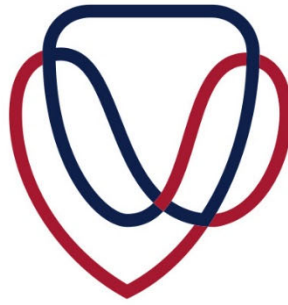


UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
THE HUMANITIES
PSYCHOLOGY

INFORMATION DOCUMENT: DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY 2026 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH-BASED DEGREES (MASTER'S/PHD)

Thank you for your interest in pursuing postgraduate research studies in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of the Humanities, University of the Free State.

This brochure contains guidelines regarding the application, selection, and registration procedures for the research-based master's and doctoral research degree programmes offered in the Department of Psychology, UFS.

For more information, please also visit the website of the Department of Psychology – <http://www.ufs.ac.za/psychology>

For any further enquiries, please contact the Department of Psychology:

Research Coordinator

Prof Luzelle Naudé

Psychology Building, Room 111

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Programme Secretary

Elize du Plessis

Psychology Building, Room 202

T: +27 51 401 9420

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IMPORTANT

The following processes apply to students who intend to register during 2026. The information pertains to the research-based degrees, namely MPsych and PhD (Psychology). These degrees are academic in nature and do not lead to a specific registration category with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). No internships are connected with these degrees. There are also no formal classes scheduled for these degrees. However, you will be expected to attend some contact sessions with your supervisor. It is strongly recommended that you attend the research colloquiums and voluntary workshops that are scheduled on an intermittent basis.

If you are interested in applying for the Applied Master's degree in Clinical and Counselling Psychology or the professional DPsych (Child Psychology) programme, different selection criteria apply. For more information regarding these programmes, contact:

- Applied Master's degree (Clinical Psychology): Dr Carla Nel – nelc@ufs.ac.za
- Applied Master's degree (Counselling Psychology): Eloise Venter – venterye@ufs.ac.za
- DPsych (Child Psychology) programme: Dr Lindi Nel – nelli@ufs.ac.za

Step 1: Application and selection for a research-based master's or PhD degree (Department of Psychology)

You can apply for a research-based master's or PhD degree any time throughout the year. There is no specific closing date for applications (applications are processed throughout the year), but students are strongly advised to apply during the first half of the year.

Selection for the research-based master's or PhD degree depends on two aspects:

1. Academic admission requirements (see Step 1a)
2. Securing an acceptable research topic and available supervisor (see Step 1b)

Step 1a: Email the Programme Secretary, Elize du Plessis, at duplesse@ufs.ac.za, indicating your interest in pursuing a research-based master's or PhD degree during 2026.

Include the following information:

- Title, full name, and surname.
- Contact number and email address.
- Highest qualification obtained, year, and institution.
- Specify whether you are applying for a research-based master's or PhD qualification.

Attach an official academic record containing information regarding your highest qualification in Psychology.

Academic requirements

- **Research-based master's degree in Psychology:** An honours/BPsych degree in Psychology (NQF Level 8) with an academic average of at least 65% is a prerequisite for admission to this programme.
- **Research-based PhD in Psychology:** A master's degree in Psychology (NQF Level 9) with an academic average of at least 65% is a prerequisite for admission to this programme.

If you have obtained a qualification outside the borders of South Africa or at a non-accredited institution, you need an accreditation certificate from the South African Qualifications Authority (please visit www.saga.org for more information in this regard).

The Programme Secretary will confirm (in writing) whether you qualify to continue with the application process. Please note that this will only indicate conditional acceptance. Final acceptance will only be granted after successfully securing a supervisor.

Step 1b: Secure a topic and supervisor

A research menu summarising the research interests of all the staff members/supervisors in the Department of Psychology is available at <https://www.ufs.ac.za/psychology>. Consult this menu for more information regarding the research expertise, interests, and projects available in the department.

Once you have decided on an area of interest, you may approach a supervisor. This decision should be considered carefully by both you and your supervisor. To ensure a good working alliance, your interests and styles must align. In addition, the supervisor's expertise, field of specialisation, availability, and workload should be considered.

Prospective students are welcome to contact individual staff members to enquire whether they are available/interested. During the year, some staff members might reach their full supervision capacity and will not be able to accept new students.

Before making a final commitment, a supervisor may require more information, such as a curriculum vitae, your academic record, previous research experience (e.g., examples of previous academic assignments), and referee details of past research supervisors. A supervisor may also expect you to write a short research essay/concept paper or complete a postgraduate academic language proficiency test.

You may request a co-supervisor. The co-supervisor is often responsible for guidance concerning specific aspects of your study. Consider the inclusion of a co-supervisor in consultation with your primary supervisor (who remains the person primarily responsible for your research supervision).

At this stage, you and your supervisor must also decide whether you will register for your degree by dissertation/thesis or follow the article option (your supervisor will guide you in this regard).

Once the above has been established, the Department of Psychology can finalise acceptance into the programme.

Both you and your supervisor need to send an email to the Programme Secretary, Elize du Plessis, at duplesse@ufs.ac.za to:

- 1) Confirm that the supervisor agrees to supervise your research
- 2) Stipulate whether you will be following the dissertation/thesis or article option.

You will receive an official permission letter from the Department of Psychology (you will need this letter as evidence during the registration process).

Step 2: Application and registration at the University of the Free State

Step 2a: Application

Once your selection at the Department of Psychology has been finalised, you will need to apply for admission to the UFS (e.g., to receive and activate a student number). Complete the online application at <https://apply.ufs.ac.za/>

Step 2b: Registration

More information regarding the registration process is available on the university's website <https://www.ufs.ac.za/register>

When you register, you will use the codes provided in your permission letter (Step 1b).

You can email the completed and signed registration form to pgrdhumreg@ufs.ac.za for assistance with registration.

Follow this link for bursary information:

<https://www.ufs.ac.za/centreforgraduatesupport/centreforgraduatesupporthome/funding/1/postgraduate-bursaries>

If you experience problems with online application/registration, you may contact:

- Bronwyn Nel (Department of Psychology) at nelb@ufs.ac.za
- Marizanne Cloete (Office of the Dean of the Humanities) at CloeteM@ufs.ac.za

After successful registration:

Email the proof of registration to:

- Your supervisor – this is needed before the supervision process may commence.
- Elize du Plessis at duplesse@ufs.ac.za – she will arrange access to the Graduate Research Management system.

Once you are officially registered, your research journey can begin!

(Please consult the Information Document for Current Students for more information on the important steps to follow during the first year of your studies.)
