme must, to the satisfaction of the Director of post-graduate studies/Business School scientific committees (General Management, Corporate governance, technology, economics, finances, and People's Management Scientific Committees), contribute to the research programme(s) of the University, as determined by the different research focus areas/units. All PhD students are required to submit at least one article in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)-accredited journals and provide proof with final submission for examination.

In the case of an article format thesis, a minimum of three published OR publishable articles should be presented, or which at least one must have been submitted and accepted by an editor of an accredited DHET journal for graduation.

OUR PHD HUB

Aligned with the Business School's vision of shaping executive minds in Africa, we are proud to introduce our PhD Hub – a strategic project aimed at establishing and developing PhD students and increasing PhD supervisory capacity across Africa. This PhD Hub will target industry leaders and students in Africa who wish to study for a doctoral degree in business management and scholars who aspire to pursue a PhD in Business Administration. Additionally, it will provide a platform for promoters and supervisors from African universities to enhance their skills in PhD supervision. This initiative represents a significant step towards fostering academic excellence and leadership throughout Africa.



A WORD FROM THE CHIEF DIRECTOR

At the NWU Business School, our vision is clear: to shape executive minds in Africa. We are committed to nurturing leaders who not only excel in their respective fields, but also possess the vision, integrity and commitment to drive positive change across the African continent.

Our focus extends beyond conventional business education to cultivating a new generation of executives who are deeply attuned to the unique challenges and opportunities of the dynamic African business landscape.

Research lies at the heart of our mission, driving progress and innovation. We believe that research should not exist in isolation but should have tangible impacts on the real world. Our focus is on conducting research that addresses pressing business and social challenges, generating insights and solutions that can be applied in practice. We focus on impactful research themes that challenge the status quo and aim at tangible outcomes.

This involves an immersive research environment where you will be encouraged to engage with real-world business and social issues, developing solutions that are applicable and measurable in their scope of impact.

In doing so, we contribute not only to academic knowledge, but also to the betterment of industries, economies and communities.

Join us at the NWU Business School and become part of a dynamic community dedicated to driving positive change and making a meaningful impact in Africa and beyond.



Sincerely,

***Prof Joseph Sekhampu
Chief Director***



OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The NWU Business School commits to distinguished research scholarship aligned with the Principle of Responsible Management in Education (PRME). The school subscribes to the promotion of innovative research work in Business Integrity, Ethical Leadership, Management, and New Venture Creation (Entrepreneurship) which in turn subscribes to the promotion of internationally competitive research in Business Management and Administration.

This is to ensure that the NWU Business School can remain competitive in a globally competitive research environment. Our commitment to research is aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), alongside an African and South African imperative to encourage more postgraduate studies in the field of Business Management and Administration (PhD graduates). We aim to increase the production of traditional research outputs (as defined by peer-reviewed, accredited articles, books, chapters in books and conference proceedings) and to expand joint (collaborative) research projects in the field of business management and administration, as well as funded research projects, in order to ensure the sustainability of the School's research unit.

As the PhD Programme Manager and Research Chair, the above summary represents our vision for the future. We are committed to providing quality service and customer care for our PhD students.



Sincerely,

Prof Joseph Lekunze
PhD Programme Leader



PHD PROGRAMME MANAGER & PHD HUB COORDINATOR

As the NWU Business School, we envision being a globally recognised hub for transformative research, innovation and leadership development in Africa. We strive to cultivate a world-class academic environment where PhD candidates engage in cutting-edge research that shapes the future of business, policy and society. By fostering a culture of intellectual rigor, interdisciplinary collaboration and ethical leadership, we aim to produce thought leaders and change-makers who drive impactful solutions to complex global challenges. Through strong industry partnerships, technological integration and a commitment to sustainability, we seek to bridge the gap between theory and practice, ensuring our graduates emerge as pioneers in their respective fields.

At the core of our vision is an unwavering commitment to excellence, diversity and innovation. We aspire to attract and nurture a diverse community of scholars who challenge conventional wisdom and contribute groundbreaking insights that redefine business management and leadership paradigms. By providing a dynamic and inclusive research ecosystem with access to world-class faculty, state-of-the-art resources and global networking opportunities, we empower PhD candidates to push the boundaries of knowledge and lead with purpose. Our ultimate goal is to position our Business School as a premier institution in Africa and beyond that not only shapes the future of business education but also drives meaningful economic and societal progress on a global scale.



Yours Sincerely,

Prof Emmanuel Mutambara
PhD Programme Manager & PhD Hub Coordinator

APPLICATION PROCESS

*PhD in Economic and Management
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DBAA971: Module Code

E901P : Curriculum Code

5CAR12 : Qualification Code

1

STEP 1

Carefully read through the brochure for doctoral applicants.

