



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

MA and PhD in Anthropology/ Development Studies

Information Brochure (2024-25)

Dear Prospective Student

Thank you for your enquiry about the MA and PhD degrees in Anthropology and Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg. This brochure describes the procedures to follow in applying for a post graduate degree in either discipline. Please note that our MAs and PhDs are research-based. A course work MA program in Development Studies is offered through the Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA)

We can only consider complete applications that have achieved **at least 65%** or more in their previous degree in Anthropology, Development Studies or a “cognate” discipline (African Studies, History, Sociology, Political Studies).

Application Process

Applications must be made online at: <https://www.uj.ac.za/studyatUJ/>

In addition, please send a copy of your application documentation to the post graduate coordinators:

PhD

Professor Joost Fontein (jfontein@uj.ac.za)

Professor Jonathan Stadler (jstadler@uj.ac.za)

MA

Dr Andile Mayekiso (andilem@uj.ac.za) (Anthropology)

Dr Suzall Timm (stimm@uj.ac.za)

MA Course Work: Centre for Social Development in Africa (CSDA) Professor Lauren Graham (lgraham@uj.ac.za)

For enquiries regarding **MA or PhD in Palaeo-archaeology** please contact Dr Dipuo Kgotleng (dkgotleng@uj.ac.za)

The following documents need to be uploaded with your application:

1. A cover letter
2. A copy of your South African Identity Document or passport
3. An academic CV (with at least two contactable references)
4. A study record (not your degree certificate); should your degree results not appear in percentages, please provide a conversion table from your university.

5. A **concept note** that indicates the topic that you want to explore, and what research question you seek to answer (max 2 pages for MA, 4 for PhD)
6. An example of your written work (for example your dissertation / publications)
7. SAQA certificate (international applicants only)

Please note that candidates who submit incomplete applications cannot be considered until all the required documentation is provided.

International Students

If your degree was obtained at an institution outside of South Africa we will require that you apply for a South African Qualifications Accreditation (SAQA) certificate. This is completed online by the applicant, at: www.saqa.org.za

Please consult with our International Office if you experience difficulties with your application and study permits. www.uj.ac.za/internationalstudents

Departmental procedures in considering an application

The procedure that will be followed in considering an application by the Department is as follows:

1. All applications that meet our minimum requirements will be screened by the MA/PhD coordinators.
2. If the application meets the minimum requirements and is considered suitable for the department their application will be referred to a potential supervisor.
3. Alternatively, you may review our website <https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/humanities/departments-2/anthropology-and-development-studies/> and contact potential supervisors (see our list of staff below)
4. An applicant may be offered **immediate registration**. They will have 6 months (MA) or 9 months (PhD) to successfully complete and submit their research proposals. Should this period be extended, the applicant will be considered unsuccessful and will not proceed with the degree.
5. Alternatively, an applicant may be offered **preliminary registration** for a period of 6 months (MA) / 9 months (PhD) during which time the applicant will have access to all university resources and will develop a research proposal. Thereafter they will register for the degree and submit their proposal.
6. Opportunities to present preliminary proposals in seminars will be made available.

Proposal Reviews:

1. Your proposal will first be submitted to the Department Higher Degrees Committee (DHDC) and Department Research Ethics Committee (DREC) for review.
2. These committees will provide feedback to the supervisor and the student, either to make changes or to continue to submit to the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee and the Ethics Committee.
3. Each candidate is offered two opportunities to submit their proposals. Should their submissions be unsuccessful after two attempts, they will not proceed with the degree.

Research duration and length

MA/PhD research studies require 6 / 12 months of field-based research. See table below for length of degrees.

Table 1: Duration of masters and doctoral studies

		Master's study	Doctoral study
Full-time study	Minimum time	12 months	24 months
	Maximum time	24 months	48 months
Part-time study	Minimum time	12 months	24 months
	Maximum time	36 months	60 months

The pre-registration phase is not included when calculating these periods, since the candidate is not formally registered as a student during the pre-registration phase.

The deadline for submission of minor dissertations, dissertations and theses is 31 October of the last year of registration:

- Master's degree (CW & R), full time: 31 Oct during the second year of registration;
- Master's degree (CW & R), part time: 31 Oct during the third year of registration;
- Doctoral degree, full time: 31 Oct during the fourth year of registration;
- Doctoral degree, part time: 31 Oct during the fifth year of registration.

Word Length: The accepted length of research-based PhDs and MA theses is as follows:

PhD Thesis: 80 000 words

Master's Thesis: 40 000 words

Publications: For a PhD: submission of two articles ready for publication at the time of the submission of your PhD dissertation is a requirement for passing the degree. For a MA: submission of one article ready for publication to your supervisor is a requirement for passing the degree.

Seminars: We run a very successful and vibrant weekly seminar series on Wednesdays (from noon onwards), so please make sure that you free up your Wednesday afternoons as participation is a requirement for your registration in the department, and for continued support.

Post graduate seminar: as a post-graduate student you are required to present one seminar and attend the department seminars. Attendance and participation is vital for you to meet and network with your fellow graduate students. A register is taken, and attendance is compulsory.

Sociology, Anthropology and Development Studies Seminar (SADS): This seminar invites local and international guest speakers creating networking opportunities for you. Our department will be hosting the seminar in term 2 and term 3, and your participation is strongly recommended.

Occasional Seminar: We often have interesting guests who are passing through Johannesburg and invite them to present at our department. We will advertise these events as they happen.

Funding your degree

The following are possible sources of funding for MA and PhDs. Please see this document for more details:

<https://www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate-school/funding-for-postgraduate-studies-pfm/>

You can also view opportunities for funding that are administered through UJ's postgraduate school: www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate-school

UJ Supervisor linked bursary: Each qualifying student is eligible for a supervisor linked bursary from the Humanities Faculty which will contribute toward the tuition costs. Your supervisor will provide you with the forms after you register.

UJ Merit bursary: Students who achieved 70% or more for their previous degrees may be eligible for a merit bursary.

National Research Foundation: Applications for the NRF free standing scholarships must be made in the year **before** you register for the MA or PhD. The final application dates are usually in June. Use this link to find out more: <http://www.nrf.ac.za>

Staff Profiles and Fields of Expertise

The following members of staff are available for supervision of MA and Doctoral candidates.

Candidates are encouraged to contact them directly should they feel their field of expertise is appropriate for them.

Professor Justin Bradfield, Associate Professor (email: justinb@uj.ac.za)

Professor Bradfield's main research interests centre on the use of bone and other faunal materials in Stone Age societies and the degree to which an understanding of these items may better inform our appreciation of the diversity and complexity of ancient indigenous knowledge systems. His research has focused on bone taphonomy, use-wear and fracture mechanics as proxies for understanding tool function and how people in the past engaged with organic technology.

Professor Mbongiseni Buthelezi, Associate Professor (email: mbuthelezi@uj.ac.za)

Professor Buthelezi research focuses on studying land, governance and the state in South Africa. He is interested in trajectories of land reform, the role of traditional authorities in land governance, the study of institutions of the state as well as on corruption and state capture. He explores how we can think with pre-colonial pasts to forge decolonial futures. Mbongiseni is the Executive Director of the Public Affairs Research Institute, a Johannesburg-based research and advocacy civil society organisation working on questions of state capability.

Dr Matt Caruana, Lecturer (email: mattc@uj.ac.za)

Dr Caruana's research interest focus on the excavation and analysis of Earlier Stone Age archaeological sites and assemblages from South Africa. He is the co-director of two field projects at Swartkrans Cave in the UNESCO 'Cradle of Humankind' World site (Gatuteng Province) and at Amanzi Springs in the Eastern Cape Province. At Swartkrans (~2 Million years old), the focus is on the excavation and analysis of fossil and stone tools materials to understand the ecological interaction between early hominin, carnivore and ungulate species within the local landscape. Dr Caruana is currently developing models of how stone tool use gave our early ancestors an advantage to survive in this region. At Amanzi Springs, he excavates stone tool assemblages from surrounding spring eyes to understand how they were produced. This also involves the recovery of early wood and other plant materials that are critical for reconstructing palaeo-environments approximately 800 to 250 thousand years ago.

Dr Hannah Dawson, Senior Lecturer (email: hannahd@uj.ac.za)

Dr Dawson's current research focuses on the social, economic, and political shifts stemming from mass wagelessness, with a specific focus on the way the future of work and welfare is being imagined – and transformed – in South Africa. Her previous research was on political protests and urban inequality. Hannah is happy to supervise MA and PhD projects connected to work and labour, or welfare policy, cash transfers, and inequality.

<https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=c9vRnWkAAAAJ&hl=en>

Professor Joost Fontein, Professor (email: jfontein@uj.ac.za).

Professor Fontein's research explores the political and material imbrications of landscapes, things, time, water and human substances. He has carried out extensive periods of ethnographic fieldwork in Zimbabwe, and more recently, in Nairobi and Tanzania.

Dr Dipuo Kgotleng, Director – Palaeo-Research Institute (email: dkgotleng@uj.ac.za)

Dr Kgotleng's research interest is in taxonomy and taphonomy of fossil fauna from the Plio-Pleistocene cave sites of the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site. The primary aim is developing a model for taxonomic identification of isolated fossil primate postcranial remains and spatial analysis of these and providing them with a phylogenetic context within the broader primate evolutionary history.

