

**Postgraduate Programmes
General information
2015**

**Department of Sociology and
Social Anthropology
Stellenbosch University**

www.sun.ac.za/sociology



UNIVERSITEIT•STELLENBOSCH•UNIVERSITY
jou kennisvenoot•your knowledge partner

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	ii
I. GENERAL INFORMATION	1
1. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT	1
2. POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR	1
3. PROGRAMMES	2
4. GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.....	2
6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	10
7. RESEARCH AREAS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT	12
II. PROGRAMME INFORMATION.....	16
1. HONOURS IN SOCIOLOGY OR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY	16
2. MA IN SOCIOLOGY OR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY	18
3. POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS	20
4. MA IN SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS	21
5. POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	23
6. M.PHIL IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	25
7. PHD IN SOCIOLOGY.....	28
8. PHD IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY	28
9. PHD IN SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS	29
10.PHD STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT: GENERAL PROVISIONS	30

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University. We are a dynamic department at the forefront of both discipline-based and inter-disciplinary research and teaching in key areas of societal concern. We promote critical, creative and engaged scholarship and are committed to providing our students with a supportive and stimulating environment. Our aim is to produce graduates who can make a significant contribution to society in a wide range of arenas as a result of their conceptual, analytical and research skills, as well as their ability to plan and work independently.

Our postgraduate offerings encompass two main clusters, with interesting opportunities for exchange and cross-fertilisation among them:

1. Discipline-based higher-degree programmes in both Sociology and Social Anthropology that provide students the opportunity to develop their conceptual, theoretical and methodological skills within each of these disciplines, as well as carry out advanced research and social analysis in selected areas;
2. An interdisciplinary social science programme that provides professional training as well as opportunities for advanced research in Social Science Methods.

Our location in Stellenbosch, a university town on the interface between the oldest city in South Africa and a vast rural hinterland, provides us with a unique environment in which to work. Major teaching and research areas within the Department include development, health and wellbeing; land and environment; conflict and social security; culture, gender, language, religion and identity; work and livelihoods; social theory and research methodology.

We trust that you will find this booklet informative. Please contact us should you require additional information or wish to discuss your options further within the Department.

Jan Vorster
Chair of the Department

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT

Postal Address: Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology
Stellenbosch University
Private Bag X1
Matieland, 7602
South Africa

Tel. no: +27 21 808 2420 (reception)

Fax no: +27 21 808 2143

Address: Room 424, 4th Floor
Arts and Social Sciences Building,
Corner of Merriman and Ryneveld Streets
Stellenbosch

Website: WWW.SUN.AC.ZA/SOCIOLOGY

Language policy

The medium of postgraduate *instruction* within the Department is English, but Afrikaans-speaking students who wish to present their work in Afrikaans are accommodated.

2. POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR

For information on all the department's programmes contact the Department's Postgraduate Administrator, Ms Elizabeth Hector:

Tel. no: +27 21 808 2417

E-mail: ehector@sun.ac.za

Other important University numbers

Admissions and registration: Tel: +27 21 808 4546; Fax: +27 21 808 3822

Student fees: Tel: +27 21 808 4913; Fax: +27 21 808 3739

Bursaries (Postgraduate): Tel: +27 21 808 4208; Fax: +27 21 808 2954

JS Gericke Library: Tel: +27 21 808 4385; Fax: +27 21 808 4336

3. PROGRAMMES

The official regulations of the University with regard to the postgraduate degree programmes in the Department can be found in the Calendar, Parts 1 and 4, at: <http://www.sun.ac.za/university/jaarboek/>. There are important sections in both Parts with regard to the formatting of a thesis, formal requirements for the courses and the weighting of modules.

The Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology offers the following programmes:

- Sociology: Honours, Masters, PhD;
- Social Anthropology: Honours, Masters, PhD;
- Social Sciences Methods: Postgraduate Diploma, MA, PhD.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Department is offering new degrees in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies: Postgraduate Diploma, M.Phil (thesis), M.Phil (coursework).

Details on each of these programmes can be found in Part II below.

In addition to the above, the Department also offers short service courses from time to time. These are designed to enhance professional training for people working in the fields of research methodology, government and tertiary education, policy formulation, and development. These short courses can be taken by the Department's postgraduate students to enrich their own study programmes.

4. GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following sets out the minimum requirements that are taken into consideration. Please note that admission to any programme is at the discretion of the Department and is not automatic, even if the minimum educational qualifications are met. The Department may also require individual students to take supplementary modules if this is deemed necessary or appropriate to further their particular study programmes.

In exceptional circumstances, where an applicant does not meet the general admissions criteria but has a promising record as well as a well-motivated reason for wishing to enrol in one of the Department's programmes, the Department may take into account relevant experience as well as evidence of the potential of the student to succeed in his or her chosen degree programme. Exceptional cases of this nature have to be fully motivated in accordance with University policies, including, where appropriate, its alternative admission requirements (see the section on Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning below). If potential students have any queries in this regard, please contact the Department.

Individual programme admission requirements

Postgraduate Diploma Social Science Methods	The Diploma programme accepts students with a wide range of undergraduate qualifications (Bachelor Degree or Level 7) in the broad field of the social sciences / humanities. Students qualified in
--	---

other fields, who have a specific interest in social research methods, are also encouraged to apply. An average of 65% or more in previous degree studies, with demonstrated academic ability, is generally required.

**Postgraduate
Diploma
Transdisciplinary
Health and
Development
Studies**

The Diploma accepts students with a wide range of undergraduate qualifications in the broad field of the social sciences / humanities or health sciences. Students qualified in other fields, who have a specific interest in health and development, are also encouraged to apply. A bachelor's degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline (social sciences, health sciences, development) on NQF level 7 and an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, with demonstrated academic ability.

Honours

In order to be considered for admission to an Honours programme, students should have either Sociology or Social Anthropology as a major in an undergraduate B-degree and have obtained an average of 65% or more in their major subjects. Strong applications from students with good undergraduate degrees with majors in cognate disciplines may be considered on their individual merits, taking note of Faculty requirements.

MA

In order to be considered for admission to an MA programme, applicants should generally have an Honours degree in Sociology or Social Anthropology; equivalent qualifications, including Honours degrees in cognate disciplines, will be considered on their merits. An average of 65% in previous degree studies, with demonstrated academic ability, is generally required. The Department also needs to be in a position to offer the student supervision in his/her chosen field.

**MA Social
Science Methods**

In order to be considered for admission to this MA programme, applicants should generally have a Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science Methods or an Honours degree in the broad field of the social sciences acceptable to the Senate is required. An average of 65% or more in previous degree studies, with demonstrated academic ability, is generally required. The Department also needs to be in a position to offer the student supervision in his/her chosen field.

