



**Stellenbosch**

UNIVERSITY  
IYUNIVESITHI  
UNIVERSITEIT

**SPL**

School for Public Leadership  
iSikolo sobuNkokheli boLuntu  
Skool vir Publieke Leierskap

## SCHOOL OF PUBLIC LEADERSHIP (SPL) PhD PROGRAMME

### *FROM THE HEAD OF DOCTORAL PROGRAMME*

School of Public Leadership (SPL) is in the Western Cape alongside the picturesque Winelands, in one of the most attractive coastal cities in South Africa. Thank you for your interest in our doctoral programme.

As a postgraduate student, you will enjoy the celebrated location as well as the academic ethos of Stellenbosch University. The PhD or Doctorate in Public and Development Management is undoubtedly an advanced and senior postgraduate qualification that leads to the generation of new knowledge.

You have made an informed decision to embark on this new academic venture and it is our pleasure to guide you through the doctoral journey by offering our expert knowledge, skills and competencies in chosen fields of study at SPL. Our students work closely and diligently with supervisor/co-supervisors to produce pioneering scholarly research that is path breaking and innovative.

The School accepts a limited number of applications due to capacity constraints and therefore admission is based on available expertise to ensure an academically and intellectually stimulating experience.

### Programme Contact Details

**Head Of Doctoral Programme  
Doctorate in Public and  
Development Management**

**Prof Pregala Pillay**  
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021 918 2150

**Administrator**

**Mrs J. Saunders**  
[jjs3@sun.ac.za](mailto:jjs3@sun.ac.za)  
021 808 2151

**Head Of Doctoral Programme  
Doctorate in Environmental  
Management**

**Prof Martin De Wit**  
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021 808 4273



## DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

This programme consists of three main phases: A proposal preparation and admission phase, a research and dissertation-writing phase and a formal examination phase.

**Applications dates for each year can be confirmed by the administrator**

## CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERING YOUR APPLICATION

The following are considered:

- Recognised and relevant master's degree with an ability to produce independent scholarly work.
- Proven command of research methodology and competence in English academic writing.
- Minimum work experience, with at least three to five years in leadership/managerial/ supervisor/co-supervisory capacity.
- A cogent research proposal, as per SPL Guidelines

## RECOMMENDATION

Candidates from historically disadvantaged communities are strongly encouraged to apply. In certain situations, where the applicant has limited work experience, the required period before enrolment for PhD after completion of a master's degree is 3 years. In line with the Grow Your Own Timber Initiative (GOOT), applications from candidates with merit pass at a master's Qualification/Degree will also be considered. A panel appointed for this purpose will make a final selection of applicants.

## PERIOD OF STUDY

Candidates are required to complete their studies with a minimum period of two (2) years and maximum of four (4) years.

## SUPERVISION

- The School is committed to matching one or more appropriate supervisor/co-supervisor/s to the field of enquiry.
- The supervisor/co-supervisors assume the role of mentor and provide the necessary academic expertise and guidance required for the endeavour. Our students are welcome to engage supervisor/co-supervisors on critical matters that impact on their research. All these interactions are based on mutual trust, respect, professionalism and ethical considerations.
- Students are expected to maintain regular contact (personal meetings, telephone or Skype conversations, written correspondence via email) with their supervisor/co-supervisors.
- At the outset, there must be an agreement on mutual expectations and responsibilities.
- At the pre-doctoral training Workshop, both supervisor/co-supervisory and student responsibilities are comprehensively discussed.

## THE DOCTORAL JOURNEY

### PHASE 1: ADMISSION

Advertisements for the Doctoral Programme are placed on our School Website, media platforms and/or the national newspapers.

**Applications for Local and International candidates open online from April each year until end of September of each year for the forthcoming academic year.**

### ADMISSION PROCESS

The admission process has the following steps:

#### STEP 1: APPLICATION, APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR/CO SUPERVISORS AND COMPULSORY WORKSHOP

Do find attached the link to the university application portal <https://student.sun.ac.za/applicant-portal/#/auth/login>

Please follow all the necessary steps to upload your qualification documents, your concept note and your Master's degree title as per online request together with your short CV.

Once your application has been reviewed by the admissions office your application will reach the PhD Programme Administrator's Office, Mrs Jennifer Saunders (email address [jjs3@sun.ac.za](mailto:jjs3@sun.ac.za)) that will forward guidelines to assist you to draft a comprehensive research proposal (minimum of 20 pages).

