

5.2 PhD

You have two options: PhD by thesis and PhD by publication.

- A PhD by thesis (monograph) typically contains separate chapters that form a coherent whole. The length is approximately 70 000 – 90 000 words.
- A PhD by publication should contain at least three publishable articles/book chapters or peer-reviewed conference proceedings with bookend chapters to contextualize the study and provide detailed information about methodology and theoretical framework(s). The length depends upon allowed word count for different publication types. Included chapters (except for the bookend chapters) are suitable for publication, have been submitted for publication, or have already been published as published conference proceedings, journal articles, and/or book chapters. The authorship of each article needs to be clearly indicated in accordance with the regulations of Part 1 of the Calendar (General).

For more information regarding the format and processes to be followed, please see the Faculty Guide for Postgraduate Studies.

Admission requirements

To be admitted to the PhD programme, you must:

- have a master's degree from this University (for which you obtained at least 60%),
or
- have another master's degree that Senate has approved for such purpose (for which you obtained at least 60%),
or
- have in some other manner attained a standard of competence in a particular field of study deemed adequate for such purpose by Senate.

Application procedure

If you wish to register for the PhD, you must formally apply to SU. Only then will you be able to call on services or receive guidance in preparing a research proposal.

Selection process

Please note that application and registration are two separate processes. Your research proposal will be used to determine whether or not you may register to be admitted.

The relevant postgraduate committee will evaluate your research proposal and then recommend to the Faculty Board whether or not you may register for admission. Your research proposal may therefore be accepted or rejected. If it is rejected, you will not be admitted to the programme. Normally it may not take more than one year to vet a proposal. If a proposal is considered for more than a year, the departmental chair will have to make a special case.

Aim of the programme

The PhD programme aims to:

- give you opportunities to carry out high-level research as an education student,
- build your research capacity, and
- help you to make an original and relevant contribution to scientific knowledge through independent research.

Programmes

You can apply for one of the following programmes:

- 26506-978 (360) Comparative Education
- 54526-978 (360) Curriculum Studies
- 21903-978 (360) Educational Psychology
- 65811-978 (360) Educational Support
- 54577-978 (360) Education and Training for Lifelong Learning
- 49255-978 (360) Education Management

- 50261-978 (360) Education Policy Studies
- 49204-978 (360) Environmental Education
- 49492-978 (360) Higher Education
- 23876-978 (360) History of Education
- 11970-978 (360) Language Education
- 21865-978 (360) Philosophy of Education

Duration of the study

The maximum number of years that a student can be registered for a PhD is 5 years.

Assessment and examination

The statutory requirements and other provisions relating to doctoral degrees in Part 1 (General) of the University Calendar also apply to this degree.

The Faculty of Education will confer the degree if:

- a) you have the master's degree mentioned under "Admission requirements" above and
- b) your PhD research project was approved by Senate.
- c) since the above approval, you have conducted original research:
 - under the supervision of a supervisor,
 - for a period of at least two years, and
 - to the satisfaction of the University.
- d) have completed any other subjects that may have been required by Senate to the satisfaction of the University.
- e) have submitted a dissertation which:
 - represents an original conceptual and/or methodological contribution in your chosen field of study
 - to the satisfaction of Senate shows that you have made a distinct contribution to enrich the knowledge in this specific field of study.

Also note:

- The dissertation is normally between 70 000 and 90 000 words in length.
 - The dissertation should be of sufficient quality to be published as an article in a suitable professional journal or as a book.
- f) have undergone an oral examination to the satisfaction of the University. In special cases exemption from such examination may be granted if approved by Senate.

Resubmission of dissertations for examination: PhD in Education

Description of the symbols used below:

1	The degree is awarded, on condition that you make specific minor amendments and follow recommendations to the satisfaction of your supervisor(s).
2	The degree is awarded, on condition that you make certain factual or textual corrections to the satisfaction of the supervisor(s).
3	You must revise the dissertation and submit it for re-examination. (In this case the examination panel should decide among themselves by whom and how the re-examination must take place).
4	The degree is not awarded.

Resubmission after obtaining a symbol 3

If, after an oral examination and based on consensus, the PhD examination panel awards you a 3, you may resubmit your dissertation for examination.

- a) If you then get a 2 (i.e. more than editorial amendments) or a 1 (editorial amendments) at your second submission, you may improve the dissertation as specified by the examination panel. Your promotor will then sign off on these improvements so that the degree may be conferred.

The implication of this is that you get a maximum of three opportunities to submit your PhD dissertation if, at your second submission, you get a symbol smaller than a 3.

- b) If for the second time the examination panel awards a symbol 3 based on a consensus decision, the symbol will automatically change to a symbol 4. This means the PhD is not awarded. A non-examining chair may, on the grounds of special considerations or circumstances, request that the decision not to award the degree be referred to the relevant committee of the Faculty of Education for consideration and a ruling.

The implication of this is that you get only two opportunities to submit a PhD dissertation for examination if you get a symbol 3 for a second time.

Enquiries

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Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2023 Education Calendar (Yearbook). Make sure to consult the full [Education Calendar](#) to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the Calendar under section ***1. Summary of Postgraduate Programmes.***