



RHODES UNIVERSITY
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Department of Sociology & Industrial Sociology
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Dear prospective applicant

Thank you for your enquiry/application to study in the Department of Sociology and Industrial Sociology. Please note there are a number of steps you must complete before the Departmental Postgraduate Committee can consider your application.

If you do not follow these steps, your application is incomplete and cannot be considered:

- (1) Fill in the on-line application form available on the Rhodes University website.
- (2) Submit certified transcripts of *all* your tertiary qualifications, including marks achieved, with your online application. In the case of international qualifications, certification from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is also required.
- (3) If you are applying for a Master's by coursework and dissertation, the steps above are all that will be required of you.
- (4) If you are applying for a Master's by thesis or a PhD, you must also submit the following with your online application: (i) a concept note (see below for guidelines) and (ii) a writing sample (e.g., an essay or research paper).

Concept Note Guidelines:

All applicants for research degrees (Master's by thesis or PhD) must submit a concept note that describes your current thinking on your proposed research project. This is not a formal research proposal; rather, the aim is to communicate your research interest to the Department in a way that will allow us to assess whether we are able to supervise your proposed research. You are advised to include the following:

- (a) a clear research question, which identifies the issue/s to be examined and the proposed research site/s;
- (b) some engagement with the relevant literature, demonstrating a familiarity with some key issues in the field and the potential contribution of the proposed study; and
- (c) an indication of the proposed research design (e.g., methods and sampling).

The concept note should be typed in 1.5 spacing, include citations and a list of references, and not exceed two A4 pages for a Master's and three pages for a PhD application.

Finally, while your academic record is an important consideration (65% or above), acceptance for Master's by thesis and PhD is also dependent on the availability of a suitable supervisor in the Department – that is, someone with the requisite knowledge of your research area.