




Faculty of Humanities

**Master of Philosophy
in Social Policy and
Development**



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG






The MPhil in Social Policy and Development is an interdisciplinary Masters Coursework and Research programme that is intended to build your knowledge and practice capacity in developing and analysing social policies and interventions intended to address social development challenges at the national, community and household level in South Africa and the Southern African region. The course also has applicability to other development contexts.

1. What you will achieve through the MPhil degree

The programme is aimed at building high-level theoretical and practice capability of social development professionals across a diversity of disciplines and from a variety of professional backgrounds to address complex social development challenges. The degree will develop your competency in social policy and evidence-based theory and practice in your specific field of work or study whether it be social work, psychology, community development, development studies, public governance, political science, anthropology, sociology, education, or economics amongst others. Equipped with the appropriate and requisite knowledge and skills, you will be able to enhance the quality and implementation of social policies and interventions in local, national, regional and global institutions.

2. How long does it take?

The MPhil can be completed in two years (full-time) or three years (part-time).



3. Who is eligible to enrol for this degree?

In order to be eligible for the programme you should hold an Honours or four-year degree in a related field (e.g. Humanities, Education or Economics). The Honours degree must have been attained with a minimum average of 70%. In the case of a different type of qualification, the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process will be used to assess the qualification for admission into the MPhil programme.

4. Is the degree done by coursework or by research?

The MPhil degree is a Masters by coursework degree, which combines coursework and independent research. The coursework components are done in the first year, and the research dissertation is completed in the second year.

The degree grading is made up of 50% coursework and 50% research.

The coursework will consist of three courses:

- A core theory course on social policy and development, with a major focus on the global South.
- Advanced research design and methodology, with a focus on intervention research (including methodologies to design and evaluate interventions).
- One elective course from related disciplines. The list of elective courses will vary across departments mainly in the humanities. The student will need to choose from courses run at UJ in sociology, social work, development studies, anthropology, political studies, philosophy, psychology, history and communications. The elective list will be made available at a later stage.

The research component:

This component is an independent research project on a subject of the student's choice, focused on an issue related to social policy and development. It will be guided by a research supervisor who will be allocated in the second semester of the first year of the MPhil.

5. How much time am I required to dedicate to the degree?

The teaching methodology will include:

- Face-to-face classes (arranged in blocks of a few days of full-time contact every two-to-three months on campus)
- Online lectures, tutorials, and discussion groups (compulsory, but one can attend these digitally from wherever they wish via the internet)
- Self-study components – time for reading and preparation for the online and face-to-face engagements
- Independent research

You will need to dedicate approximately 20 hours per week (on average) to these activities.

6. What will it cost me?

- Online applicants are exempt from paying an application fee, whereas hard-copy applicants are expected to pay a non-refundable application fee of R200.
- For registration, there is a non-refundable registration fee of R610.
- A non-refundable ICT-levy of R430.
- The fees for the complete programme average between R37 389.00 and R93 385.00.
- A minimum payment of R3 870 is payable at the time of registration.
- For International students, a non-refundable international levy is also payable (R2 000)

for SADC & African countries; R17 000 for other countries; Asylum seekers/Refugees/Diplomat students are not required to pay the International levy).¹

7. Are there scholarships or bursaries available for this degree?

There are four scholarships available for full-time study including those offered by the DST/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development and the Prof Tessa Hochfeld Memorial bursary. The value of these bursaries is R70 000 per year, up to a maximum of R140 000 for 2 years. These bursaries are awarded on a competitive basis. If you wish to apply for one of the scholarships, please include a separate motivation letter with your application, indicating why you should be considered for the scholarship. Please note the earlier closing dates when applying for a scholarship.

In addition, there are various scholarships that can be applied for (for both South African and international students). For information on these funding opportunities, please visit <https://www.uj.ac.za/postgraduate-school/Pages/Funding-for-Postgraduate-Studies.aspx>

¹ All of these figures are based on 2020 guidelines. The average annual increase of tuition is 5%-10%. As such, the amounts mentioned above are subject to change. The University reserves the right to change fees without prior notice or without providing reasons thereof.

8. How do I apply?

There are TWO steps in the application process:

Step 1: Apply online at <https://www.uj.ac.za/studyatUJ/sec/Pages/postgraduate.aspx>

Step 2: Send the following documents to the CSDA at csdainfo@uj.ac.za:

- Proof of your online application
- Academic records
- Copy of ID or passport
- CV
- Letter of motivation outlining why you would like to do the course
- 1-2 page essay on the social policy or social development challenge you would like to focus on in your research
- 1-2 contactable academic or work-related references

Applications for the course open on 1 April 2020.

Closing date for international students and those applying for bursaries offered by the CSDA is **31 August 2020**.

Additional applications from South African students and students who are permanent residents of South Africa will be accepted up to **30 October 2020 @ 12h00**.

Applications made by this date will not be eligible for the scholarships. No applications will be accepted after this date.

For further information about the course and application process please email csdainfo@uj.ac.za