

PROCEDURE FOR MANAGING ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL STUDY WITHOUT AN APPROVED RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. The departmental chair, supervisor(s), and the prospective doctoral student must complete the form for admission to doctoral study without an approved research proposal and send it to the Faculty Administrator (Registrar's Division) (fasscomm@sun.ac.za). The form confirms that:
 - permission has been granted for the prospective doctoral student to register;
 - in the opinion of the departmental chair and supervisor(s), the research proposal will be finalised by the deadline for the last meeting of the **Higher Degrees and Research Committee** (HDRC) (September of the academic year concerned);
 - in the opinion of the supervisor(s), the prospective doctoral candidate has the ability to carry the research proposal through the Admissions Committee stage and submit the final proposal in time for the Higher Degrees and Research Committee's last meeting of the academic year concerned; and
 - the prospective doctoral student has taken note of the above opinion and is aware of the potential academic and financial implications should the deadline not be met.
2. The completed form, as set out in section 1, must reach the Faculty Administrator (fasscomm@sun.ac.za) no later than 31 March.

Admission to any doctoral programme and enrolment involves an **online application** process that *precedes* full registration and provides students with a student number. All relevant information about the prospective doctoral candidate's existing qualifications and where they were obtained must accompany the application. Applicants are also required to pay the applicable fee. International students must ensure that their previous qualifications are assessed by the **Postgraduate Office**.

3. Applications for admission to doctoral study without an approved research proposal for registration from the beginning of the second semester will only be considered in cases where prospective doctoral students can provide evidence to show that they have been awarded a scholarship for doctoral study or have been granted study leave to pursue doctoral study.
4. The deadline mentioned in section 1 applies to prospective doctoral students who registered without an approved research proposal at the beginning of the academic year, and at the beginning of the second semester of the academic year.
5. If the deadlines mentioned in section 1 (and section 4) are not met, the student will not be permitted to re-register for the continuation of their doctoral study the following academic year.