You are required to email a detailed proposal, a CV together with certified copies of all qualifications to confirm that you meet all the criteria.

The selection committee will review the application once the administrator submitted your proposal and relevant documentation to prospective supervisor/co-supervisors in SPL, taking into account appropriate research capacity and expertise.

Provisional offers will be forwarded to the selected candidates who in turn must accept the conditional offer and then upload the contract as set out in the application procedure. Only once this process has been completed the candidate will receive a final offer. This will all happen only during the month of October of each year.

**Selected candidates will be invited to a compulsory interview as part of the application process.**

Successful candidates will be required to attend the compulsory two-day research Workshops where they will meet and interact with their supervisor/co-supervisors.

The identification and appointment of an appropriate supervisor /co-supervisor is managed as an internal SPL process. Appointment of a supervisor/co-supervisor is subject to supervision capacity.

Additional workshops like the Research Methodology and a Colloquium are to focus, inter alia, on enhancing the research proposal, research methodology and programme success; to develop the conventions of scientific research writing; to outline and clarify the responsibilities of students and supervisor/co supervisors, and to increase plagiarism awareness and consequences.

Colleagues from the School of Public Leadership and specialists from the external environment will facilitate the Workshop.

## STEP 2: PRESENTATION TO FACULTY ADMISSION COMMITTEE

At the end of the compulsory Research Methodology Workshop, it is expected that you and your supervisor/co-supervisor will work on your final proposal with a view to submit it to a Faculty Admission Committee.

## STEP 3: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TO FACULTY BOARD

The comments of the Faculty Admission Committee will be discussed between student and supervisor/co-supervisor and necessary amendments/corrections effected.

The final research proposal will be tabled at the November Faculty Board Meeting for approval and notification to Stellenbosch University Senate.

## STEP 4: REGISTRATION OF DOCTORAL DEGREE

You will then be informed of official registration for the Doctoral Degree for the forthcoming year. **Please make sure that you do an online application once again to advance into the full PhD programme as you will only be registered as a Prep PhD student during the first year.**

## PHASE 2: RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION WRITING

You will now have officially embarked on the doctoral research journey. In order to ensure that the journey is completed effectively, a Memorandum of Understanding between you and SPL, serving as a performance agreement, will be entered into and kept on file at the beginning of the first full academic year. You and your supervisor/co-supervisor are also required to complete compulsory progress reports every six (6) months, which are forwarded to Mrs Jennifer Saunders (Email: [jjs3@sun.ac.za](mailto:jjs3@sun.ac.za)) for record keeping and progress reporting or uploaded directly unto the SunStudent Portal via your own profile.

The research process requires good interaction between you and your supervisor/co-supervisor. Please note that before actual fieldwork/research operational data collection commences, it will be expected of you as the researcher to submit various official documents for ethical clearance on the Stellenbosch University Ethical Clearance Platform. More information and access to the platform is available online: The URL [https://www.sun.ac.za/english/research-innovation/Research-Development/integrity-ethics/human-research-\(humanities\)-ethics](https://www.sun.ac.za/english/research-innovation/Research-Development/integrity-ethics/human-research-(humanities)-ethics). Please make sure you have good and secure internet.

You will be required to login using your [username@sun.ac.za](mailto:username@sun.ac.za) and network password. Follow the instructions that are applicable to you.

## PHASE 3: EXAMINATION PHASE

### STEP 1:

The appointment of examiners is a Faculty matter that is handled under supervision of the Dean's office. The examination panel consists of three independent examiners, who were not in any way involved, in the preparation of the specific dissertation.

The following considerations are taken into account in the appointment of examiners:

- Qualifications (preferably the same or higher)
- Knowledge of the study field and topic
- National or International Stature
- Appropriate practical experience
- Availability
- Academic orientation (of external examiners who do not hold an academic position)
- Deliberate strategy to prevent over-utilisation of the same (internal and external)
- Examiners within a particular environment
- Relationship to candidate
- Independence of the examiner in general

The examiners have six weeks in which to study the dissertation and to provide their feedback in the form of an examiner's report and a completed standard report form to the Faculty Officer in the Dean's office.

Supervisor/co-supervisors are not involved in any correspondence with the examiners on their official appointment, despatching of dissertations to the examiners, or receipt of the examiners' reports.

Doctoral candidates may not under any circumstances communicate with the examiners about their dissertations. Examiners may also not communicate with one another about the content of the dissertation they are required to evaluate.

