



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
COURSE OUTLINE**

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# LIST OF CONTENTS

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction .....	3
Duration of the degree .....	3
Programme .....	3
Admission requirements .....	4
Course material .....	4
Your contact details .....	5

## INTRODUCTION

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree may be presented in the field of Taxation, Accounting, Auditing or Management Accounting and Finance (subject to the availability of supervisors).

The PhD programme is designed to be flexible and is therefore suitable for candidates who are employed or in business and who wish to further their studies.

The course is presented as a **part-time, not in attendance course**, although online supervision meetings can be arranged.

## DURATION OF THE DEGREE

The prescribed duration of the degree is **five years**, but with the consent of the Registrar, this period can be extended, provided valid reasons are provided for the application.

Candidates are required to **re-register annually** and pay their study fees.

At the end of the academic year, candidates are required to complete and submit a **Postgraduate Report** on ROSS. This report is recommended by your supervisor and is subject to approval by the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce. If you have not submitted a report, you **will not be permitted to re-register**.

## PROGRAMME

The PhD programme comprises the following:

- A **Topic Statement** must be submitted to the provisional supervisor or the Head of the Department prior to applying to be registered for the degree. This document will be provided by the Department when you first enquire about registration.
- Once your topic has been approved, you may proceed to submit your application to register for the degree.
- A **Research Methodology Module** – the module includes an assignment that must be submitted **before** starting the research.
- You will then draft a **Research Proposal**, to be approved by your supervisor(s). This may require several drafts, as the research proposal represents the “blueprint” for your thesis, and is tabled at a meeting of the Commerce Higher Degrees Committee for approval.

A template for the proposal will be provided by your supervisor(s). **Please note** that the length of the research proposal is limited to **seven pages**, excluding the cover page and the references.

- Where the proposed research includes surveys and/or interviews, candidates are required to apply for the ethical approval of the **Rhodes University Ethical Standards Committee (RUESC) for Human Subjects**, before proceeding to collect the data. This application can only be made after your research proposal has been approved by the Higher Degrees Committee.
- You will then proceed with the thesis, submitting chapter by chapter to your supervisor(s) for review. The first chapter is based on the research proposal, together with additional material, and is written last.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Admission into the programme will be based on:

- the availability of a suitably qualified supervisor;
- a fairly recent master's degree on a suitable topic; where the degree was obtained from a non-South African university, it must be classified at a **Level 9** on the South African Qualifications Framework;
- supporting certificates;
- the standard attained for prior qualifications;
- a detailed *Curriculum Vitae*;
- an approved Topic Statement (see above); and
- you may be required to submit a copy of your master's degree thesis.

## **COURSE MATERIAL**

You will be provided with the following course material:

- the Course Outline;
- the Topic Statement template;
- a Memorandum of Agreement;
- the Research Proposal template;
- a Resource Kit – this includes information regarding plagiarism, referencing guidelines, and other material relevant for writing a thesis;
- a Research Methodology Module, providing notes explaining the research process, PowerPoint presentations illustrating the research process, other guidelines, and an assignment.

You will also have access to the Rhodes University library. The Commerce Faculty librarian will be available to provide you with advice.

As indicated in the Higher Degrees Guide:

### **Material Accessed on Websites**

Candidates who make use of resources on the Internet must immediately save the relevant **content** and the **source** of the information into a file or onto a flash drive, and this information, if used or cited in the thesis, must be submitted to the supervisor prior to submitting the thesis for examination. This is required when you access sites that are not available in print form.

## **YOUR CONTACT DETAILS**

It is important that the Department and the Registrar can contact you by post, email, and telephone, so please make sure that we have all the details and **keep them up to date**.

Please do not hesitate to consult us at any time on any matters related to your studies. We wish you success in your studies, and we hope that the following quotation will sum up your experience of the programme!

“I learned very early the difference between knowing the name of something and knowing something.”

— Richard P. Feynman<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **Daily Maverick, Wednesday, 6 February 2019.**