**M.Phil
Transdisciplinary
Health and
Development
Studies by thesis**

Students in possession of a postgraduate diploma in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies, a related social science honours degree or diploma or a health sciences qualification on NQF level 8 with proven experience in social science research may apply for the MPhil by thesis only (879). All students should also have an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, demonstrated academic ability and proficient English.

**M.Phil
Transdisciplinary**

Students with a postgraduate diploma or honours degree on NQF level 8 (with an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects,

Health and Development Studies by coursework

demonstrated academic ability and proficient English) or equivalent professional experience may apply for the MPhil by coursework (899).

PhD

Sociology: A good Master's degree in Sociology or related social science is a minimum requirement. In addition, the student must develop a research proposal of an appropriate standard within an acceptable period, on a topic for which the Department is able to offer supervision.

Social Anthropology: A good Master's degree in Social Anthropology or related social science is a minimum requirement. In addition, the student must develop a research proposal of an appropriate standard within an acceptable period, on a topic for which the Department is able to offer supervision.

Social Science Methods: A good, appropriate MA degree (with social science content or strong methodological focus) acceptable to the Senate is a minimum requirement. In addition, the student must develop a research proposal of an appropriate standard within an acceptable period, on an appropriate topic related to Social Science Methods, for which the Department is able to offer supervision.

Time frames for applying for admission

For all programmes other than doctoral studies: The internal departmental process of screening applications and selecting students usually takes place in November of the year before the new academic year begins and/or once final marks are known. In the case of MA students, initial acceptance is conditional on the student completing a satisfactory thesis pre-proposal, usually by the end of the first term of the year of first registration (generally by the end of March).

Doctoral studies: Students may be admitted at several points during the course of the academic year in accordance with the process described in Section 5 below. The Department screens initial applications on a quarterly basis throughout the year.

Assessment and Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL)

Applicants who do not meet the standard admissions requirements, who were previously denied opportunities for higher education, and who can demonstrate that they have the ability to participate in a postgraduate programme at the appropriate level as a result of prior learning and relevant experience, may be eligible for special admission through the University's ARPL process.

More details of the ARPL procedure are available on the Faculty's web site at <http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Arts/English> or in printed form from the Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

5.1 Postgraduate Diploma, Honours and Masters

(Prospective PhD candidates, go to 5.2 below)

STEP 1

Take note of the closing dates for applications on www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies:

- International students: generally end of September of the year prior to the proposed year of registration;
- South African students: the Department requests applications by 31 October of the year prior to the proposed year of registration. However, depending on capacity, late applications (until 20 December) might be considered.

Students should keep copies of all their correspondence with the University and the Department.

STEP 2

Apply via e-application at: www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies

OR

Request the form by mail from the Admissions Division of the University (not the Department): Admissions, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602.

NB: If the form is requested via mail the following information must please accompany the request: Personal Information (Name and surname) and Contact information (Full postal or e-mail address).

OR

Collect the form from: The Enquiries Desk, Administration Building A, Stellenbosch.

OR

Request the form by telephone: +27 21 808-4515.

STEP 3

Complete the form.

STEP 4

Pay the Application fee. Please note: Application fees can be paid via the e-application process, by cheque, by postal order or by cash. The payments can be made personally at the University cashiers, or sent per mail. Cash payments must be made in person. The Department is not responsible for handling application fees.

STEP 5

Send the completed form and required application fee (or proof of payment) to: Admissions, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602.

(After receiving the application, the University acknowledges receipt. Every applicant:

- Is notified by mail of the receipt of the application;
- Is assigned a unique number for identification purposes, your student number (if the University hasn't already given one to you); and
- Can check the status of his/her application on the web.)

STEP 6

Complete the Departmental Postgraduate Information Form available at: <http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Arts/Departments/sociology/teaching/Tab1> or request it from the Department's Postgraduate Administrator, Ms Elizabeth Hector (email: ehector@sun.ac.za or telephone +27 21 808 2417). This form requests additional information from applicants that will be considered once the Department has received your application from Admissions.

STEP 7

Submit the Departmental Postgraduate Information Form to the Departmental Postgraduate Administrator, Ms Elizabeth Hector (email: ehector@sun.ac.za or fax +27 21 808 2143).

STEP 8

The application is sent by the Admissions division to the Department for internal processing.

The application, together with the Departmental Postgraduate Information Form, is considered at a meeting of the Department's Postgraduate Committee (normally early November). At this point the Department may require additional information from students. Once the assessment process has been completed by the Department, the results are submitted to Academic Administration. The University then notifies every applicant by mail whether his/her application has been successful. NB: If the application form is incomplete, it will be returned and the application will be delayed.

5.2 Prospective PhD candidates

General

Currently the Department screens applications for doctoral studies on a quarterly basis, generally in February, May, August and November of each year. In order to be considered for doctoral studies by the Department, applicants need to meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a good MA/MSocSc degree in Sociology or Social Anthropology or a cognate discipline (generally 65% or above)
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to advanced-level research that will make a contribution to the advancement of knowledge in their field
- Propose a field of study in which the Department has supervisory capacity.

NB: It is highly unlikely that the Department will accept a prospective doctoral student if the draft proposal suggests that the proposed study is far removed from the research expertise within the Department.

Potential applicants are therefore encouraged to familiarise themselves with staff members' areas of research interest, by looking at their profiles on the departmental website (www.sun.ac.za/sociology) as well as their publications.

They should also familiarise themselves with University admissions and fee policies via the website of the Postgraduate & International Office (www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies) and consider carefully their funding requirements (including registration, living and research costs) and how they will finance their research programme. International applicants should also take note of visa and other requirements, as well as the services offered to them by the University's Postgraduate and International Office.

Potential applicants are welcome to contact individual members of the Department and/or programme coordinators to discuss their ideas, with the understanding that no binding commitments can be entered into at this stage. If they wish to proceed with an application they must do so in terms of the steps outlined below.

Applicants will also have to prepare a 2-3 page preliminary proposal (the 'preproposal') for departmental screening AFTER they have applied formally to the University (steps 1 – 3 below); at the stage of submitting a preproposal for consideration, they will be required to provide additional information, if not already known in an academic capacity to the Department.

STEP 1: APPLY THROUGH THE CENTRAL STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Should the applicant wish to proceed with an application, s/he needs to make a formal application to the University (not the Department). The application form can be accessed via one of the following methods:

Apply via e-application at: www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies

OR

Request the form by telephone: +27 21 808-9111.

OR

Collect the form from: The Enquiries Desk, Administration Building A, Stellenbosch.

Please note that the Department is not responsible for handling initial application forms or fees. Please address all questions about the initial admission process and fees to the University's Postgraduate and International Office.

STEP 2: PAY APPLICATION FEE AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM TO THE UNIVERSITY

Before the completed application form can be considered, the applicant must pay the University Application fee, either via the e-application process, OR by cheque or postal order OR by cash at the University cashiers. Note that cash payments must be made in person. If the student is not applying online, s/he must send the completed form and required application fee or proof of payment to:

Admissions, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602.

STEP 3: UNIVERSITY PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT & REFERRAL OF APPLICATION TO DEPARTMENT

After receiving the application, the Admissions Division of the University will acknowledge receipt. If the applicant does not already have a student number, s/he is assigned a unique student number for identification purposes. The applicant is then able to check the status of his/her application on the University website.

The University does a preliminary assessment of the application to check that the applicant meets the official requirements for the proposed doctoral degree. At this stage additional information/documents may be requested from the applicant before the application may proceed.

Once the application is in order, the University Admissions Division sends it to the Department for further processing.

STEP 4: PRELIMINARY DEPARTMENTAL SCREENING

The application is considered by the Programme Coordinator and/or Head of Department for compatibility with departmental entrance requirements.

If the application is unsuccessful, it is returned to the Admissions Division to inform the applicant accordingly.

If the application merits further consideration, the Department will request the applicant to send the following documents (if not already with the Department) in order to assess the applicant's capacity for advanced level research in an area where the Department has the necessary supervisory capacity:

1. The Department's Postgraduate Information Form, with the following attachments:
 - 1.1 A brief letter of motivation
 - 1.2 An academic CV
 - 1.3 If not a graduate of the Department, letters of reference from two academic referees recommending the applicant for postgraduate study;
2. An example of written academic work (e.g. research essay, assignment, academic article);
3. A 2 – 3 page draft preliminary proposal (guidelines below)
4. Any further information deemed necessary to complete the applicant's profile.

Guidelines for the preliminary proposal

The preliminary proposal should be approximately 2 – 3 typed pages and comply with the following requirements:

- Name, contact details of applicant, date and student number
- Working title of the doctoral thesis, indicating the broad focus of the proposed study;
- The motivation or rationale behind the proposed study;
- A broad description of the research problem as currently conceptualised, as well as the objectives of the study;
- A brief indication of the conceptual and/or theoretical framework that is provisionally proposed for the study, with the understanding that this may still be evolving
- A broad description of the research methodology that is provisionally proposed for the study, also with the understanding that this may still be evolving
- An indication of the readings that the student has already done and/or has identified as important for the study, and
- A brief statement about how the study will be funded, and if any difficulties are anticipated in this regard.

The requested information should be submitted to the Departmental Postgraduate Administrator, Ms Elizabeth Hector (email: ehector@sun.ac.za or fax +27 21 808 2143).

STEP 5: QUARTERLY SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT

Once the requested documentation has been received, it is considered in terms of both its academic merit and departmental supervisory capacity, at the next meeting of the Department's Postgraduate Committee (generally in February, May, August and November).

If the application is unsuccessful at this stage, the Department informs the University's Admissions Division to inform the applicant accordingly. In some cases the Department may also make its own recommendations concerning the proposed study and/or alternative options to the unsuccessful applicant, where this is considered appropriate, but this is in addition to the official University communication to the student.

If the application meets the requirements of the Department, the Department assigns the applicant a provisional supervisor and accepts the student as a prospective doctoral student.

Thereafter the provisional supervisor will contact the prospective student to begin work on developing a full doctoral proposal for admission to doctoral studies in terms of Faculty and University requirements. This proposal is developed under the guidance of the provisional supervisor identified by the Department.

Note: Under certain circumstances it is possible for a doctoral student to register for the PhD programme without a final proposal, IF the Department is of the view that the proposal will definitely be developed and approved within the academic year, and its recommendation accordingly is approved by the Faculty Research Committee.

STEP 6: DEVELOPMENT OF A FULL RESEARCH PROPOSAL

At this stage the successful applicant is a prospective doctoral student. Generally full registration only follows after the formal doctoral research proposal has been approved by the Faculty and University, a process which should usually take no longer than six months to complete.

While the prospective doctoral student is not yet a fully admitted postgraduate student, s/he can be awarded a 'special registration' status pending the finalisation of his/her admission status, which will allow access to the library. This requires the provisional supervisor to recommend to the library accordingly. Students applying from outside South Africa can be registered as 'affiliated students' at the International Office.

The Faculty guidelines on the doctoral proposal can be obtained from the student's supervisor. These guidelines should not be regarded as a fixed template: the precise format of the final proposal will be guided by the nature of the study and determined in consultation with the supervisor.

It should be noted that departmental approval for the prospective student to prepare a formal proposal does not in itself guarantee admission to the doctoral programme. In general the preparation of a proposal should not take longer than six months. If there is little evidence of progress within this period, the Department may withdraw its authorisation for the candidate to proceed with the development of a proposal.

Once the proposal is acceptable to the candidate's provisional supervisor, the supervisor arranges a Departmental Admissions Committee to review the proposal, in terms of Faculty requirements. Where possible, the student will be asked to be present for the Admissions Committee meeting.

Once the proposal has been approved by the Admissions Committee (which may require several iterations of the document), the Department submits it to the Faculty's Research Committee for initial approval from where it proceeds to the University Senate for final approval. Once this has been achieved, the candidate is informed that s/he may register formally for the PhD programme with the University.

6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Various opportunities exist for financial assistance to support postgraduate studies. Students are expected to be proactive about finding out about funding opportunities and to take responsibility themselves for knowing about and meeting all application requirements and deadlines. Registered and prospective students should consult the Postgraduate Bursary Office of the University for advice and further information on financial assistance, including opportunities not listed here (for instance scholarships).

Faculty Graduate School Doctoral Scholarships

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has launched a Graduate School that is aimed at supporting doctoral candidates working on topics linked to selected research themes, including research themes aligned to research programmes within the Department. Attached to this initiative is a scholarship programme for prospective doctoral students

which is advertised on an annual basis towards the end of the year *preceding* the first year of proposed registration in the programme.

The process of applying for admission to doctoral studies in the Department through the scholarship programme is handled, in the first instance, through the Graduate School office. More information is available from the Graduate School website http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Arts/graduate_school .

Stellenbosch University Bursaries

Stellenbosch University offers financial assistance to students as a contribution to the cost of postgraduate study. This assistance is based on:

- Academic merit; and
- Financial need.

Unfortunately the University cannot guarantee any student sufficient financial assistance to cover all his/her study and living expenses. Students are advised to plan their finances carefully and to check whether or not they meet the basic requirements, such as academic merit, before applying for a bursary.

Students who completed their previous study at another university (i.e. not at Stellenbosch University) must attach a certified copy of their academic record to each bursary application they make. Applications must furthermore be recommended by the head of the Department or by the head's representative.

