



CALL FOR PHD PSYCHOLOGY APPLICATIONS 2021

PhD in Psychology at the NWU: Invitation to apply for 2021

The 2021 PhD application process is now open - please note the **deadline** for applications is **October 15, 2020**. Please read the following instructions carefully before you apply.

General information

The NWU is a proud university with 3 campuses at Potchefstroom, Mahikeng and Vanderbijlpark. Staff members in Psychology work across the 3 campuses in different research entities and research projects, each with its own focus. The staff capacity informs the available PhD vacancies in the focuses or areas indicated below.

Available PhD vacancies for 2021

For 2021, we have available PhD vacancies in the following research areas:

POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS [5 positions available]

- **Childhood psychology** (including nature and dynamics of childhood psychopathology and/or therapeutic interventions for childhood disorders) OR [1 available position] [Primary researcher/project leader: Prof Esmé van Rensburg]
- **Professional behaviour or ethics** in psychology [1 available position] [Primary researcher/project leader: Prof Esmé van Rensburg]
- **Influence of psychosocial variables on diabetes management.** The goal of this project is to develop appropriate interventions for those living with diabetes in order to facilitate optimal psychological wellbeing through life. [1 available position] [Primary researcher/project leader: Prof Elmarie Deacon]
- **Attachment theory**, or research in any area of adult psychopathology (except eating disorders). [1 available position] [Primary researcher/project leader: Dr. Ruan Spies,]
- **Change Process research in Psychotherapy:** exploring factors within and outside psychotherapy, for example therapeutic relationship and technique variables that influence change [1 available position] [Primary researcher/project leader: Dr. Rumando Kok]

VANDEBIJLPARK CAMPUS [1 position available]

- **Resilient Youth in Stressed Environments (RYSE-RuSA):** This is a mixed method research project in collaboration with Russia and Canada. The aim is to investigate resilience among youth that lived in stressed environments, particularly areas where pollution from petrochemical plants exacerbates adversity. [1 available position] [Primary researcher/project leader: Dr. Tamlynn Jefferis NWU & Prof. Linda Theron UP]

Requirements for a PhD

Before you apply, it is important that you comply with the following criteria:

According to the A-rules of the NWU, as well as the Faculty specific rules, a candidate needs to;

- i. Have completed a Master's degree in any recognised field of Psychology, e.g. Clinical, Counselling, Educational, Industrial, Research or Academic, at a recognized university or tertiary institution
- ii. Obtained at least 65% for the M-degree referred to in the previous section
- iii. Have adequate knowledge of the specific field they apply for, including related concepts and theories as well as what previous research has found
- iv. Have advanced research skills: The ability to use SPSS (or any other quantitative data analysis program), ATLAS^{ti} (or any other qualitative data analysis program)
- v. Have excellent critical thinking and scientific writing skills
- vi. Please note that the skill levels required as stipulated in iii; iv; and v may be formally assessed during the final interviews in November
- vii. Be available to regularly travel in person to the specific NWU campus where the promoter is situated or the site where the research is conducted and/or to meet regularly via the internet
- viii. Commit to and be in the position (regarding family, health, finances, etc) to complete the degree within 3 years.

Please note that selection during the November interviews is **conditional**. Final approval / selection will depend on satisfactory progress of the candidate's proposal – this will be assessed during March 2021 (see below) to determine if the candidate is ready to register by March 30. If progress is deemed not to be satisfactory, a candidate may not be approved for continuation.

International applications

All non-South African post-school qualifications need to be evaluated by SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority). They can be contacted at +27 12 431 5064 or via e-mail (ncoetzee@saqa.co.za or dmhlongo@saqa.co.za). Applicants with non-South African passports should also before they apply, contact the International Office at the NWU at <http://www.nwu.ac.za/Internationalisation>

THE APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS: Important dates and what you need to do:

- **October 15: Applications close.** PLEASE APPLY AT <http://studies.nwu.ac.za/postgraduate-studies/higher-degree-admissions>
- In addition to your formal application, please send prof Karel Botha (karel.botha@nwu.ac.za) the following information:
 - CV and qualifications
 - Indication of which research project (as indicated earlier) you are applying for
- October 25-30: Paper selection (staff only)
- October 30: Invitations will be sent out to candidates who qualify for the final interviews
- November 20-30: Final interviews – date and venues or online platform will be confirmed
- December 6: Successful candidates will be informed
- December onwards: Candidates work on a proposal in consultation with temporary appointed promoters
- March 15, 2021: Formal presentation of proposal to panel to assess scientific quality and feasibility, final decision to be made if student is accepted and ready to register by March 30.

Available bursaries

- Some projects are funded by institutions like the NRF or MRC. Once you are selected, your promoter will provide you with more information.
- Bursaries are also available from the NWU. More information at <http://studies.nwu.ac.za/financial-support-services/nwu-postgraduate-bursary-scheme>

Contact details

Please contact prof. Karel Botha at 018 – 299 1726 or karel.botha@nwu.ac.za if you need any further information regarding the application or selection process.