2

STEP 2

You should apply online. <https://studies.nwu.ac.za/studies/apply>.

3

STEP 3

The following supporting documents should accompany your application form (South African citizens and Non-South African citizens):

- A certified copy of your SA ID document (or your passport if you are an international student).
- Certified copies of academic transcripts of all qualifications obtained from other tertiary education institutions.
- Certified copies of all certificates/diplomas/degrees from other tertiary institutions.
- All candidates with a non-South African qualification (foreign certificate) must attach a SAQA Evaluation Certificate from the South African Qualification Authority.

Applicants should submit a concept proposal (see Appendix 1) that should be sent to the appropriate Scientific Committee of the Business School for the selection and allocation of an appropriate study leader.

APPLICATION DATES

Applications are open from 1 April - 30 Sept each year.

APPLICATION SCREENING PROCESS

Screening of applications will be conducted continually throughout the designated period, with frequent updates provided to prospective candidates. Applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements will be automatically rejected by the system and receive automated feedback. Rejected applicants will have the opportunity to enrol in Business School bridging courses to enhance their research skills, should they be interested.

Applicants who meet the minimum requirements will be notified and invited to present a concept proposal at the Business School in October for final acceptance into the programme.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The University Higher Degree Administration (HDA) will confirm all applications received. Incomplete applications will not be submitted into the system until all outstanding documents have been received.

SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1

The research ability of the student must be to the satisfaction of the school director/scientific committee members and the director of the research area/unit. Students whose abilities in research methods are deemed inadequate by the school director/scientific committee members and research director will only be accepted into a PhD programme after successfully completing the Faculty's short course in research methodology.

2

The PhD programme in Economic and Management Sciences with Business Administration is a part-time programme and students are registered on a part-time basis after they have been accepted by the Business School Scientific Committee (SC) or the Faculty.

3

A student must have a **SAQA-approved master's/MBA degree** in the field of commerce, business management, business administration, or the status of any relevant and applicable master's degree in the field of business administration, as approved by the faculty's board and senate at **NQF Level 9**.

4

The study field must be approved by the relevant school director and research director.

5

The student must at least pass the research component (Research module + Mini/Full Dissertation) of the above-mentioned master's degree with an average of at least 65%.

6

In case the candidate did a master's by dissertation only, the final mark of the overall degree average must be above 65%.

7

The final number of admitted applicants into our PhD programme for an academic year is guided by the number of PhD students who graduated in the previous year (e.g., if 10 graduated in 2023, then only 10), the availability of promoters (supervisors) and capacity.

PAYABLE FEES

Please contact the Student Fees & Debtors Office for any financial enquiries.

Tel: 018 389 2410 / 2478 / 2020 / 2503 / 2516 (Mahikeng)

Tel: 018 299 2667 / 2668 / 2669 / 2670 / 2671 / 2672 / 2673

(Potchefstroom and Vaal)

E-mail: MC-studyfees@nwu.ac.za / pc-studyfees@nwu.ac.za

Bursaries

Enquiries with regard to bursaries may be directed to Financial Support Services.

Tel: 018 389 2521 / 018 299 2045/6 / 016 910 3157

E-mail: MC-PostGradBurs@nwu.ac.za / VC-PostGradBurs@nwu.ac.za

The University's target date to pay out all academic, arts, culture, leadership as well as support bursaries is the end of March, and no bursary will be paid out earlier.

DURATION

The minimum duration of the PhD study is two years and the maximum duration is four years, taken from the date of first registration (proof of registration) as a PhD candidate for this programme.

ENQUIRIES

Prof Emmanuel Mutambara

PhD Programme Manager

Emmanuel.Mutambara@nwu.ac.za

Contact persons

(Mahikeng)

Miss Sophy Mogorosi

Email: Sophy.Mogorosi@nwu.ac.za / Tel: +27 (0)183892827/2235

Contact persons

(Potchefstroom and Vanderbjilpark)

Mr Tebogo Tebejane

Email: Tebogo.Tebejane@nwu.ac.za / Tel: +27(0)182994130

Ms Christine Bronkhorst

Research Manager

Email: Christine.Bronkhorst@nwu.ac.za

APPENDIX 1

PhD APPLICATION

PLEASE EXPLAIN IN A CONCEPT PROPOSAL YOUR INTENDED STUDY UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS

- 1 • Title
- 2 • Introduction
- 3 • Motivation of the study
- 4 • Problem statement
- 5 • Primary objective and secondary objectives
- 6 • Preliminary literature
(at least 10 leading scholars in your area of specialisation)
- 7 • Research methodology
- 8 • Ethical consideration
- 9 • Contribution of the study
- 10 • References
- 11 • Work execution plan

 **NWU**

BUSINESS SCHOOL



<http://www.nwubusinessschool.co.za/>