Information on available bursaries can be obtained from the Postgraduate Bursary Office via the University website: www.sun.ac.za. A list of options for financial assistance for international students is available at <http://www.sun.ac.za/international/postgraduate-student-funding>. The Postgraduate Bursary Office (Division of Research Development) can be reached telephonically at +27 21-808 2907 / 2908 / 3896.

Please note: bursaries will only be paid into the student accounts of students who are accepted, and who have registered, for the programme.

NRF bursaries

Postgraduate students who are successful in their applications for admission are likely to qualify for consideration for bursaries from the National Research Foundation (NRF). Information as to the value of the assistance and the process and deadlines for application can be obtained from the NRF website: www.nrf.ac.za.

Departmental SP Cilliers Honours bursaries

The Department has established a limited number of bursaries, named after Prof SP Cilliers, a former Chair of the Department, to encourage students with demonstrated academic ability but in need of financial assistance, to continue with their studies at *Honours* level. Four bursaries are awarded per year. Calls for applications for the bursaries are announced by the Department during the second half of the year

preceding the proposed year of study, with the final awards being made after students' successful completion of their undergraduate degrees have been confirmed.

In awarding the bursary, the Department recognises that historical disadvantage in the form of institutionalised racial discrimination as a result of South Africa's history before 1994 is frequently, but not automatically nor exclusively, linked to current economic disadvantage.

More information on these bursaries is available from the Postgraduate Programme Administrator in the Department.

Other financial assistance from the Department

From time to time funding may be available from individual staff or departmental research projects to support research activities by students on topics related to or falling under the specific research projects. Students are advised to discuss such opportunities with their supervisors and the Postgraduate Programme Administrator.

There may also be opportunities for locally based students to work as part-time student/teaching assistants/tutors in the Department. Further details on such opportunities may be obtained from Ms Elizabeth Hector (ehector@sun.ac.za).

7. RESEARCH AREAS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT

The following list indicates major areas of teaching and research expertise within the Department in which postgraduate research is specifically encouraged. This is not intended as either a comprehensive or a closed list of research areas and other topics that students wish to pursue will be considered on their merits.

- Social theory (sociological and anthropological traditions and their application);
- Research methodology (qualitative, quantitative, mixed);
- Conflict, security and military studies;
- Environment and society, including environmental sociology, nature conservation and co-management locally, nationally and regionally;
- Gender and sexuality;
- The sociology/anthropology of health and health citizenship, including HIV/AIDS;
- Land and land reform in South Africa and internationally, including topics related to land claims, women's access to land, land and identity, urban-rural dynamics;
- Language, culture, religion and identity;
- Social security and social policy; and
- Work and development, including community development.

Academic staff and their specific areas of expertise are listed in section 8 below. More information on the research profile of individual staff members as well as current and recent research projects can be found on the Department's website.

The Department welcomes interaction with prospective and current students around their research interests and ideas; students should feel free to contact individual staff via e-mail to take such discussions forward.

Departmental seminar programme

The Department hosts a weekly lunch-hour seminar programme under the title, *New Social Forms*, at which visiting and local scholars and experts in a wide range of fields are invited to present and debate their research and writing. All postgraduate students who are resident in the Department are expected to attend and participate in the seminar programme; opportunities are also created for students to present their work-in-progress at both open and closed (departmental) seminar sessions.

Postgraduate Research Forum

The Department runs an informal Postgraduate Research Forum for all its postgraduate students, on a quarterly basis. This provides students with an opportunity to come together with staff and their peers in a collegial environment, to reflect upon their experiences in their field work and/or writing. Participation is encouraged for all resident students but voluntary.

8. STAFF IN THE DEPARTMENT

Academic staff (areas of specialisation)

Dr Thomas Cousins (Social Anthropology: Medical anthropology and HIV/AIDS)

Dr Bernard Dubbeld (Sociology: Critical Social Theory; Labour and Work; Theories of Gender; Historical Sociology of South Africa).

Jacob du Plessis (Sociology: Community development; the state and development; health and education; ICTs and development; teaching sociology practice).

Dr Khayaat Fakier (Sociology: Sociology of work; social reproduction and migrant households; social protection)

Prof Lindy Heineken (Sociology: Armed forces and society; state stability, security and development; HIV/AIDS and security; gender issues and the management of diversity within armed forces; changing nature of work and employment relations; political sociology).

Dr Lloyd Hill (Sociology: Language; the sociology of knowledge; research methodology).

Dr Mandisa Mbali (Social Anthropology: Health; AIDS activism and social movements).

Prof Rob Pattman: (Sociology: social identities with a focus on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, young people, education, HIV/AIDS, qualitative and self-reflexive research practices).

Dr Heidi Prozesky (Sociology: Environmental sociology; the sociology of science, with a focus on gender, publication productivity and citations; research methodology).

Prof Steven Robins (Social Anthropology: Citizenship and governance; land & identity; social movements & HIV/Aids; the anthropology of development).

Prof Kees van der Waal (Social Anthropology: Language, culture and identity; the anthropology of development; anthropology of South Africa; the ethnographic research method).

Jan Vorster (Sociology: Social security; social policy; poverty and housing; research methodology).

Prof Cheryl Walker (Sociology: Land reform; land and identity; sociology of the environment; women, development and gender; the politics and ethics of research).

Jantjie Xaba (Sociology: Industrial sociology; work organization, restructuring, retrenchments; black economic empowerment, technology, labour unions; diversity; informal economy).

Emeritus Professors

Prof Simon Bekker (Sociology: Urbanisation; migration; identity).

Prof Cornie Groenewald (Sociology: Demography; sociology of development; community development).

Prof Andrietta Kritzing (Sociology: Industrial sociology; sociology of work; gender).

Extraordinary professors and associate professors

Prof James Ferguson (Stanford University, United States of America).

Prof Marja Spierenburg (Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, The Netherlands) (Associate Prof).

Research fellows

Prof Victor Thiessen (Dalhousie University, Canada)

Dr Bram Büscher (International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University, The Hague, The Netherlands)

Administrative staff

Mrs Hendrine de Wet (Departmental Officer)

Ms Elizabeth Hector (Departmental student officer; Postgraduate Administrator)

Ms Genay Dhelminie (Administrative Officer)

II. PROGRAMME INFORMATION

1. Honours in Sociology or Social Anthropology

The Honours programme offers students a firm foundation in the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of each of the two disciplines, on which further postgraduate work can be built.

Students interested in careers as academics, researchers, social and policy analysts, planners, developers, consultants, social workers, human resource managers, and communications, government and NGO officials will all benefit, as will individuals with a general interest in deepening and broadening their understanding of society and social dynamics.