<https://www.uj.ac.za/faculties/humanities/Palaeo-Research-Institute>.

Professor Marlize Lombard, Research Chair – Palaeo-Research Institute (email: mlombard@uj.ac.za)

Professor Lombard is interested in inter-disciplinary research that aims to explore all aspects of human evolution in terms of gene-culture-cognition co-evolution. Students interested in pursuing projects in Middle Stone Age archaeology (experimental and/or analytical) or any theoretical aspect of human cognitive evolution are welcome to contact her.

Dr Andile Mayekiso, Lecturer (email: andilem@uj.ac.za)

Masculinities, youth cultures, HIV/AIDS, gender and sexuality, relationships, religious belief systems in Africa, hair superstitions, symbolic meaning of natural hair, hair and status, indigenous knowledge systems and governance.

Dr Mbali Mazibuko, Senior Lecturer (email: mmazibuko@uj.ac.za)

Dr Mazibuko's PhD thesis titled *Rebellious Black Femininities: Embodiments of Freedom, Desire and Agency in South African Popular Culture from 1980 to the Present*, explores how Black women code practices of agency, desire and freedom in an otherwise heterosexist context such as South Africa. By exploring the biographies of rebellious women like Brenda Fassie, Lebo Mathosa and Khanyi Mbau, Dr Mazibuko shows how performative femininities translate into the everyday and impact the political and cultural landscape of South Africa in politically oblique ways. Ultimately, Dr Mazibuko critiques the notion of 'nation' by exploring the rigid construction and reproduction of femininities which come to mediate the imagined family embodied by South Africa's rainbow nation. Her work strives to demonstrate multiple embodiments of and possibilities for African femininity beyond the binary of good and bad. Dr Mazibuko's academic personality, which extends beyond her PhD and is reflected through other publications, also includes interest in sexualities, gender-based violence, protest action/repertoires, student movements, popular culture, cultural studies, race, feminist movement building and digital activism.

Dr Dikeledi Mokoena, Lecturer (email: dmokoena@uj.ac.za)

Dr Mokoena's research interests are in African feminist politics, feminist political economy, decoloniality, and theorizing about the state in Africa. Her research experience is on gender in politics, decolonial analysis of women's resistance in the mining sector in South Africa, Illicit Financial Flows in the mining sectors of Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa as well as Migration and regional integration in the informal sectors of West and Southern Africa. Dr. Mokoena's community engagement work involves the facilitation of capacity-building and leadership programs on governance and gender for youth leaders in East, West, North, central and Southern African countries.

Professor Efua Prah, Associate Professor (email: efuap@uj.ac.za)

Efua Prah's research reflects her interests in theorisations in African critical thought, African migration studies, adolescent and childhood studies, and maternal and reproductive health. Her current research focusses on the legacies of enslavement as they correspond to continuities of care in maternal and reproductive health industries in the Cape. She has had over 20 years' experience in various capacities – Social Justice Activist, Lecturer, Public Health and Health Systems Research Consultant, Social Science Researcher, Facilitator and Teacher. Her publication record covers a broad spectrum of social and public health issues - From the study of children and childhoods, migratory sociopolitics, health systems research, to critical race theory and gender dynamics. She is also the co-founder and owner of BlueFootPrint Productions, a film company based in Cape Town where she works as a videographer making documentary films.

Professor Gcobani Qambela, Associate Professor (email: gcobaniq@uj.ac.za)

Anthropology of Masculinity/ies, Youth and Childhood Studies and Sexual and Reproductive health. Through a case study of the boyhoods of young amaXhosa men living in rural and peri-urban settings, my dissertation develops what I call an *Anthropology of Boyhood/s*.

Professor Jonathan Stadler, Head of Department (email: jstadler@uj.ac.za)

Jonathan Stadler's research interests are in medical anthropology, the medical humanities and the anthropology of public health. His research includes the AIDS epidemic in southern Africa, innovative biotechnologies to prevent and treat HIV; and the role of technologies of surveillance. He has worked in Bushbuckridge, in Mombasa, Orange Farm and Soweto and the inner – city, Johannesburg.
<https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=HxL6DrIAAAAJ&hl=en>

Dr Suzall Timm, Lecturer (email: stimm@uj.ac.za)

Dr Timm's work examines how urban informal economies are regulated through assemblages of humans and nonhumans. Her research interests include; environmental, governance, regulation, urban

materiality, waste minimization, municipal waste management policy, urban informality, waste pickers/informal reclaimers. Prior to joining the department, she also worked as a youth coordinator for the Trust for Community Outreach and Education and a programme officer for the Southern Africa Rural Women's Assembly.