



Private Bag / Privaat sak X1290,  
Potchefstroom  
South Africa / Suid-Afrika  
2520

Tel: +27 18 299-2226  
Web: <http://www.nwu.ac.za>

**Pharmacology / Farmakologie**  
Tel: +2718 299 2230  
Email: [dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za](mailto:dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za)

**Datum: / Date: March 2026 / Maart 2026**

**Insake: / Re: Process and internal timelines for the selection of post-graduate students for further study in Pharmacology (year of intake: 2027)**

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Purpose of document:

To specify the process and timelines for candidates wishing to apply for further study in Pharmacology (subprogramme: Translational Neuroscience and Neurotherapeutics).

Date of approval:

The procedures herein were agreed upon and accepted at a quorated meeting of the PharmaCen Management Committee, held on 24 March 2021.

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 Pharmacology (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: *'Translational Neuroscience and Neurotherapeutics'*.
- Based on the number of publications per annum, the Department is the major and most productive pre-clinical neuroscience centre in South Africa and collaborates with numerous other national and international groups.
- Our core research platform is founded on pre-clinical (basic and translational) experimental work conducted in the field of behavioural neuroscience and pharmacology; however, these projects often evolve to include or compliment clinical studies.
- Post-graduate studies conducted in the Department are full-time based, labour intensive, intellectually challenging, expensive, and time-consuming.
- However, we aim to develop post-graduate students not only as academics and scientists, but also as well-rounded, responsible, and competent members of society that will not only strive to explore and study nature in an ethical manner, but that will avail and apply themselves to improve society as we know it.
- Considering that pre-clinical biomedical projects are costly endeavours, only a limited number of projects are available.

### Rules 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 end, undergraduate students studying towards the B.Pharm. degree (of relevance for M.Sc. studies) or graduates (of relevance for professional persons and/or Ph.D. studies) must engage with some or all supervisory members of the Department to be informed of the complete spectrum of projects that are undertaken.
  - i. These discussions are conducted on an appointment basis. When appointments are made, please cc all correspondence to both the prospective supervisor and the subprogramme chair at [dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za](mailto:dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za) for purposes of recording.
- Such informal discussions with prospective supervisors should be concluded by 29 May 2026.
- Prospective applicants that are studying towards a B.Pharm. degree, are advised that a minimum average module outcome of 60% for Pharmacology is highly recommended for the third and fourth year FKLG modules respectively.
- After discussions with potential supervisors, candidates should as per Faculty guidelines, provide to the office of the subprogramme chair ([dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za](mailto:dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za)):
  - i. a curriculum vitae;
  - ii. an internal application form;
  - iii. an up-to-date academic record, and
  - iv. an ID copy.
- Documents will be administered and processed according to normal faculty processes. For 2026 (intake 2027), the final date by which first round applications for post-graduate studies in the subprogramme should reach the subprogramme leader, is 5 June 2026. These documents must be emailed in a single email to [dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za](mailto:dewet.wolmarans@nwu.ac.za). No applications will be considered if prior discussions with prospective supervisors had not taken place.
- Prospective candidates can apply for a position in one Sub-Programme only during any application round. Second or third options will not be considered.
- After the internal closing date has lapsed, formalised interviews will be held between invited candidates and the respective supervisory/co-supervisory collective (where deemed necessary) to finalise the selection process.
- Successful candidates will be informed of their selection by the office of the Research Director before or on 19 June 2026.
- **Successful candidates, who received a 'Letter of Selection' from the office of the Research Director, must then complete the online application process of the NWU.**
- If 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 accommodate additional projects. However, this process will be cognisant of and afford consideration to earlier, albeit unsuccessful applicants also.



Signed: Subprogramme Leader  
Translational Neuroscience and Neurotherapeutics  
Prof PD Wolmarans