

Postgraduate studies in law

WHY, WHAT & HOW??



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

THE RHODES EXPERIENCE

- Thrive in a small, university town, steeped in culture and history.
- Be a part of a vibrant campus with an infectious university spirit.
- Benefit from state-of-the-art postgraduate research facilities, resources and support.
- Emerge as a sought-after graduate, with a well-rounded education and highly developed social conscience.



STRENGTHS OF PROGRAMME

What research interests YOU?

- Opportunity to craft your own research topic.
- Choose from an array of subjects offered at both LLM and PhD level.
- Freedom to conduct interdisciplinary research.
- Design own timetable and plan your own time.
- High quality supervision and expertise.
- A chance to interact face-to-face and build a strong working relationship with an expert in the field.

LAW POSTGRAD PROGRAMME

- Offered at both LLM and PhD level.
- Pursue your own area of interest through thesis-based study.
- Acquire specialised knowledge and skills.
- Become an independent and critical thinker.
- Demonstrate your ability to find creative legal solutions to the problems around you.
- Hone your research and writing skills.



POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION GIVES YOU A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Supplement your LLB education and choose:

- To go into practice: be an attractive option to firms looking specialised knowledge and skills.
- To work in related areas: find your niche in politics, commerce or industry.
- To use your legal knowledge as a consultant, a researcher or work in an NGO.
- To go into academia: opt to further your research and become the expert!

LAW FACULTY AT RHODES

- Boasts a sound reputation for excellence since 1905.
- Our researchers are well known and respected in their fields.
- Our graduates are in high demand and have succeeded in the practice of law and beyond, holding top positions all over the world.



The Faculty of Law admits candidates to the degrees of Master of Laws (LLM) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). All postgraduate degrees are offered by full thesis only. Please note, however, that the Faculty does not offer any postgraduate coursework programmes. The General Rules applicable to Master's and PhD students can be found in the University's calendar.

MASTER OF LAWS (LLM)

Registration for the Master's degree normally extends over a period of two years. Some candidates are able to complete their research in shorter periods, in which event they can submit the thesis prior to the normal submission date.

In a Master's degree a candidate must show that s/he:

- is sufficiently acquainted with the appropriate methods and techniques of research;
- is sufficiently acquainted with the relevant literature;
- has both satisfactorily understood the nature of the problem or topic and assessed the significance of the findings;
- has satisfactorily presented the results of independent research performed by the candidate for the award of the degree in a manner which is satisfactory as to literary style and presentation, and free from grammatical and typographical errors.

When the award of the degree with distinction is under consideration, examiners are asked to look for evidence of real methodological and conceptual skills, clarity of exposition and development of argument, sound judgment, originality of approach, and some contribution to knowledge, and require that the thesis should reflect literary skills appropriate to the subject. The length of a Master's thesis should be between 150 and 200 pages, including footnotes. The maximum number of words for a Master's thesis is 50 000, ie approximately 200 pages.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

The minimum period of registration for a PhD is three years. Some candidates are able to complete their research in shorter periods, in which event they can submit the thesis prior to the normal submission date.

In a doctoral degree a candidate must show that s/he:

- is sufficiently acquainted with the appropriate methods and techniques of research;
- is sufficiently acquainted with the relevant literature;
- has satisfactorily presented the results of independent research for the award of the degree;
- has made a substantial and original contribution to knowledge in the discipline,

the substance of which is worthy of publication in a scholarly journal or book. (A Doctoral thesis differs from a Master's thesis particularly in respect to this point.) In addition, the thesis must be satisfactory as to literary style and presentation. A PhD thesis cannot be merely a collection of published papers, nor may such published papers be included as annexures or inserts. There is no maximum number of words for a PhD thesis, but it is recommended that it should be in the region of 100 000 words, ie approximately 350 pages, including footnotes.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ADMISSIONS

Candidates may apply in the ordinary way at any time and will be considered on an ad hoc basis, although the timing of this process could impact in which year the student is first registered and student fees.

Candidates are required to complete:

- The standard university admissions form, which can be obtained from the Registrar's Division;
- The Faculty's Postgraduate degree questionnaire.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

• Academic merit

For admission to Master's, a student must have at least 65% average in his or her final LLB year. The minimum criterion is the same for PhD candidates, but preference will be given to candidates who have a Master's degree, and who provide evidence that they have some research background.

• Viability of the research topic

The topic must have sufficient scope for the proposed research.

Select a topic:

- that is relevant to your short-term or medium-term career prospects;
- that you find intellectually stimulating and which will hopefully sustain your interest for a lengthy period;
- that is researchable, ie that can be completed with the resources that are available and at the acceptable level of scholarship.

• Supervisory availability

The availability of a member of staff with some expertise in the broad field of the research.

• Supervisory capacity

There is a limit to the number of candidates one person can supervise, so in some instances applications may have to be rejected because a supervisor who would ordinarily be suitable is overstretched.

THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

All admitted LLM and PhD candidates must submit a detailed research proposal, which will initially be scrutinised and approved by their supervisors. Supervisors may require candidates to redraft their proposals until the requisite detail and depth have been achieved. Candidates are then required to submit their research proposals for consideration by the Law Faculty Higher Degrees Committee which will recommend acceptance or otherwise of the proposal to the Law Faculty Board. Candidates who intend to conduct surveys as part of their research must familiarise themselves with the University's Ethical Standards Policy and obtain the necessary clearance from the Law Faculty's Ethical Standards Committee.

SUBMISSION DATE

The due date for submission of proposals is the end of March. Where a candidate does not submit his or her proposal timeously, the Higher Degrees Committee will require the candidate and supervisor to give reasons for the failure to meet the deadline and thereafter it may recommend to Faculty either that the deadline be extended or that the candidate's registration be terminated.

For further NB information please visit <https://www.ru.ac.za/law/studying> for the full electronic version of the Law Faculty Postgraduate Studies Guide, as well as <https://www.ru.ac.za/postgraduategateway/masters/forms/> for the University guidelines.

AVAILABLE AREAS OF SUPERVISORY EXPERTISE

• African Customary Law (LLM and PhD)

- Banking Law (LLM)
- Civil Procedure (LLM)
- Competition Law (LLM)
- Constitutional Law (LLM and PhD)
- Constitutional Property Law (LLM and PhD)
- Consumer Credit Law (LLM)
- Criminal Law (LLM)
- Environmental Law (LLM)
- Human Rights Law (LLM and PhD)
- Information and Communications Technology Law (LLM)
- Intellectual Property (LLM)
- International Criminal Justice (LLM and PhD)

• International Human Rights Law (LLM and PhD)

- International Trade Law (LLM)
- Labour Law (LLM)
- Law of Contract (LLM and PhD)
- Law of Insolvency (LLM)
- Law of Sale and Lease (LLM and PhD)
- Law of Succession (LLM)
- Law of Unjustified Enrichment (LLM and PhD)
- Property Law (LLM)
- Public Administration and Good Governance (LLM)
- Socio-Economic Rights (LLM)
- World Trade Law (LLM)