

ADMISSION TO THE PhD IN PSYCHOLOGY

1. Admission criteria

1.1 From the yearbook:

Programme: (with) Psychology

Qualification code: 8CB R10

The curriculum composed in this programme is of an academic nature. The curriculum gives an opportunity for the development of specialised and advanced knowledge, applied skills, attitudes and values as researchers in Psychology, and prepares the student for postdoctoral study in Psychology. In the development of this curriculum, national and regional needs were addressed in the specific research focus area.

The general closing date for applications is 30 September. (After this date, applications will be considered on merit). Studies can be done on a full-time or part-time basis.

Faculty specific rules and requirements of the programme

- a) Students must have achieved at least 65% in a masters-degree in Psychology.
- b) Recognition will be given to additional experience and expertise.
- c) Provisional admission is granted after completion of a selection process but is subject to a suitable qualification, academic performance as well as a suitable research concept within the research focus and projects in the subject group.
- d) Selected students who are provisionally admitted must submit a research protocol within the prescribed timeframe, which will be evaluated by a specialist panel.
- e) Final admission and approval are subject to the submission of a successful research protocol as well as available capacity in the subject group.
- f) Candidates may be requested to attend additional workshops to improve their research skills.

1.2 General admission requirements

From the information above, it should be clear that a masters degree in Psychology (academic masters or any of the HPCSA registration categories for psychology) is required. Conditional admission to the programme will be based on academic record, qualifications, extent to which the proposed project fits in with the research focus of the department and the availability of a promoter. Final selection will be based on an interview and presentation

of a first draft proposal to a selection panel. Candidates may be requested to attend additional workshops to improve research and/or scientific writing skills.

1.3 Specific admission criteria

- a) A masters degree in Psychology (any of the HPCSA registration categories for psychology, or an academic masters degree) - preferably with an average of 65% or more
- b) Your research theme should fit into a current specialist focus area of one of our staff members (A list of these focus areas will be made available in August of this year)
- c) Availability of a promoter for your proposed study. (Only a limited number of positions, typically 3 to 5, are available annually.)
- d) Appropriate motivation for doing the PhD at the NWU
- e) Above average ability to conceptualize a research project; scientific writing skills; critical thinking skills; and a proactive attitude (these skills will be assessed during steps 1 to 3 of the application procedure - see later in this document)

2. The Application process

Step 1 – Complete and submit the official NWU PhD application form

This is available at <http://studies.nwu.ac.za/postgraduate-studies/higher-degree-admissions> or contact:

Ms Marietjie Ackermann (HDA Section Head)

Tel: 018 299 4043

Email: Marietjie.Ackermann@nwu.ac.za.

or Ms Lauren Delpont (Potchefstroom Campus HDA Coordinator)

Tel: 018 299 4274

E-mail: Lauren.Delpont@nwu.ac.za

PLEASE NOTE that this document should be sent to the address indicated on the form, and not to myself or anyone at the NWU Department of Psychology.

Step 2 – Additional documentation to the subject group Psychology

In addition to the NWU application, please send the following documents and information, not later than 30 September to johan.potgieter@nwu.ac.za:

- a) A brief CV.
- b) A motivation (1 page) that includes (i) why you want to do a PhD, and (ii) why you want to do a PhD specifically at the NWU.

- c) An indication of whether you have applied to other universities and what the results of your applications were.
- d) A clear and appropriate (i) conceptualization or provisional problem statement of your prospective study, (ii) aims, (iii) methodology and (iv) how the proposed study would make a unique scientific contribution to psychology. PLEASE NOTE that this document should be no more than 5 pages long, and that you should use the APA style of referencing.

The merit of your application will be decided by staff members of Psychology within one month after receiving your application.

Step 3 – Presentation of Research Proposal

If successful in step 1, you will be invited at the start of November to present your provisional proposal to a panel of staff members of the Department of Psychology. The presentation should be 15 minutes long. Powerpoint facilities will be available, but not mandatory. After your presentation, you will also be evaluated on your general research skills during a panel interview. If successful, you will be provisionally accepted as PhD student.

Step 4 – Finalization of Proposal

After provisional acceptance into the PhD programme, you will be granted time to complete the proposal (including language editing) with the assistance of an appointed promoter, for final approval by a panel of staff members. This process will take place before March 30 of next year. **PLEASE NOTE that you will not be allowed to formally register as a PhD student at the NWU before your final proposal has been approved by the department.**

Step 5 - Registration as Student & Title Registration

After your proposal has been approved, you may formally register as a PhD student at the NWU. The deadline for this registration is May 30 each year. You and your promoter will now apply for ethical approval of your project, after which you may commence with the research. PLEASE NOTE that a maximum of three years from registration is granted for the completion of your PhD.

3. International applicants

Applicants from abroad will only be allowed to register as a PhD student at the NWU after acquiring a valid South African study permit. Please contact Mrs Annelishé van der Spoel (Annelishe.VanDerSpoel@nwu.ac.za, or at +27 18 299 2919) for assistance in this regard. Applicants will also be required to provide a SAQA (South African Qualification Authority) certificate as proof of equivalence for all qualifications obtained abroad. You can apply for such accreditation at <https://www.saqa.org.za/evaluation-foreign-qualifications>.


4. Financial assistance

The North-West University offers a number of bursaries and loans for postgraduate studies. Information on availability and application processes can be found at <http://studies.nwu.ac.za/studies/bursaries-and-loans>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

We are looking forward to receiving your application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Potgieter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Johan Potgieter
PhD (Psychology) Coordinator
North-West University