- structure of the document;
- scope of the document (what is expected of a PhD), and
- technical finishing of the document

The evaluation should also be based on the question of whether the dissertation contains the basic elements including:

- introductory chapter;
- in-depth literature review;
- thorough description of the methodology;
- presentation of the empirical results;
- interpretation of the results, leading to conclusions;
- management implications flowing from the empirical results and findings, and
- summary of the study's contribution to the academic discipline of study.

A ring-bound copy of the dissertation for each examiner (x3) has to be handed in at the Dean's office for examination. Candidates need to submit their copies before or on 8 August of a particular year (if they wish to graduate in December of that year), and before 1 October of the particular year (if they wish to graduate in March/April of the following year).

When a dissertation is handed in at the Dean's office, the following information must be confirmed by the Chair/Director of the relevant Department/School:

- That the examiners are still available for the examination;

- That the dissertation is ready to be examined;
- An additional requirement is that the candidate includes a written declaration by an accredited language editor to confirm that both the language and technical aspects of the dissertation have been edited. Should the services of an accredited editor not be used, the supervisor/co-supervisor has to approve the editor whose services are being used. A letter from this expert, confirming that proofreading and editing was done, must accompany the submission of the final version of the dissertation.
- That the dissertation need to been submitted via SUNLearn, with sufficient evidence that excessive plagiarism has not occurred.

**NOTE: The dissertation will not be sent to examiners if this required documentation is not received.**

### **STEP 3: PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATING DISSERTATION**

- The candidate's dissertation is evaluated by each examiner individually.
- When all the written reports of all the examiners have been received, a quality control committee under the chairmanship of the Vice-Dean (Research) considers all the examiners' reports and decides whether the Faculty might meaningfully proceed with an oral examination. This report and the examiners' original reports are sent to the supervisor/co-supervisor. The supervisor/co-supervisor may discuss the contents of the reports with his or her student, but should still keep the reports confidential. Candidates are not allowed to have direct access to examiners' reports.
- It is expected of the candidate to submit a full written report with a list of all the changes that have been made to the Faculty Officer in the Dean's office. This report should be submitted at least six days prior to an oral examination. It should be approved by the candidate's supervisor/co-supervisor(s) before submitting it to the Faculty Officer, and has to be forwarded, together with the latest version of the dissertation, to the examiners prior to the oral examination.
- When a dissertation is referred back for further examination (and the oral examination therefore does not proceed), the study leader(s) and candidate are still not allowed to contact the examiners

### **STEP 4: RECOMMENDATION TO SENATE**

After a successful ORAL examination, the recommendations of the committee and the examiners' reports are sent to the Faculty Secretary and all the departmental chairs in the Faculty. During this period, an electronic copy of the dissertation is available in the Dean's office for perusal by faculty members. The Dean submits the recommendation of the examination committee and the individual examination reports to the Faculty Board. The Faculty Board makes a recommendation to the Senate for approval of the dissertation.

With a view to the graduation ceremony, the supervisor/co-supervisor has to electronically submit the final dissertation and relevant information on the SunScholar system, by the respective due dates.

**The title of Doctor may only be used from the date of graduation.**

## LIST OF DOCTORAL SUPERVISORS

### DOCTORATE IN PUBLIC AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & DOCTORATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



**Prof Zwelinzim Ndevu**  
Zwelinzima@sun.ac.za  
021 918 4129

**Area of Specialisation**

Leadership  
People management/HRM  
Community  
Participation/Engagement  
Ethics  
Local government



**Prof Pregala Solosh Pillay**  
Pregala@sun.ac.za  
021 808 3602

**Area of Specialisation**

Corruption  
Ethics  
Public Trust  
Service Delivery  
Women and Diversity



**Prof Firoz Khan**  
Firoz.Khan@spl.sun.ac.za  
021 808 3037

**Area of Specialisation**

Development Planning and  
Management  
Developmental State and  
Governance  
Housing and Urban Studies  
Institutional Transformation  
Applied Economics and Informality



**Prof Tania Ajam**  
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**Area of Specialisation**

Public Financial  
Management Reform  
Municipal Finance  
Tax Policy and Administration



**Prof Martin De Wit**  
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021 808 2151

**Area of Specialisation**

Economic approaches to  
environmental assessment,  
management, and policy  
Ecosystem services in urban  
contexts  
Environmental, energy and  
natural resource economics  
Integrated ecological economic  
modelling





# Stellenbosch

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forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe