

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: MPHIL IN BEHAVIOURAL MEDICINE 2025

The HIV Mental Health Research Unit (HIVMHRU) was established in 2014 in response to the growing recognition of the burden of mental health disorders in people living with HIV – including depressive, anxiety, substance use and neurocognitive disorders. The HIVMHRU conducts niche research in the field of neuro-HIV and behavioural HIV in both adolescents and adults. Our guiding principle is to develop an evidence base to extend the provision of effective mental health services to persons living with HIV with a focus on South Africa and other resource-limited settings. The HIVMHRU is proud to invite applications from suitable candidates for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Behavioural Medicine in 2025.

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN BEHAVIOURAL MEDICINE

The Master of Philosophy in Behavioural Medicine is a two-year part-time degree (NQF Level 9). The programme has a unique focus on psychiatric disorders, chronic conditions, and health. It is suited for both professionals and non-professionals from diverse backgrounds, including global health, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, psychiatry, and non-governmental organisations. The purpose of the programme is to provide advanced development and training in research at the intersection of psychiatric disorders and chronic conditions. The programme enables candidates to evaluate interventions and interpret research findings with a critical framework and, more importantly, builds professional capacity in how to develop, assess, and apply behavioural interventions that promote mental and physical health and prevent, manage, and treat multimorbid health challenges faced by people in South Africa and beyond.

The programme will generate advanced contextual knowledge related to the role of psychosocial factors in health promotion, disease prevention, and management. Crucially, it will develop research and intervention implementation skills informed by a biopsychosocial, patient-centred, evidence-based approach to the prevention and management of mental disorders and chronic conditions.

The programme requires:

- Participation in monthly seminars (in-person and/or online);
- The preparation of a dissertation of a minimum of 20 000 words.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- Minimum NQF Level 8 qualification (Honours or four-year degree) in a health or social science-related field.
- For candidates not in possession of an NQF Level 8 qualification, the programme will use recognition of prior learning (RPL) to facilitate access for 10% of applicants. RPL assessments will be conducted using a written research outline and individual interviews to determine prospective candidates' suitability.
- Applicants will be required to have demonstrable experience conducting research, with participation in one or more research projects.
- All applications will be reviewed as part of a formal selection process.

SELECTION PROCESS

There are limited placements for this programme, and admission is highly competitive. Selection is primarily based on academic merit and the potential to contribute to the field of Behavioural Medicine in South Africa and beyond. In addition to the application form, we may request that short-listed candidates attend a selection interview.

The application deadline is **31 October 2024**. The outcome of the selection process will be communicated to all applicants by **30 November 2024**.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

This section provides instructions for completing the application form. Please read and follow these instructions carefully, as they are not repeated on the application form.

- Please complete the attached application form.
- The application form must be completed in full and submitted with all required supporting documents **as a single PDF file, with your surname and initial as the file name**, to stephan.rabie@uct.ac.za on or before **31 October 2024**.
- Each completed application form should include the following:
 - Photograph
 - Signed declaration (all applications will be subjected to Turnitin)
 - Research proposal (see format in the application form)
 - Details of referees
 - Certified copies of original academic transcripts
- If you have any questions about the application form or process, please contact **Dr Stephan Rabie** (stephan.rabie@uct.ac.za).
- Upon selection, students will be asked to complete the online application process through the University of Cape Town's online portal. Only selected students will be required to complete this step. Successful students will also be given additional information related to fees, registration, financial assistance, and more detailed information about the course.



APPLICATION FORM: MPhil in Behavioural Medicine 2025

INSERT
PHOTOGRAPH
HERE

PERSONAL DETAILS

TITLE		SURNAME			
FIRST NAMES					
AGE		DATE OF BIRTH	/ /	ID NUMBER	
HOME LANGUAGE(S)					
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS					
POSTAL ADDRESS (if different from above)					
DISABILITY (please state nature of disability and details of special needs)					
OCCUPATION					
EMPLOYER					
WORK ADDRESS					
TELEPHONE	(W)			(H)	
MOBILE				FAX	
EMAIL ADDRESS					
CITIZENSHIP					
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION (if applicable)					
REGISTERING BODY				REGISTRATION NUMBER	

Should fellowships be available, would you like to be considered for a fellowship?	Yes	No	
Would you be able to self-fund?	Yes	No	

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Please indicate your proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and understanding the languages you are familiar with by using the following categories: **excellent, fair and poor.**

Language	Speak	Read	Write	Understand

EDUCATION (please list in reverse order)

Please attach original university transcripts and certified copies of all degrees and certificates.

Qualification	Year	Institution	Major subjects	Marks obtained

OTHER RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS / INFORMAL EDUCATION (please list in reverse order)

Course	Institution	Year	Duration

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (please list in reverse order)

Year	Project Title	Type of Research	Role	Supervisor (if applicable)

PUBLICATIONS (providing the full reference, please list in reverse order i.e. the most recent first)

PRIZES/AWARDS RECEIVED (please list in reverse order)

Year	Details

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE (e.g. teaching, leadership positions, etc)

Year	Details

OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY

CURRENT POSITION			
DATE COMMENCED			
MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES			
OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY (please list in reverse order)			
Dates	Position	Employer	Main Responsibilities

Letter of Motivation

Please write a one-page letter of motivation for why you are applying for the MPhil in Behavioural Medicine.

**How do you see yourself using this course in your professional and/or personal capacity?
(half page)**

REFEREE REPORTS

Please provide the names and contact details of your referees here. We will contact the referees of shortlisted applications.

Name of Referee #1			
Position			
Institution			
Email Address			
Tel		FAX	

Name of Referee #2			
Position			
Institution			
Email Address			
Tel		FAX	

DECLARATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I certify that the information supplied in this application is correct. 	
<p>.....</p>	
Signature of Applicant	Date



HIV Mental Health
Research Unit

MPhil (Behavioural Medicine): RESEARCH CONCEPT NOTE

Please do not exceed TWO typed pages

In TWO pages, please set out the following:

1. Provisional Research Title

2. Background/Rationale

What is your proposed research addressing?

3. Aims and Objectives

4. Methods

This should include the following subheadings:

a) Design

How will you achieve the study aims and objectives?

b) Setting

Where will your study take place?

c) Sampling/Participants

How and where will you recruit participants for your study? What are the inclusion and exclusion criteria?

d) Procedure

How will you collect data? Who will collect the data?

e) Measures

Describe in detail your data collection methods.

f) Data Analysis

Describe the quantitative or qualitative methods that will be used to analyse the data

5. Ethical considerations

6. Positioning of research

How does your research position itself within the field of Behavioural Medicine?

7. References