The programme aims:

- To develop theoretical insight concerning social relations, social institutions, and the dynamics of social change;
- To develop rigorous conceptual and research skills;
- To deepen understanding of social dynamics within the southern African region using a comparative perspective; and
- To encourage students to develop their individual areas of research interest and expertise.

Programme design

The programme is designed as a residential programme for full-time study, involving regular class meetings and seminars as well as time for individual reading and research. It takes a minimum of a year to complete. Research projects are usually handed in for examination by mid-December, meaning that successful students will graduate at the following March graduation ceremony.

The two disciplines run in parallel with integration of classes at particular points. Students obtain either the degree BA Honours in Sociology or the degree BA Honours in Social Anthropology depending on their undergraduate major and their selected area of specialisation.

The Honours programme consists of an induction programme and four modules. The induction programme may involve a group exercise such as a departmental field trip as well as various orientation sessions.

Two compulsory modules cater for the theoretical and methodological foundations of the relevant disciplines, i.e. Sociology and Social Anthropology. A third compulsory component consists of the research project which is conducted under departmental supervision.

The fourth compulsory component comprises a module on 'Selected themes' that is divided into two components. The first component addresses the disciplinary foci of within Sociology and Social Anthropology, respectively. This half-module will be presented in the 3rd term, primarily as separate sessions for Sociology and Social Anthropology students.

Finally, for the fourth term, students may choose one of a number of elective half-modules dealing with contemporary, relevant issues and themes in Sociology and/or Social Anthropology. The offering may vary from year to year.

In summary, the programme looks as follows:

- Module 1: Sociological/Social Anthropological theory;
- Module 2: Sociological/Social Anthropological research;
- Module 3: Research project, under supervision;
- Module 4: Selected themes:
 - Disciplinary foci; and
 - Elective. Students choose one theme from areas such as: development studies; the sociology of work and innovation; HIV/AIDS and society; land, environment and society; culture, identity and gender; and religion.

Assessment

Assessment is continuous, involving essays, seminar participation and examinations and students obtain a mark for every module completed. Students are also expected to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Department through, for instance, attendance of the weekly departmental seminar.

In cases where a student's average for the programme as a whole is borderline in terms of the class of the degree (for instance, the student has an average of 74%, just short of the 75% required for a *cum laude* pass) the Department may request the student to participate in an oral examination to determine the final mark.

The research project

The research project is examined by an internal examiner and moderated externally. Students choose their topics in consultation with the Department and work under the supervision of a member of the academic staff. The final 1.5 spaced project report is expected to be in the region of 10 000 – 12 000 words (maximum 15 000 words), excluding references.

For more information go to

<http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Arts/Departments/sociology/teaching/Tab1>

Programme co-ordinators

Social Anthropology:
Prof Steven Robins
Tel.: +27 21 808 2090
E-mail: slr@sun.ac.za

Sociology:
Dr Bernard Dubbeld
Tel.: +27 21 808 2097
E-mail: dubbeld@sun.ac.za

2. MA in Sociology or Social Anthropology

The MA programme offers students the opportunity to develop a structured research programme on a selected topic at a more advanced level than the Honours programme, drawing on the theoretical and methodological traditions within the disciplines of either Sociology or Social Anthropology.

The programme is an essential step along the career path of academics and researchers and will also be of benefit to social analysts, planners, developers and consultants, as well as to those working professionally in specific fields, such as government, health, development, education, the environment, social policy, gender programming and the media.

Students are expected to develop and demonstrate the conceptual and research skills necessary for the study of society and human relations at an advanced level, while deepening their knowledge of and insight into society, including from a comparative perspective. The focus is on deepening the student's grasp of the theoretical and methodological foundations of Sociology or Social Anthropology as well as his/her ability to apply sociological or social anthropological theory, analysis and research methodology in a selected field of study.

Programme design

Candidates obtain a MA degree in either Sociology or Social Anthropology primarily by research thesis. The programme involves a minimum of one year fulltime study, although a period of 18 months to two years is more common and students are urged to budget their time accordingly. Arrangements can be made for part-time study.

In the first semester of registration the student must define his or her research topic and develop a suitable research proposal to guide the research in consultation with a designated supervisor. A guide for the development of a Masters proposal is available from the Department.

In support of this work students attend an orientation programme and take one module (871) intended to: (1) provide a general induction to the MA programmes, staff members' research interests, the student-supervisor relationship, the examining process, departmental progress reporting requirements, ethics approval processes, as well as the technical requirements of a research proposal and writing a MA thesis; and (2) deepen the student's intellectual engagement with the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research and research design at this level.

Failure to complete this module successfully may lead to the student being asked to withdraw from the programme.

Once the module is completed and a suitable research proposal has been developed, the students are expected to begin their research, normally by the start of the second semester of their first year of registration. The final output is a research thesis of approximately 40 000 words (excluding references and appendices); technical requirements are set out in Section 5.7 of the University Calendar.

The option of undertaking a pure research thesis without taking the support module may be considered under exceptional circumstances, upon motivation to the programme co-ordinator.

The supervisory relationship

With both options, the student is assigned a thesis supervisor who provides individual guidance. Students are expected to initiate appointments/discussion with their supervisors, prepare inputs and written drafts of chapters, receive comments on assignments and also report on their progress orally and in written format, including via e-mail. The supervisor's responsibilities are to give the student advice related to the conceptualisation and design of his/her research project as well as give both written and oral feedback and comments on student work that is submitted.

It is important for students and supervisors to keep in regular contact; a rule of thumb is that on average there should be a substantive meeting or set of communications between student and supervisor every 4 – 6 weeks, or more frequently by mutual arrangement. It is also important for students to appreciate that academic staff have many other commitments and to plan their programme accordingly, especially when it comes to meeting university procedures and deadlines around submitting their work for examination. A rough rule of thumb is that staff can be expected to provide feedback within three weeks of receipt of material from their students, unless otherwise negotiated.

When it comes to the final draft of the thesis, students should be prepared to present their completed draft for final review by their supervisors no later than four weeks before the official submission date to the Postgraduate Examination Office, if they wish to meet that deadline. The Department encourages the negotiation of an individual supervisory contract between supervisor and student at the start of the supervisory relationship.

Content of the research thesis

The specialisation area of a student depends on the interest of the student and the availability of lecturers to supervise the particular topic. Students are urged to familiarise themselves with the research specialisations of staff in the Department and to explore opportunities to link their MA studies to on-going research programmes within the Department. However, the Department also welcomes well-motivated ideas and proposals from prospective students on other topics, provided that the necessary expertise is available to offer sound supervision.

Assessment

The thesis is worth 180 credits and is examined by both an internal and an external examiner in accordance with University rules.

Progress Report

In addition to feedback to students in individual modules, the Department reviews student progress on an annual basis by means of a Progress Report that is completed by both the student and his/her supervisor. This Report affords both students and supervisors an opportunity to reflect on the academic progress of the individual student and identify any issues or problems requiring follow-up or attention, including from the side of the Department. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress may result in the

Department not recommending that a student be allowed to re-register for the programme the following year.

