



Stellenbosch

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## Department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



2026

## Physiotherapy Masters Prospectus

### World Class Research

#### Our Research Vision

Our research focus is to contribute towards the understanding of physical function to design, validate and evaluate evidence-based diagnostic, preventative and rehabilitation strategies to optimize function and thereby enhance quality of life and health.

#### Divisional research focus areas

- Human movement and function
- Innovative rehabilitation
- Digital health
- Health systems strengthening
- Curriculum Development



## Master of Physiotherapy (Thesis)

#### Programme Description

The aim of the programme is to:

- advance your ability to acquire higher-order skills regarding the critical analysis and evaluation of knowledge and skills;
- equip you with the necessary skills to undertake original, advanced and independent research in the field of Physiotherapy;
- prepare you for various forms of scientific professional communication; and
- produce professionals with the skills and critical cognitive capability to advance the profession
- To contribute to a pool of professional and academic practitioners in the field of Physiotherapy.

#### Admission requirements

To be admitted to the MPhysio you need to have one of the following qualifications:

A Professional Bachelor's degree (NQF level 8) in Physiotherapy OR Honours degree (NQF level 8) in Physiotherapy OR an equivalent qualification approved by Senate for such purposes.

#### **And**

One year of clinical experience in Physiotherapy after obtaining the bachelor's degree.

#### **And**

Be registered/registrable as a Physiotherapist or Physiotherapy student with the South African Health Professions Council (or country specific Health Professions Council).

## Program information

### Duration of programme

The programme extends over a minimum of one year on a full-time basis or two years on a part-time basis.

### Learning Activities

Compulsory introductory learning sessions are offered to broaden your knowledge and understanding of research paradigms, methods and procedures. These compulsory sessions will occur via an in-person residential period of one week, usually in March in the first year of study. The remainder of the programme is facilitated online via SUNLearn and MS Teams, using structured study materials, written assignments and feedback.

During the first phase, you will define your project and develop your research question and finalize your research proposal. Thereafter, you will conduct and document your research. Your thesis topic is determined in conjunction with your supervisor/s. For information on potential supervisors, please visit the Division of Physiotherapy [website](#).

### Assessment

You are required to submit a written thesis demonstrating your ability to independently conduct a scientific investigation. The written research thesis will be assessed according to Stellenbosch University guidelines and a minimum of 50% must be achieved to pass. Your final mark will be calculated according to the weighted average of three assessment opportunities namely: a research methods test, the written thesis and an oral examination about your thesis.

### Application procedure and closing date

Applications can be completed online by 30 September of the previous year. Applications for prospective international students close on 31 August of the previous year.

Please start your application at the [application website](#)

The following documents must be added to your application: Academic records, curriculum vitae and a motivational letter.

#### For further enquiries contact:

Postgraduate coordinator  
**Prof. Dawn Ernstzen**

[postgrad@sun.ac.za](mailto:postgrad@sun.ac.za)

The Tygerberg [Doctoral office](#) website also provides detailed information about Masters degree activities and requirements.

SU  
Postgraduate  
website



Tygerberg  
Doctoral  
website



Division  
Physiotherapy  
website



## Testimonial

*“So worth it!*

*Completing this degree enabled me to take up an international teaching post, teaching me resilience and perseverance beyond what I could have imagined. Stellenbosch University has phenomenal supervisors who are skilled in facilitating the learning and growth needed to make a success of this degree.*

*Was it hard to grow so much? Yes. Would I do it again? Absolutely 100% yes.”*

*Estie Delport (MPhysio)*



**Supported by state-of-the-art facilities, our research is embedded in a culture of innovation and collaboration to impact lives through research.**