

## 5. Doctoral programmes

### 5.1 Graduate School of Economic and Management Sciences (GEM)

#### Promotion of doctoral studies in Economic and Management Sciences

GEM is managed as a unit in the Dean's office. It started its operations in 2014 with the purpose of strengthening the Faculty's doctoral throughput rate by allowing some students to study full-time and enhancing access to doctoral studies in the disciplines that are housed in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. GEM essentially plays a supporting role so that candidates have a better chance of finalising their doctoral studies within the allocated time of three years. Find out more on the GEM website under "About": [www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/gem/about](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/gem/about).

#### Admission to the GEM programme.

The admission requirements for students that are admitted into GEM's doctoral programme are the same as the requirements stipulated for the PhD degree.

Applications are accepted during the application period that is indicated on the GEM website under "Research Themes": [www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/gem/research-themes](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/gem/research-themes).

#### Enquiries

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### 5.2 PhD programmes

#### Admission requirements

To be admitted to a PhD programme:

- you must have a master's degree from a reputable university approved by Senate for this purpose, *or*
- you must have in some other manner attained a standard of competence in your field of study, which is deemed adequate by Senate for this purpose.

Contact the relevant environment (department, school or research body) for their specific requirements. You will find their contact details in the chapter "General Information", at the beginning of this book.

Also consult Part 1 (General Rules) of the University Yearbook and the Faculty's PhD guidelines for more on admission to the PhD. The Faculty's PhD guidelines can be found on our website, [www.sun.ac.za/ems](http://www.sun.ac.za/ems), under "Prospective students".

#### Application procedure and research proposal

Most of the environments in the Faculty offer a PhD programme. Please contact the relevant environment if you are interested in doing a PhD (contact details are in the chapter "General Information").

Once the suitability of your proposed study has been assessed by the head of the relevant environment, a supervisor(s) will be nominated to supervise your study. You will then work on a research proposal in consultation with your supervisor(s) and submit the proposal to the departmental admissions committee for approval. The admissions committee will make a recommendation to the Faculty Board who will make a recommendation to Senate for final approval. Once your proposal has been approved, you may formally register for the PhD programme.

See the Faculty's PhD guidelines for more detail regarding the process of initiating a PhD application and preparing your proposal, as well as more detail on the approval process. (Find the PhD guidelines at [www.sun.ac.za/ems](http://www.sun.ac.za/ems) under "Prospective students".)

For the complete University provisions for the doctorate, including matters like the code of conduct regulating the relationship between students and their supervisors, continuation of registration, interruption of studies and failure to register, consult the relevant section in Part 1 of the University Yearbook.

## Duration of programme (minimum period of registration)

You must be registered formally for the PhD programme for at least **two** academic years before the PhD may be conferred on you (see Part 1 of the University Yearbook, at 6.1 under "The Doctorate"). For more information on enrolment beyond two years, see the Faculty's PhD guidelines under "Prospective students" on our website.

## Programme outcomes

You must conduct advanced, original research of a high quality in the area of Economic and Management Sciences or Administrative Sciences, which must be approved by the University. The work you submit must:

- be of a high standard,
- deal with a central theme, *and*
- demonstrate that you have, in the Senate's view, substantially contributed to enriching the knowledge in the field of economics, business science or the administrative sciences (in other words, have made an original subject contribution). Senate acts on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, which is based on the decision of the Faculty's doctoral examination panel.

## Assessment and examination

The examination process for all PhDs in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is handled entirely by the office of the Vice-Dean (Research). Consult the Faculty's PhD guidelines for Faculty-specific detail (under "Prospective students" at [www.sun.ac.za/ems](http://www.sun.ac.za/ems)).

For the complete University provisions concerning matters like awarding the degree, dissertation regulations, the format of dissertations, fees payable, publication of dissertations and sensitive dissertations consult the section on the doctorate in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University Yearbook.

## Submitting your doctoral dissertation

- You must submit all the required copies of your dissertation for examination around the **end of July or beginning of August** of a particular year, if you wish to graduate in December of that year; or around the end of September if you wish to graduate in March/April of the next year. Exact submission dates vary from year to year and are communicated to departments when they are available. Please ensure that you find out in time what they are.
- Your supervisor must inform the PhD coordinator in the office of the Vice-Dean (Research) at least two weeks before the deadline for submission that you are planning to submit your dissertation for examination.
- You must submit an electronic copy by the deadline, as well as a ring-bound, hard copy for each examiner who prefers this option.
- Your supervisor must confirm to the Vice-Dean (Research) that the appointed examiners are still available, together with a written confirmation that the dissertation is ready to be examined. Paragraph 1.5 in the Faculty's PhD guidelines explains the assessment to determine whether the dissertation is ready for examination. This assessment must include confirmation that the document has been language-edited by an accredited language editor and has been assessed for potential plagiarism using appropriate software.

## Oral examination

- You must participate in an oral examination to the examiners' satisfaction who will advise the Faculty Board and Senate on the awarding of the degree. See Part 1 of the University Yearbook and the Faculty's PhD guidelines for more detail on the oral examination.

## Enquiries

Direct your enquiries about a PhD in a specific field to the relevant environment. You can find the necessary contact details in the chapter "General Information" at the beginning of this book.

## 5.3 Transdisciplinary doctoral programme focusing on complexity and sustainability studies

### Admission requirements

- The admission requirements of the Faculty where you are to be registered will apply (see "PhD programmes" above for the EMS Faculty's PhD admission requirements).

### Application procedure

PhD study opportunities that arise within supervisory capacity and research focal will be communicated on the Centre for Sustainability Transitions' (CST) website. Alternatively, if you have a research idea which is in line with CST's research focal areas, you are encouraged to reach out to the relevant CST supervisor by email. This communication should include a recent academic CV, motivational letter, two-to-three-page concept note outlining preliminary research ideas and a sample of your academic writing. If your expression of interest passes this initial screening, you will liaise with your supervisor and the PhD coordination team at CST to prepare a doctoral research proposal. You will then present your proposal to a PhD Admissions Committee for evaluation. The usual criteria and processes of admission, registration and appointment of doctoral supervisor(s) of the faculty where you are to be registered will apply (the PhD guidelines of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences regarding these matters can be found on the Faculty website, [www.sun.ac.za/ems](http://www.sun.ac.za/ems), under "Prospective students").

### Duration of programme

- This is a full-time three-year programme.
- As far as practically possible, you will be located together with fellow students at the research commons of the Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST) so as to ensure maximum transdisciplinary synergy among students and supervisors.
- You will be allowed additional time to complete your dissertation, if necessary.

### Interdepartmental and interfaculty collaboration

You may complete your studies in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, or in cooperation with departments in the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences, AgriSciences, Engineering, Law, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science and/or Theology.

You will receive the doctoral qualification of the faculty in which you are registered.

### Programme description

The dissertation for this programme bears the full credit load of the programme. Non-credit-bearing short courses will be offered from time to time to support student development. These short courses are presented by international and local experts, in the areas of sustainability, transdisciplinary epistemology, methodology and methods, social-ecological systems, resilience and complexity theory. You are also encouraged to attend the Centre for Sustainability Transitions' (CST) postgraduate seminar series, which will afford you the opportunity to present and discuss your work in progress with fellow students and academics.

### Assessment and examination

The usual examination procedures of the University and the faculty in which you are registered apply.

### Enquiries

Programme administrator: Ms Amanda October  
 Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST)  
 Tel: 021 808 9607  
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 Website: [www.sun.ac.za/cst](http://www.sun.ac.za/cst)

## Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 Economic and Management Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Economic and Management Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **1. General information for all postgraduate programmes.**