Programme co-ordinators

Social Anthropology:
Prof Steven Robins
Tel.: +27 21 808 2090
E-mail: slr@sun.ac.za

Sociology:
Prof Cheryl Walker
Tel.: +27 21 808 2473
E-mail: cjwalker@sun.ac.za

3. Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science Methods

The focus of this programme is on the methodology of the social sciences. It is designed to build research capacity among social researchers and to help meet a growing demand – in government, the private sector and civil society – for integrated training in quantitative and qualitative research methods. The programme will benefit, inter alia, social researchers, methodology lecturers, as well as planners and policy analysts in government and civil society.

The general purpose of the programme is to develop students' expertise in social research methodology and social research techniques to enhance their capacity as social researchers.

The programme aims to:

- Provide students with the necessary skills and conceptual knowledge to become good social research practitioners and teachers, including a thorough understanding of the logic and process of social research;
- Provide students with an overview of the main approaches and paradigms, both quantitative and qualitative, in empirical social research;
- Sensitise students to the challenges and requirements of ethical research design and practice;
- Provide students with the necessary skills and conceptual knowledge to become good social researchers and teachers of social research;
- Provide a bridge into the MA programmes in Sociology and Social Anthropology of the Department for students from cognate disciplines, with the interest and aptitude for advanced sociological or anthropological studies; and
- Bring together researchers from various disciplines and institutions, to build up a national network of researchers interested in methodological issues.

Programme design

Students undergo intensive course work in a variety of fields in social science methods, as well as receive hands-on practice in doing research. Students have to complete eight modules.

The period of registration is one year. The programme is non-residential – students are therefore not eligible for accommodation in a university residence.

Each module combines student self-study, electronic communication with lecturers around reading materials and assignments, and intensive week-long blocks of classes at the University at times specified in the annual schedule throughout the year. Attendance at the scheduled classes is compulsory for students to pass a module.

There are two compulsory modules:

- Module 1: Understanding social research;
- Module 2: Principles of research design.

Additional modules are chosen from a suite of modules, including:

- Survey methodology;
- Quantitative data analysis with SPSS;
- Introduction to ethnographic research methods;
- Introduction to programme evaluation;
- Programme evaluation design;
- Interviewing methods;
- Theory of qualitative data analysis;
- Politics and ethics of social research;
- Qualitative data analysis with Atlas t/i;
- Case study methodology;
- Data analysis and data management with SPSS; and
- Capita selecta.

Admission requirements

A B-degree in the broad field of the social sciences and an average of at least 65% in the major subjects, with demonstrated academic ability, are required.

Programme co-ordinator

Jan Vorster
Tel: +27 21 808 2132
E-mail: jhv3@sun.ac.za

4. MA in Social Science Methods

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop a structured research thesis with a strong methodological focus on a selected topic (100% thesis of approximately 100 to 120 pages). The programme focuses on the development of critical thought as well as theoretical, conceptual and research competency in a specialised area of social science research, e.g. philosophy of science, research ethics, sociology of science and research management and/or with a strong methodological component.

The MA programme follows after the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science Methods *or* an Honours Degree in Sociology or Social Anthropology *or* an equivalent qualification on NQF-level 8. An average of at least 65%, with demonstrated academic ability, is required.

In combination with the Postgraduate Diploma in Social Science Methods, the programme will be of strong benefit to social researchers, methodology lecturers, market researchers, development planners in local and national government departments, NGO employees involved in social research activities, policy analysts and advisers.

Programme design

The programme involves a minimum of one year registration to complete a thesis.

In the first term of registration the student must define his or her research topic and develop a suitable research proposal to guide the research in consultation with a designated supervisor. A guide for the development of a Masters proposal is available from the Department.

In support of this work students attend an orientation programme and are encouraged to join the MA programme in Sociology/Social Anthropology by taking one module (871) intended to (1) provide a general induction to the MA programmes, staff members' research interests, the student-supervisor relationship, the examining process, departmental progress reporting requirements, ethics approval processes, as well as technical requirements of a research proposal and MA thesis; and (2) deepen the student's intellectual engagement with the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research at this level.

Once the preliminaries are completed and a suitable research proposal has been developed, the students are expected to begin their research ideally no later than by the start of the second semester of their first year of registration. The final output is a research thesis of approximately 30,000 – 40,000 words (excluding references and appendices).

The supervisory relationship

The student is assigned a thesis supervisor who provides individual guidance. Students are expected to initiate appointments/discussion with their supervisors, prepare inputs and written drafts of chapters, receive comments on assignments and also report on their progress orally and in written format, including via e-mail. The supervisor's responsibilities are to give the student advice related to the conceptualisation and design of his/her research project as well as give both written and oral feedback and comments on student work that is submitted.

It is important for students and supervisors to keep regular contact; a rule of thumb is that on average there should be a substantive meeting or set of communications between student and supervisor every 4 – 6 weeks, or more frequently by mutual arrangement.

It is also important for students to appreciate that academic staff have many other commitments and to plan their programme accordingly, especially when it comes to meeting university procedures and deadlines around submitting their work for examination. A rough rule of thumb is that staff can be expected to provide feedback within three weeks of receipt of material from their students, unless otherwise negotiated. When it comes to

the final draft of the thesis, students should be prepared to present their completed draft for final review by their supervisors no later than four weeks before the official submission date to the Postgraduate Examination Office, if they wish to meet that deadline. The Department encourages the negotiation of an individual supervisory contract between supervisor and student at the start of the supervisory relationship.

Progress Report

The Department reviews student progress on an annual basis by means of a Progress Report that is completed by both the student and his/her supervisor. This Report affords both students and supervisors an opportunity to reflect on the academic progress of the individual student and identify any issues or problems requiring follow-up or attention, including from the side of the Department. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress may result in the Department not recommending that a student be allowed to re-register for the programme the following year.

Content of the research thesis

The specialisation area of a student depends on the interest of the student and the availability of lecturers to supervise the particular topic.

Students are urged to familiarise themselves with the research specialisations of staff in the Department and to explore opportunities to link their thesis to on-going research programmes within the Department. However, the Department also welcomes well-motivated ideas and proposals from prospective students on other topics, provided that the necessary expertise is available to offer sound supervision.

Programme co-ordinator

Jan Vorster

Tel: +27 21 808 2132

E-mail: jhv3@sun.ac.za

5. Postgraduate Diploma in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies

This new one-year degree programme is hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology in collaboration with the Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (Division of Community Health) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The purpose of the programme is to develop students' capacity to investigate and think critically about a range of questions concerning health and development broadly conceived. By working across diverse perspectives that transcend disciplinary boundaries, we seek to develop new methods, concepts, and practices to address the complex linkages between health and development in contemporary South Africa.

