



PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The discipline of Public Governance in the School of Management, Information Technology and Governance offers internationally recognised postgraduate qualifications including a full research masters programme and a full research doctoral programme at the Westville campus.

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MAdmin)

The MAdmin programme is a full research masters programme designed to attract senior and mid-careerists as well as those new to public and not-for-profit organisational affairs. With student employability and workplace promotions in mind, projects are undertaken to shape socially-conscious researchers who are trained to empirically investigate and critically interrogate societal issues with local manifestation – be the issues urban or rural – in a global context. While meeting the dire need for applied research in public governance, students learn how to include citizens as co-creators of research findings.

Programme projects promote African-led globalisation through relevant scholarship and research, community engagement through dissertation research that adds value to organisations and the community, and the nurturing of postgraduate students through student-supervisor relations – all of which help make the discipline, School and university an institution of choice. Dissertations which meet certain criteria may lay the foundation for accessing doctoral study, if desired.

Programme structure

While there is no coursework required of students, students must attend regular sessions with her or his supervisor, follow instructions from supervisors, and submit progress reports twice a year. Students are further expected to attend research and writing workshops convened by the discipline, the School of Management, IT and Governance or the College of Law and Management Studies and to participate in academic and practitioner driven conferences. Registrants may undertake full-time or part-time study.

Eligibility

Applicants must have an Honours degree in Administration/Public Administration/Development Management/Public Policy or in a cognate discipline with a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application. A module in Research Methodology at a postgraduate level is required.

Generally, 'Recognised Prior Learning' eligibility is unacceptable. However, under exceptional circumstances, and upon the recommendation of the School Board, the University Senate may consider candidates who do not meet the general academic requirements provided that said students satisfy the Senate that they have, through prior learning, attained a level of competence adequate for the pursuit of the MAdmin degree.

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DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (DAdmin)

The DAdmin is a full research doctoral programme. The programme provides an ethically defensible bridge for professionals who are moving beyond their primary discipline into organisational leadership positions and who are required to work in the dynamic complex environment of contemporary Africa and its transition agenda.

Doctoral students are required to demonstrate a comprehensive and high level of thinking, enquiry and insight by exploring untapped scientific territories in pursuit of universal knowledge within a changing local, provincial, national, regional, continental and international environment through African scholarship and critical engagement with communities. Students must not just engage in meaningful and sound academic discourse in various contexts of public governance, but also write scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Working at the most advanced academic levels, the outcome culminates in the production of a thesis which creates new knowledge.

Programme structure

While there is no coursework required of students, students must attend regular sessions with her or his supervisor, follow instructions from supervisors, and submit progress reports twice a year. Students are further expected to attend research and writing workshops convened by the discipline, the School of Management, IT and Governance or the College of Law and Management Studies, present papers at conferences and publish at least one article in an approved peer-review journal. Registrants may undertake full-time or part-time study. The requisite 256 credits are earned solely through thesis research and production.

Eligibility

As a research-based degree, a master's degree in Public Governance or a cognate discipline with a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application is a requirement. A module in Research Methodology at a postgraduate level is required.

Programme teaching and supervision method

Students enter into a contract with his or her supervisor to govern the research experience.

Programme supervisors

Dissertation and thesis supervisors are drawn from the discipline or other duly qualified academics upon review and approval by the Dean and Head of School and/or the Higher Degrees Committee.

Closing dates for applications

There is no closing date for students wishing to undertake full research master or doctoral studies. Potential students may apply at any time during the year.

Contact us

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Note: The programmes/modules offered are subject to student enrolments. Admission to all programmes is by selection.

