

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PHD APPLICATION PROCESS

Only applications with proposed research topics for a PhD by dissertation will be accepted. Please note that we can only accept topics, which substantially overlap with the current research areas of full time academic staff in the disciplines of Population Studies and Development Studies. In addition, your previous degrees must be from cognate disciplines. Staff research interests appear on their staff profiles (<http://sds.ukzn.ac.za/staff/teaching-and-research.aspx>).

The applicant's transcripts should reflect marks with an average of at least 60% for their Master's degree.

Please consult the UKZN Postgraduate application guide (http://applications.ukzn.ac.za/Files/UKZNPostgrad_lowres.pdf)

This contains important information relating to:

- Fee remission
- Residence and subsistence costs
- Accommodation
- Study visa requirements for international students
- Medical health cover for international students

Making an application

There are two deadlines for receipt of complete applications each year and these are as follows:

- a. 31 May**
- b. 31 October**

There are five stages in the process

1. The submission of all relevant documentation to Ms Lucia Jali using her contact details below. The process of reviewing your application cannot begin without all these documents in place:
 - a. Matric or other school exit level certificate
 - b. Academic transcripts
 - c. Degree certificates
 - d. South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) certification if your Master's degree is not from an accredited South African university. The NQF rating of your Master's degree must be level 9. Please go to the website <http://www.saqa.org.za/> or contact them on +27 (0) 12 431 5070.
 - e. Motivation letter containing the following
 - i. details of why you want to do a PhD and why you are interested in enrolling in this School/University
 - ii. suggestions for a possible supervisor at UKZN and ways in which the proposed research complements existing research (see the first paragraph of this document)
 - iii. whether you plan on doing a PhD in Population Studies or Development Studies

- iv. whether you intend to study full-time or part-time and
 - v. how you intend to fund your PhD (note that full-time students will receive a fee remission. Please note that fee remission does not include accommodation or subsistence or any funding that may be required for data collection).
 - f. Short proposal in hardcopy and in a MS Word compatible format (please see guidelines for writing a short proposal)
 - g. Full Curriculum Vitae
 - h. At least two academic reference letters
 - i. Completed UKZN Application for Postgraduate Admission form. These are available at
http://applications.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/Application_Forms/Postgraduate_Application_Form.sflb.ashx
 - j. Proof you have paid the application fee (please see application fees)
 - k. Copy of ID or passport
2. If you do not have an existing UKZN student number, one will be assigned by the student affairs application office. This takes at least a week, and more when they have a large volume of applications.
 3. The application goes to the PhD selection committee for review. The selection committee considers applications twice a year – in June for the second semester intake and in November for the first semester intake.
 4. If the committee recommendation is that you are accepted, the application goes to a potential supervisor for their assessment, and agreement that they will supervise the PhD.
 5. The application is then submitted to the School Academic Leader of Research and Higher Degrees, and to the Dean for review and signature. It is at this stage that you will receive a formal letter on the outcome of your application.

Guidelines for writing a short proposal for an application to do a PhD in Development Studies or Population Studies

The following provides a guideline for the preparation of your initial short proposal. (You will prepare a more detailed proposal for submission to the Higher Degrees Committees of the School if you are accepted into the programme.)

In your proposal you need to present your key ideas and broad research questions. You need to show evidence of your engagement with the literature in your field of study. You also need to provide a broad outline of the research questions and methodology you will adopt in your study.

1. Rationale for your study (300 words)

Write a short motivation for your study. Explain the study's relevance and the contribution it will make to your chosen theoretical and empirical field of study.

2. Literature review (400 words)

Provide an outline of the core theoretical concepts you will be exploring and developing in your study, providing evidence of the literature that supports these concepts.

3. Aims and objectives

Present the key research questions that you will be exploring in your research.

4. Methodology (300 words)

Describe the methodology you will adopt for this study. Explain the source of your data and the broad approach that will be used to analyse this data. If you are planning primary data collection, you need to indicate the budget for this activity and how you plan to fund it.

5. References

Include a reference list of the references cited in the proposal.

Application fee

The application fee is non-refundable. The fee must be made payable to the University of KwaZulu-Natal by electronic transfer as follows:

Account holder: University of KwaZulu-Natal
Name of Account: UKZN Main
Type of Account: Business Current Account
Bank: Standard Bank
Branch: Westville
Branch No. : 045426
Bank Account No. : 05 308 0998
SWIFT Code: SBZAZAJJ (for international)
Reference: F001 11402 with applicants full name

Please state your name and surname clearly on the deposit slip and attach proof of payment on the Application Form.

Amounts

Please check these here: <http://applications.ukzn.ac.za/fees>

Fees

There is fee remission for six semesters for those registered full-time PhD students. International students in 2016 paid a levy of R1480 per semester. If you do not complete in the allotted six semesters, subsequent registration fees are payable – in 2016 this fee was R3838 per annum.

Contact details

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