The PDG is designed for a diverse group of students to develop the theoretical and methodological skills necessary to take on the social and political complexities of health and development in Africa. The postgraduate diploma provides a strong conceptual foundation for theoretically and methodologically grounded engagements with applied concerns around health and development, and sets up students for professional work or further academic study.

The programme will pair a core set of required modules with methodological and topical electives. Each student will be assigned an academic advisor, who will ensure that the programme is tailored to meet their specific needs and interests.

NB: Students who want to follow the programme over a period longer than a year can, in consultation with the programme coordinator, enrol for those modules they want to follow in a particular year.

The proposed programme has three primary aims:

- To train a new generation of South African and African social and health researchers in transdisciplinary approaches that allow them to engage critically, astutely and sensitively with important issues of social transformation.
- To prepare health professionals, development practitioners, and policy makers for the complexities of health and development practice and for effective scientific engagement in an increasingly diverse and globalised world.
- To create an intellectual space for original critical research across disciplinary boundaries that contributes useful knowledge for the promotion of human wellness, the relief of suffering, and the transformation of structures of exclusion in Africa and the global South.

Compulsory modules

13187: Critical social theory for transdisciplinary research in health and development	771(30)
13189: History, politics and ethics of health and development in Africa	771(30)

Optional modules

Students must select two topical electives and two methods electives, some of which are listed below. The Department reserves the right not to offer all elective modules in a particular calendar year.

Methods electives (select two)

10265: Survey methodology	771(15)
13138: Quantitative data analysis with SPSS	771(15)
13139: Ethnographic research methods	771(15)
13140: Qualitative interviewing methods and analysis	771(15)
13141: Capita selecta (methods)	771(15)

Topical electives (select two)

13143: Gender, youth and childhood	771(15)
13190: Gender, race and health in modern African history	771(15)
13142: Community development	771(15)
13144: Governance and citizenship	771(15)
13146: Capita selecta (topics)	771(15)

The PDG in provides a bridge into the M.Phil programmes in Transdisciplinary Health And Development Studies (either by coursework or by thesis) for students with non-social scientific training with the interest and aptitude for critical and transdisciplinary engagement with health and development.

Admission requirements

The Diploma accepts students with a wide range of undergraduate qualifications in the broad field of the social sciences / humanities or health sciences. Students qualified in other fields, who have a specific interest in health and development, are also encouraged to apply. A bachelor's degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline (social sciences, health sciences, development) on NQF level 7 and an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, with demonstrated academic ability are required.

Enquiries

Programme co-ordinator: Dr Thomas Cousins
Tel: (021) 808 2098 email: tcousins@sun.ac.za

6. MPhil (TRANSDISCIPLINARY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)

This new M.Phil degree programme is hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology in collaboration with the Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences (Division of Community Health) in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The purpose of the programme is to develop students' capacity to investigate and think critically about a range of questions concerning health and development broadly conceived. By working across diverse perspectives that transcend disciplinary boundaries, we seek to develop new methods, concepts, and practices to address the complex linkages between health and development in contemporary South Africa.

The M.Phil programme requires a minimum of one year of study. Depending on their training, students can register for one of two options for the MPhil degree.

The M.Phil by thesis (879) requires the writing of a thesis containing the results of independent research on a research problem. Additional course work supporting the development of a research proposal is required of all candidates. Once the proposal is approved by the programme committee, students begin research, analysis, and writing.

The second option (899) requires the completion of four modules and a research assignment.

NB: Students who want to follow the programme over a period longer than a year can, in consultation with the programme coordinator, enrol for those modules they want to follow in a particular year.

879

Compulsory module

13150: Thesis (Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies)	871(180)
--	----------

899

Compulsory modules

13187: Critical social theory for transdisciplinary research in health and development	771(30)
13189: History, politics and ethics of health and development in Africa	771(30)
13147: Social science methods for health and development	871(30)
13148: Directed reading for research development	871(30)
13149: Research Assignment (Transdisciplinary health and development)	871(60)

Admission Requirements

Candidates in possession of a postgraduate diploma in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies, a related social science honours degree or a health sciences qualification with proven experience in social science research on NQF level 8 (with an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, and demonstrated academic ability) may apply for the MPhil by thesis only (879).

Students with a postgraduate diploma or honours degree on NQF level 8 in an alternate field (with an average of at least 65% in the relevant subjects, and demonstrated academic ability) or equivalent professional experience may apply for the MPhil by coursework (899). An average of at least 65%, with demonstrated academic ability, is required for both options.

All applicants are encouraged to consult the programme coordinator to work out the most appropriate course of study.

The supervisory relationship

The student is assigned a thesis supervisor most appropriate to their area of research who provides individual guidance. Students are expected to initiate appointments/discussion with their supervisors, prepare inputs and written drafts of chapters, receive comments on assignments and also report on their progress orally and in written format, including via e-mail. The supervisor's responsibilities are to give the student advice related to the conceptualisation and design of his/her research project as well as give both written and oral feedback and comments on student work that is submitted.

It is important for students and supervisors to keep regular contact; a rule of thumb is that on average there should be a substantive meeting or set of communications between student and supervisor every 4 – 6 weeks, or more frequently by mutual arrangement.

It is also important for students to appreciate that academic staff have many other commitments and to plan their programme accordingly, especially when it comes to meeting university procedures and deadlines around submitting their work for examination. A rough rule of thumb is that staff can be expected to provide feedback within three weeks of receipt of material from their students, unless otherwise negotiated. When it comes to the final draft of the thesis, students should be prepared to present their completed draft for final review by their supervisors no later than four weeks before the official submission date to the Postgraduate Examination Office, if they wish to meet that deadline. The Department encourages the negotiation of an individual supervisory contract between supervisor and student at the start of the supervisory relationship.

Progress Report

The Department reviews student progress on an annual basis by means of a Progress Report that is completed by both the student and his/her supervisor. This Report affords both students and supervisors an opportunity to reflect on the academic progress of the individual student and identify any issues or problems requiring follow-up or attention, including from the side of the Department. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress may result in the Department not recommending that a student be allowed to re-register for the programme the following year.

Content of the research thesis

The specialisation area of a student depends on the interest of the student and the availability of lecturers to supervise the particular topic in either the Faculty of Health Sciences or the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Students are urged to familiarise themselves with the research specialisations of staff affiliated with the new programme in Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies, and to explore opportunities to link their thesis to on-going research programmes. However, the Department also welcomes well-motivated ideas and proposals from prospective students on other topics, provided that the necessary expertise is available to offer sound supervision.

