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**Ref: Application for and selection of post-graduate students – Drug
Discovery/Pharmaceutical Chemistry**

Purpose

To provide guidance for prospective supervisors and other applicable stakeholders, i.e. co-supervisors or collaborators as well as the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, operating as an organisational unit, for the selection of post-graduate students.

Point of Departure

- The core business of the North-West University (hereafter NWU) is centred around research and teaching. While the teaching strategy of the NWU is primarily defined by and structured according to institutional frameworks, research activities are, due to the numerous categorical differences between the various sciences, approached from different perspectives.
- The Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry (hereafter Department) performs its research as part of the Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences (PharmaCen), within the Faculty of Health Sciences, NWU, organisationally identified as Sub-Programme: 'Drug Discovery'.
- In order for members of staff to engage in both their teaching and research responsibilities, a major mechanism employed to strengthen the research core and to broaden the research activities of the group, which involves the training and supervision of post-graduate students.
- Study supervisors can generally not be mandated to select specific candidates and the supervision of post-graduate students are voluntary; however, such supervision, if any, is guided by the individual performance agreements signed between each employee and the respective Directors as subject to the availability of resources, facilities, and funds. As such, a limited number of projects are available.

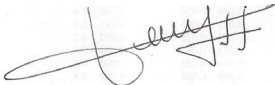
General guideline for the selection of post-graduate students

- First and foremost, candidates who wish to join the Department as M.Sc., Ph.D. or post-doctoral fellows should not only be competent, but also be well informed about what the study will require from them and then express their willingness to commit to the programme and its demands. To this extent, undergraduate students studying towards the M.Sc. or Ph.D. degrees should be informed well in advance of the internal application closing date (see 'Proposed Dates' below) in order to make the necessary timely arrangements to engage with prospective supervisors, current post-graduate students and other potential stakeholders to gain knowledge of the nature of the work performed in the Department.
- Candidates should be advised, encouraged, and allowed to engage with all supervisory members of the Department, if they so wish, in order to be informed of the complete spectrum of projects that are undertaken.

- Once such discussions have taken place, the onus rests on the candidate to reschedule an appointment with the supervisor of his/her choice. These must take place between April and May 2026.
- **Average BSc-Hons/B. Pharm results– as a general guideline, this should preferably not be lower than 60%.**
- After discussion with potential study leaders, the candidates should as per Faculty guidelines, provide to the Research Director's office a curriculum vitae (CV), an internal application form (signed by the potential supervisor), and an up-to-date academic record that will be administered and processed according to normal faculty processes. For 2026 (intake 2027), the final date by which applications for further studies in Drug Discovery/Pharmaceutical Chemistry, should reach the office of the Research Director, is **15 June 2026** (internal closing date). These documents must be emailed to both of the following addresses in a single email: Tebogo.Kgaile@nwu.ac.za and David.NDa@nwu.ac.za
- After the internal closing date has lapsed and only after the Department received the relevant copies of the documentation from the office of the Research Director. **However, since only a limited number of projects are available**, the final selection of candidates is subject to a decision made at a collective meeting of the scientific committee. This should be concluded by **30 June 2026 and admission letters will be sent out by 30 July 2026**.

Internal closing date and extension thereof

- Since pre-graduate students must perform professional internships following the completion of their B.Pharm degrees and therefore need to apply for intern positions as soon as possible, an internal application closing date for M.Sc. applications of **30 June 2026 is proposed for 2027**. Therefore, prior to this date, personal discussions between supervisors and potential candidates should be concluded.
- For Ph.D. applications, the internal application closing date can coincide with the institutional closing date.
- In the event that more applications for M.Sc. studies are received after the internal, but before the institutional closing date, these will be approached on a case-by-case basis, bearing in mind that the financial and administrative capacity of supervisors may change over time to be accommodating for additional projects. However, this process will be cognisant of and afford consideration to earlier, albeit unsuccessful applicants also.
- Prospective candidates can **apply for a position in one Sub-Programme only** during any application round. Second or third options will not be considered.



Signed: Prof David D. N'Da

Sub-Programme Leader: Drug Discovery