

Master of Philosophy in Arts

Faculty of Humanities

2 Years Distance Master's | NQF Level 9 | 180 Credits
SAQA ID: 79306 | MPIA0901

→ Online

Qualification Description

The Master of Philosophy in Arts qualification is designed to develop researchers capable of contributing to advanced knowledge or preparing for specialised professional roles. Graduates of this programme will be equipped to approach complex issues with creativity and rigour, make informed, data-driven decisions, and communicate their conclusions effectively.

The Master of Philosophy in Arts qualification builds competencies in critical thinking, problem-solving, statistical analysis, data management, knowledge transfer, and leadership. Graduates may pursue careers in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors, in areas such as policy, management, education, public health, and research.

Disciplines covered:

- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Communication and media studies
- International studies
- Psychology
- Sociology

Who Is This Qualification Aimed At?

The Master of Philosophy in Arts qualification is aimed at graduates and professionals who wish to engage in advanced, independent research in the humanities. This qualification is ideal for individuals seeking to contribute original insights to their chosen field, pursue academic or scholarly careers, or prepare for doctoral studies.



How Will Emeris Support Your Online Learning as a Distance (Online) Student, and How Will It Help Prepare You for the Working World?

Our distance teaching and learning approach is designed to allow you the freedom to self-govern your learning experiences according to your individual needs. You are at the centre of your own learning journey, and by offering curated engagement opportunities, we partner with you to:

- Engage with subject material
- Build understanding
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Manage your work, life and studies
- Succeed in your personal, professional, and academic goals.

DISTANCE (ONLINE)

Admission Requirements

Minimum Admission Requirements	An appropriate HEQSF Level 8 Honours degree; OR		Notes
	A relevant Postgraduate Diploma or appropriate equivalent; OR		An overall qualification average of at least 65% is required, normally.
	An appropriate Level 8 Bachelor's Degree (480 credits) may also be recognised as meeting the minimum entry requirements to a cognate Master's Degree programme.		
	International	A SAQA NQF L8 Evaluation Certificate in an appropriate field	
	All applicants who are eligible for admission to the Master of Philosophy in Arts degree are required to register for the Research Proposal Development Programme (SRPW0001). Successful completion of the Research Proposal Development Programme requires of applicants to complete and present a Research Proposal for approval at the Higher Degrees Committee. In order to register for the Research Proposal Development Programme, applicants develop and submit a relevant Statement of Intent for review and acceptance into the programme.		

Additional Notes	<p><u>Please Note:</u></p> <p>Applicants must clearly indicate upon admission in the Statement of Intent the core discipline they would like to focus on and provide evidence of having the relevant NQF8 background on these disciplines. The disciplines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication and media studies• Criminal justice and criminology• International studies• Sociology• Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none">- If an applicant meets the above requirements, registration is subject to faculty supervisory capacity.- The applicant has the right to request a written reason for any refused admission and may appeal to the Research and Postgraduate Committee in writing.- If the Research and Postgraduate Committee upholds the refusal, the decision is final. The candidate may re-apply in the following academic year if they have been able to address the issues concerned and The may invite the candidate to reapply if a suitable supervisor is employed.
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Scan the QR Code to learn more about Alternate Admission requirements for:
RPL | Mature Age Exemptions | USAf International Students | One module
outstanding from a Higher Certificate *If applicable.



Curriculum Structure

Modules			
Code	Module Name	NQF	Credits
REAT9113	Research Thesis	9	180
SRPW021	SLP: Proposal Development for Master's Studies		
The purpose of this module is to guide students through the process of developing a research proposal to form the basis of a Master's Dissertation. Under the guidance of a postgraduate supervisor students will identify suitable research problems and questions, carry out a preliminary literature review and select an appropriate research methodology. In addition, students will be enabled to plan and justify intended research actions at each stage of the research process.			

Disciplines students that can choose from to do their thesis:

- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Communication and Media Studies
- International Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology

NOTE: Please note that for candidates who are required to complete the Short Learning Programme: Proposal Development for Masters Studies (SRPW0001-SRPW021) as per the admissions requirements, an additional fee is payable. Please refer to the fee schedule applicable for further information.

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Please note, details are correct at the time of publication.

Further Study Pathways

The successful completion of the Master of Philosophy in Arts qualification enables you to progress into PhD studies subject to meeting the admission requirements.

Career Opportunities

Research Degrees build skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, statistics and data management, knowledge transfer and effective leadership.

Graduates may work in the public, private, or non-profit sectors, and take on roles like policy making and implementation, management, education and teaching, public health management, or research.

System and Software Requirements

- Reliable internet connection (we recommend 5-10 GB of data per month and an internet speed of at least 0.15 Mbps)
- Desktop PC or laptop with at least an i3 processor and 4GB RAM memory
- Windows 11 or macOS 10.15 (Microsoft Office 365 is available as a free download for students), and Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge Chromium or Firefox
- A working webcam and microphone
- An uninterrupted power supply is also highly recommended.

Exams are written at an exam centre and in some instances online. These details will be specified in your Programme Assessment Schedule (PAS).

Graduation and Completion Requirements for This Qualification

In order to be awarded this qualification, you must have achieved a minimum final year mark of fifty percent (50%) for the Research Thesis module in the curriculum.

As a distance (online) student, this qualification is structured to be completed over 2 years. The maximum time for completing a qualification full-time is double the minimum time associated with the qualification, and for part-time an additional year is allowed.

Where Assessments Are Written in Person

- For students based in South Africa, online students may select any Emeris campus as their Examination Centre.
- An alternative examination centre is only permissible for students studying abroad and those located in a province of South Africa where there is no campus. If there is no campus within reach, an alternative venue will need to be sourced by you. For non-Emeris venues, there is an alternative venue levy per module.

What Are the Benefits of a Distance (Online) Qualification?

The distance (online) delivery mode provides you with the agility of studying towards a tertiary qualification asynchronously, at different times from different locations. Distance students need to commit to approximately 20-25 hours a week for distance engagement (most of which is after hours) with material and assessments to succeed.

Here are some of the benefits you can expect:

- A sequenced online learning environment that allows you the ability to manage your learning experiences flexibly and autonomously.
- A learner guide designed to lead you through the module material and learning outcomes, empowering you to effectively pace your learning in preparation for assessments.
- Our Learning Management System is designed to break up your learning units into manageable sections which include various activities to support learning.
- Module expert online lecturers that facilitate module teaching and learning support through various technology enhanced mediums.
- Student Relations Specialists provide administrative and operational guidance and support throughout your academic journey.
- A professionally registered Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor available for short-term, primary counselling services. Additionally, the Student Wellness Manager/Counsellor hosts various webinars and virtual talks on topics that promote a balanced lifestyle as you pursue your academic goals.

Apply Online

After your application is submitted, we will review your documentation and provide an outcome regarding your chosen study.



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