



Department of Linguistics

Admission of prospective postgraduate students

Requirements for Master of Arts (MA)

As laid down by the Faculty of Humanities students will be required to -

1. Use a range of specialised skills to identify, analyse and deal with complex problems and issues drawing systematically and creatively on the theories, research methodologies, methods/techniques, literature and materials of their discipline/field of specialisation.
2. Operate autonomously and take responsibility for their own work and be accountable for the work of others when working in a team.
3. Manage learning and academic professional development.
4. Demonstrate advanced information retrieval and processing skills to identify, analyse, synthesise and independently evaluate quantitative and/or qualitative data, using appropriate Information Communication Technology (ICT).
5. Demonstrate a comprehensive, systematic and integrated specialist knowledge of the discipline/field with a coherent and critical understanding of the theories, research methodologies, epistemologies, and methods/techniques relevant to their discipline/field of specialisation.
6. Evaluate their own and other's academic work and initiatives against a range of criteria.
7. Present and communicate the results of research by appropriate academic/professional discourse, and produce a dissertation or research report which meets the standards of scholarly/professional writing/presentation.
8. Critique and evaluate current research and participate in scholarly debates, addressing both theory and practice, in the humanities and social sciences area of specialisation.
9. Develop a mastery of the application of research methodologies, methods/techniques and technologies applicable to the humanities and social sciences area of specialisation.
10. Plan, execute and write up research, investigation or development in the humanities and social sciences area of specialisation under some supervision.

Requirements for Doctor of Literature and Philosophy (DLitt et Phil)

As laid down by the Faculty of Humanities students will be required to -

1. Apply knowledge, theory and research methodologies and research methods/techniques creativity to complex practical, theoretical and epistemological problems.
2. Produce substantial, independent, in-depth and publishable work which is judged new and/or innovative by peers and makes a significant contribution to the area of specialisation.

3. Operate independently and take full responsibility for their own work and its consequences and also assume significant accountability for the work of others.
4. Demonstrate intellectual independence, research leadership and management and advanced research and research development in the humanities and social sciences area of specialisation.
5. Demonstrate advanced information retrieval and processing skills, using appropriate Information Communication Technology (ICT).
6. Demonstrate a comprehensive, systematic and integrated grasp of the relevant specialist knowledge and expertise at the forefront of the humanities and social sciences field and professional area of specialisation.
7. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the most advanced research methodologies, methods/techniques in the discipline/field of specialisation and participate in scholarly debates at the forefront thereof.
8. Evaluate their own and other's work on the basis of independent criteria.

Departmental Conditions

In considering applications for admission to MA and DLitt et Phil studies in Applied Linguistics, the departmental postgraduate committee will, among other factors, consider an applicant's potential to meet the requirements set out above. Students must also comply with the following conditions as laid down by the Department of Linguistics:

1. Candidates for the master's programme must have completed an honours degree in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics or in a related field such as language studies, obtaining an aggregate mark of at least 65%.
2. If a candidate holds a four-year degree without any of the above mentioned subjects as a major (up to the third-year level) or at honours level, but which includes a cognate discipline (e.g. Communication Studies or Anthropological Linguistics) as a major and a mark of 65% or higher in the major subject, his/her application for admission to the master's programme will be considered by the Department of Linguistics only if the Faculty's Committee on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) so recommends. Depending on the cognate discipline and the tertiary institution that conferred the degree, the Department of Linguistics reserves the right to request the applicant to have the qualification evaluated by SAQA.
3. All candidates with foreign qualifications (which feature the prescribed disciplines mentioned above and meet the 65% or equivalent requirement), must first obtain a SAQA evaluation of their degrees before submitting an application for admission to an MA in Applied Linguistics at UJ.
4. In exceptionally deserving cases where an applicant has an honours degree outside any of the above disciplines but took Linguistics as a major in the first degree and earned at least 70% in Linguistics in the third year, admission to an MA in Applied Linguistics may be considered. In such instances the Department has to refer the application to the Faculty RPL Committee for guidance.
5. Doctoral candidates need to be in possession of a master's degree in any of the fields mentioned above, with a mark of at least 65%. In the case of a structured or taught MA, the dissertation

must have comprised at least 50% of the final mark, and the mark for the dissertation must be at least 65%.

