



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY



University of Stellenbosch – Stellenbosch, South Africa

MASTERS OF PHILOSOPHY IN DISASTER RISK SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT (MPhil DRSD)

Rapid population growth, poverty and environmental pressures are increasing disaster risk in South and Southern Africa. Drought, flash-floods and fires are common, along with 'small disasters' in informal and low-cost housing settlements. These erode developmental gains and have a devastating impact on municipalities and households.

This MPhil program will be launching in February 2016. Building on the Honours DRS module, this course aims to consolidate a broad-based theoretical understanding of disaster risk, including the interplay between hazard and vulnerability factors. Through the use of case studies, it places disaster risk within rural and urban contexts, at regional scale and also with respect to its transboundary considerations. It aims at building strategic analytic and management capabilities across sectors, including critical risk reduction processes and practices.

GENERAL AIM AND STRUCTURE OF THE MASTERS PROGRAMME

NATURE OF THE PROGRAMME

This one-year programme MPhil programme differentiates Disaster Risk Science (DRS) from disaster risk management and provides students with an integrated understanding of disaster risk and its implications for sustainable development in Africa, as well as competencies in risk assessment and risk reduction. The programme aims to generate skilled graduates with the capacity to investigate, analyse and understand the complex interactions between social and physical risk-producing processes, who are able to better inform the planning and

implementation of comprehensive risk reduction measures. It combines taught modules with a compulsory research thesis.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Preference will be given to candidates holding a BA Honours in Geography and Environmental Studies or a BSc Honours in Geoinformatics from SU, who have completed the Department's honours module in Disaster Risk Studies and Development (12825– 717).
- Students who have not completed the DRSD honours module, or students holding comparable qualifications from other universities, will be considered at the discretion of the director of course convenor, if they have completed an Honours dissertation pertinent to DRS.

PARTICULARS

Expertise in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is essential to successfully complete the programme:

- Students who have completed the honours module or comparable qualification but **lack prior training in GIS** at the undergraduate or postgraduate level will take **two 30-credit compulsory modules** on Disaster Risk Science and Development (DRSD) (13134 – 871), Disaster Risk Assessment and Analytics (13136 –871) and a **compulsory 15-credit module** GIS for Risk Reduction (13182 – 871), plus an additional **15-credit elective** and a **90-credit thesis** (13181 – 871).
- Students with who have **completed GIS modules** in their undergraduate or honours year will take **two compulsory modules** (DRSD and Disaster Risk Assessment and Analytics), plus **two electives worth a total of 30 credits** and a **90-credit thesis**.

Students who have not completed the honours module will take it as a 30-credit elective.

The **GIS for Risk Reduction** module provide students without prior expertise in spatial data collection and analysis with a foundational knowledge on GIS and earth observation. The **DRSD module** provides knowledge on the hazard and vulnerability conditions driving specific, priority risks in South and southern Africa, pertinent governance frameworks and good practice in risk reduction. **The Disaster Risk Assessment and Analytics** builds students' capabilities to assess and analyse complex risk configurations. It will be taught in collaboration with applied risk scientists, including those from the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Students will have the opportunity to select as electives post-graduate modules already offered by other institutions within SU. Possible electives include modules on:

- 12230 : Introduction to Development Planning 771(15)
- 11179 : Environmental Issues 771(15)
- 11919 : Environmental Governance 771(15)
- 58718 : Sustainable Development 771(15)
- 11199 : Sustainable Cities 775(15)

The strong emphasis on student research, embodied in a substantial research thesis, aims to ensure that students receive the foundation required to progress to a PhD programme.

MPhil ENQUIRIES

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E-mail: robynpharoah@sun.ac.za

www.riskreductionafrica.org/partners-and-programmes/stellenbosch-university-stellenbosch-south-africa/

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Everything you need online at <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/students/>

ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY

How to obtain an application form or APPLY ONLINE: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/students/>

For enquiries send an email to info@sun.ac.za or phone +27 21 808 9111

Address: The Registrar, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND 7602

Closing dates for application: 9 November 2015

BURSARIES AND LOANS

Stellenbosch University offers various merit bursaries, sports bursaries, bursaries for studies in specific faculties or departments, general bursaries and bursary loans for needy students (see Calendar Part 2).

Web site: <http://www.maties.com/bursaries-loans-and-fees.html>

Tel: 021 808 4208

E-mail: beursnavrae_nagraads@sun.ac.za

Address: The Registrar (Head: Postgraduate Bursaries and Loans), Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND 7602

TUITION FEES

Web site: <http://www.maties.com/bursaries-loans-and-fees.html>

Division for Student Fees

Tel: +27 21 808-9111

E-mail: info@sun.ac.za

ACCOMMODATION

The same prescribed application form is used for applications for admission to a programme and to accommodation in a University Residence.

Web site: <http://www.maties.com/accommodation.html>

University accommodation: Apply **online** or contact 021 808 9111 for an application form.

Private accommodation: Student Housing Office, Tel 021 808 2848

Closing date for applications: 30 June of the year before accommodation is needed.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International (Non-South African) students must apply through the Stellenbosch University International Office, accessed at <http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/>

International Office, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, 7602 Matieland, South Africa

Tel: +2721 808 2565

E-mail: interoff@sun.ac.za

Closing dates for international applications : 15 September for January semester

The University accepts no liability in regard to inaccuracies of content in this brochure, if any. Every reasonable care has been taken, however, to ensure that the relevant information is presented accurately.