Enquiries

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Thomas Cousins

Tel: (021) 808 2098 email: tcousins@sun.ac.za

7. PhD in Sociology

Candidates with a good Master's degree in Sociology or a cognate discipline, as well as a strong commitment to advanced-level research that will make an authoritative contribution to sociological knowledge within their chosen field of study, are invited to apply.

Procedures for applying, including the process leading up to the approval of the research proposal within the Faculty, are set out in Part 1, Section 5.2 above.

The programme involves independent and original research, leading towards the writing of a dissertation on an approved topic, as developed in an approved research proposal and under the supervision of a supervisor and, where appropriate, a co-supervisor. The minimum length of time to complete the programme once the proposal has been approved in terms of Faculty requirements is two years, although in practice many students take longer.

Additional structured work, including participating in selected postgraduate modules in other departmental programmes (for instance, modules on research methods or on sociological theory) may be required of the candidate, in support of his or her individual research programme. This will depend on the nature of the dissertation and the evaluation of the supervisor, and will be negotiated with each student individually.

For more details on doctoral programmes in the Department, see section 8 below.

Programme co-ordinator

Prof Cheryl Walker

Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2473 or (0)21 808 2420

Email: cjwalker@sun.ac.za

8. PhD in Social Anthropology

Candidates with a good Master's degree in Social Anthropology or a cognate discipline, as well as a strong commitment to advanced-level research that will make an authoritative contribution to social anthropological knowledge within their chosen field of study, are invited to apply.

Procedures for applying, including the process leading up to the approval of the research proposal within the Faculty, are set out in Part 1, Section 5.2 above.

The programme involves independent and original research, leading towards the writing of a dissertation on an approved topic, as developed in an approved research proposal and under the supervision of a supervisor and, where appropriate, a co-supervisor. The minimum length of time to complete the programme once the proposal has been approved in terms of Faculty requirements is two years, although in practice many students take longer.

Additional structured work, including participating in selected postgraduate modules in other departmental programmes (for instance, modules on research methods or on social

theory) may be required of the candidate, in support of his or her individual research programme. This will depend on the nature of the dissertation and the evaluation of the supervisor, and will be negotiated with each student individually.

For more details on doctoral programmes in the Department, see section 8 below.

Programme co-ordinator

Prof Steven Robins
Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2090 or +27 (0)21 808 2420
Email: slr@sun.ac.za

9. PhD in Social Science Methods

Candidates with a good Master's degree with social science content or a strong methodological focus, either in Sociology, Social Anthropology or related disciplines, and a strong interest in advanced-level research that would make an authoritative contribution to knowledge in the field of social science methods, are invited to apply.

The programme entails the writing, over the course of a minimum of two years, a dissertation of 200-250 pages that contains the results of independent and original research regarding a research problem with a strong methodological focus. Thus, in addition to the high level of methodological expertise required to carry out research at doctoral level, candidates in this programme are expected to deal in a rigorous and innovative way with issues relating to social science methods.

To illustrate, some of the dissertation titles of previous, current or prospective students read as follows: "Methods effects in a mixed-methods, quasi-experimental investigation of gendered choices of science subjects in Rwandan secondary schools"; "Methodological triangulation in the study of prosecutorial discretion: Overcoming epistemological challenges in the application of case study and survey methods in understanding prosecutorial decision-making"; "Research designs and methods for the built environment in South Africa"; and "Transforming logic modelling for NGO use in South Africa".

Additional coursework, in the form of the successful completion of any number of structured modules selected from the exiting modules offered as part of the Department's other Social Science Methods (SSM) programmes, may be expected from (or requested by) the candidate. This would depend on the type of training the candidate and/or supervisor deem necessary for the candidate to complete his/her degree successfully, as well as a consideration of any previous, postgraduate methodology training the candidate may have already received.

The content, form and assessment of additional work will be negotiated with each student individually. The dissertation is examined internally and externally; an oral examination is part of the final evaluation. Students are strongly encouraged to publish their final dissertation in the form of journal articles or a book.

Programme co-ordinator

Dr Heidi Prozesky
Tel: +27 21 808 3708

Email: hep@sun.ac.za

10. PhD studies in the Department: General provisions

Successful PhD students are expected to demonstrate both mastery of the theoretical and conceptual framework(s) relevant to their chosen field and the methodological expertise that is required to carry out research at doctoral level. They must be able to think in a critical, rigorous, and innovative way and to communicate the results of their research through their dissertation effectively and in compliance with appropriate academic norms and standards, including around the presentation of data and the use of references and sources.

Duration

The minimum period of registration for a doctoral programme is two years. In practice most students expect to take three to four years to complete their thesis, due to time needed for fieldwork and also where they are combining their studies with other responsibilities.

The supervisory relationship

Supervisors are appointed by the Department in consultation with the student; a co-supervisor, including from outside the Department, may also be appointed, depending on the nature of the study.

At the doctoral level the supervisory relationship is of critical importance. The Department encourages individual students and supervisors to negotiate a supervisory contract at the start of their research relationship that addresses mutual expectations around communications, time frames, the submission of draft materials by the student, and feedback from supervisors. Feedback from supervisors on progress can be oral or in written form.

Participation in the intellectual life of the Department

Doctoral students are encouraged to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Department, as far as possible. This includes participation in the Department's Postgraduate Research Forum (an opportunity for informal discussion among postgraduate students on research issues that meets on a quarterly basis through the year) and the Department's general weekly seminar programme.

Students may be asked to present their work to the Department in the form of seminars from time to time.

Progress reports

The Department reviews individual student progress on an annual basis by means of a Progress Report that is completed by both the student and his/her supervisor. This Report affords both students and supervisors an opportunity to reflect on the academic progress of the individual student and to identify any issues or problems requiring attention, including from the side of the Department. Failure to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress

may result in the Department not recommending that a student be allowed to re-register for the programme the following year.

Format of the dissertation

The recommended length of the doctoral dissertation is approximately 80,000 - 85,000 words (200 – 250 typed pages). University requirements in terms of formatting and general layout as well as submission are set out in the Higher Degrees section of Part 1 (General) of the University Calendar. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that his/her dissertation meets University requirements.

Examination of the dissertation

Once completed, the dissertation is examined internally and externally, according to the policies and requirements of the University. Examination usually involves a panel of three suitably qualified experts in the field (one internal to the University and two from outside the University).

An oral examination of the thesis is included as part of the final evaluation, under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University.

Conferences and publications

Students are encouraged to participate actively in academic workshops and seminars and to present their work at national and international conferences. Financial support towards such activities may be available from the Department and/or Faculty, funds permitting and upon motivation by the student, generally with the support of his/her supervisor.

Students are also encouraged to explore opportunities to publish aspects of their research as articles in academic journals during the course of the study. Once the doctorate has been awarded its publication as a monograph is also strongly recommended