6. The Department may request any candidate for the master's or doctoral programme to submit copies of previous written work that had been assessed for degree purposes. In the case of prospective MA students, honours essays could be required for consideration; doctoral candidates would typically present their MA dissertations. The Department of Linguistics needs to be satisfied with the academic standard of a candidate's earlier academic work and his/her language proficiency in English or Afrikaans.
7. All candidates for admission to the master's or doctoral programme in Applied Linguistics must make themselves available for an interview with the departmental postgraduate committee.
8. The Department will allow an applicant to enrol for the master's or doctoral programme in Applied Linguistics only if a suitable supervisor, i.e. a member of staff with proven expertise in the student's proposed field of research, is available.

Application Procedure

1. The first step in the process requires that a comprehensive CV and full academic records of the applicants be submitted to the HOD or the secretary in the Department of Linguistics. Applications may be submitted via UJ's central electronic application facility or in writing. Where an application is not accompanied by the prospective student's academic record (and, where applicable, a SAQA evaluation thereof), he/she will be contacted by the Department to provide the documents before the application can be considered.
2. The second step involves an initial screening of candidates based on their academic records. Those meeting the academic requirements listed above, may proceed to the third step.
3. The applicants thus approved, will be invited to attend an interview with members of the Department of Linguistics' postgraduate committee within the next two weeks. Candidates may be required to bring copies of their previous written work to the interview, and an outline (1-2 pages) of their proposed research project (under the broad themes of *what* they intend researching, *why*, and *how* is compulsory). If the postgraduate committee is satisfied that an applicant meets all the relevant criteria for admission to an MA, the committee will identify a prospective supervisor (or a supervisor and co-supervisor) for the candidate. Apart from a supervisor's expertise, the post-graduate committee will be guided by any preferences an applicant may have expressed about a supervisor. The committee will also be mindful of the need to spread the burden of supervision so as to prevent colleagues being overloaded with MA supervision. A candidate can only be admitted if a suitable supervisor is available. Before a prospective supervisor finally accepts the task, he or she has the right to interview the candidate concerned separately (whether or not the supervisor is a member of the postgraduate committee).
4. The fourth step, to be taken by the post-graduate committee, is to inform successful candidates that they have been provisionally accepted by the Department. This stage should be reached within no more than three weeks of a candidate's initial application for admission (excluding university holidays and the whole of December). Candidates' final acceptance, they need to be informed, will depend on their submission of a competent research proposal (using the

prescribed Faculty template) that has first been approved by their supervisor and thereafter by the Department's postgraduate committee.

5. At the latter meeting, which represents the fifth stage of the process of admission, the supervisor (in person) is expected to present the candidate's research proposal. Master's and doctoral students are given a maximum of four months to complete this last phase, unless the departmental committee decides otherwise. Candidates who fail to submit (with their supervisors' approval) a research proposal within the prescribed period, will be refused final admission.
6. A student may only proceed with formal registration with the university after the Department's postgraduate committee has approved his/her formal research proposal. However, the postgraduate committee reserves the right to permit a master's or doctoral student to register before submitting a fully-fledged proposal based on past performance, especially when the student in question has an existing scholarship whose renewal depends on re-registration or, given past performance, has a very high chance of being awarded a scholarship or bursary and needs to meet faculty or university deadlines.
7. The departmental postgraduate committee will be on standby to deal with problems regarding master's and doctoral students referred to it by supervisors, the HOD or by collective decision at a departmental meeting.

Faculty Higher Degree Committee's meetings - 2015

Provisional Deadline for Submissions	Date of HDC Meetings
12 February	2 February
14 May	4 May
23 July	13 July
15 October	5 October