

## **MA/MSC RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMME (NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY: POTCHEFSTROOM CAMPUS)**

The purpose of the degree is to equip students, by means of exposing them to different philosophies and science views, which may be expressed in theories and hypotheses on human behaviour, so that they may be able to formulate and study relevant research questions in the different domains of psychology and related disciplines. Through the use of advanced knowledge, skills, applied competencies, attitudes and values as researchers in psychology, they will be enabled to grow personally and academically, think scientifically and to contribute to the body of knowledge and to the diverse needs of the communities in which they engage.

Students will be required to complete their dissertation in a maximum of two years. According to the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) requirements, students are required to complete the theoretical component of the degree before they will be accepted in an internship position. After completion of the academic and research components of the programme and their internships students will be eligible to write the professional Board of Psychology's examination to register as Research Psychologists at the HPCSA.

### **Admission requirements**

- An Honours degree in Psychology (Please note: a minimum average of 65% is required).

### **Selection requirements**

The following documents must be submitted before 30 September of each year addressed to the Programme Coordinator (Dr Werner de Klerk: [12998699@nwu.ac.za](mailto:12998699@nwu.ac.za)):

- MA/MSc Research Psychology Programme Application form;
- Letter of motivation;
- Complete CV;
- Complete Academic record;
- A two page proposal with possible research topics.

As well as:

- Complete and submit the North-West University application form for Master's and Doctorate degrees.  
Inquiry: 018 2994044 or [PostGrad-EnquiriesPOTCH@nwu.ac.za](mailto:PostGrad-EnquiriesPOTCH@nwu.ac.za)

Students who comply with all the requirements will be invited for a selection interview to determine their potential to benefit from the research programme and will be requested to complete a research assignment. .

**Programme outcomes:**

After completing this programme, the student should:

- demonstrate advanced, systematic and specialist knowledge to undertake research at individual, community and/or interdisciplinary level by applying appropriate research methods and techniques to identify, analyse and formulate complex research problem(s) in the domain of psychology;
- demonstrate advanced strategies to obtain, analyse and evaluate applicable information for its relevance and validity;
- use applicable quantitative and/or qualitative research methods to provide answers for research questions;
- interpret results in a scientific manner;
- integrate research findings and reflect on it critically;
- communicate the findings orally by means of applicable IT and by writing it up in research reports;
- performing and communicating research in an ethical and scientific manner

**Module names, outcomes and assessment criteria:**

Module Name and Code	Module outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p><b>PSYC872</b> <b>Dissertation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To plan and do research of a limited scope by using appropriate research methods that are aligned with the ontological and epistemological assumptions applicable to the research phenomenon;</li> <li>- To write a logically argued and integrated scientific report in which applicable psychological explanations are integrated with the research findings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The relevance and feasibility of the research design;</li> <li>- The formulation of clear, succinct and focused problem statements and research questions;</li> <li>- A critical and focused literature review;</li> <li>- Applicable research design and research methods which determine the data collection and analysis;</li> <li>- A logical argument in which thoughts and content are combined which lead the reader to new knowledge and insight.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PSYC 874</b> <b>Critical research skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To formulate an understanding of the ontological assumptions about the nature of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formulate knowledge and understanding of the ontological assumptions (world view) and express it in science and people</li> </ul>

<b>Module Name and Code</b>	<b>Module outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b>
	<p>science and a people view;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To plan and perform ethical research;</li> <li>- To distinguish between different quantitative and qualitative approaches which are appropriate for answering the specific research question.</li> </ul>	<p>views;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply research on the grounds of the ethical principles as expressed in the guidelines for psychological research;</li> <li>- Select research methods which will efficiently answer the relevant research questions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PSYC875</b></p> <p><b>Quantitative research methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To apply different research methods that are associated with quantitative research;</li> <li>- To apply quantitative research processes such as sampling, validity and reliability, questionnaire design, experimental designs (SPSS); data analysis techniques (multiple regression and structural comparison models).</li> </ul>	<p>Plan and execute research projects and demonstrate knowledge of research skills in quantitative research methods by formulating own research problems, goals or hypotheses and proposing an applicable research methodology for the research project in question, in which data is collected and processed.</p>

<p><b>PSYC876</b></p> <p><b>Qualitative research methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To apply different research designs associated with qualitative research;</li> <li>- To apply qualitative research processes such as purposeful sampling, data collection and data analysis methods such as thematic analysis as well as trustworthiness.</li> </ul>	<p>Plan and execute research projects and demonstrate knowledge of research skills in qualitative research methods by formulating own research problems, goals and proposing an applicable research methodology for the research project in question, in which data is collected and processed.</p>
<p><b>PSYC877</b></p> <p><b>Project management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To master all facets concerning research project management, so that independent research functioning may be possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Write a research project proposal in which the research process becomes clear: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify a research problem;</li> <li>- Write a project proposal with a view to funding;</li> <li>- Literature foundation;</li> <li>- Formulate a research goal;</li> <li>- Determine data collection methods;</li> <li>- Analyse and interpret data;</li> <li>- Liaise with clients through reports and reporting;</li> <li>- General project management.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## **Delivery Mode**

Students will attend four workshops during the year, one workshop each term. Each workshop is six days, usually from Monday to Saturday and consists of different contact sessions with lecturers regarding various research foci. Contact sessions comprise of discussion groups and practicing of research skills. The dissertation is supervised by staff members knowledgeable in the field of study.

## **Assessment**

The number and types of assignments are decided on by lecturer. Students have to obtain a participation mark of 50% to be able to qualify for examination entry (pass mark of 55%).

Year end Examination: (Internal and external examiners)

- Project Management (Oral examination).
- Quantitative research (Written examination).
- Qualitative research (Written Examination).
- Critical research skills (Written Examination).

## **Further information**

For any further information, please contact:

Dr Werner de Klerk

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North-West University

Potchefstroom

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