

THENSA

Technological Higher Education Network South Africa

Capacity Enhancement Brochure

1. INTRODUCTION

The Technological Higher Education Network South Africa (THENSA) previously known as the South African Technology Network (SATN), has over the past 10 years developed and implemented a set of highly successful, bespoke capacity building programmes to ensure the production of a critical mass of quality Masters, PhDs, Supervisors and Academic Publications in universities across South Africa.

These programmes have been developed, evaluated, and refined over ten years by a team of national and international experts to ensure the production of high-quality postgraduates whilst ensuring completion of qualifications within the requisite period. The outputs from these programmes have been phenomenal (the reviews and evaluation results of the previous programmes are listed on our website www.thensa.co.za).

2. OBJECTIVES

These programmes are intended to:

- a. Increase the critical mass of high-quality Masters' and PhD graduates within a three to four year period
- b. Enhance and ensure improved supervision skills
- c. Ensure submission of high-quality papers for publication to accredited journals
- d. Strengthen the teaching, research capacity and research outputs of institutions
- e. Create communities of practice across institutions locally and internationally
- f. Encourage joint research, publications and academic exchanges nationally and internationally

3. TRAINING PROGRAMMES, MODEL & MATERIALS

These programmes are based on a bespoke cohort model and conducted in the form of interactive face to face workshops, one on one sessions (on a face-to-face basis and remotely), group sessions and discussions to allow a maximum exchange of views. All candidates are expected to present themselves for proposal defenses and final defense of their dissertations/theses with external assessors (see training model and curriculum).

Training materials are provided at the training sessions, on a specially designed google platform and through the specially established chat room. Certificates of completion are awarded to participants who complete the respective programmes in their entirety.

4. FACILITATORS

The programmes are facilitated by leading national and international scholars from various disciplines. Particular attention is paid to ensure the inclusion of facilitators from the respective country that the programme is being offered in.

The Masters and PhD programmes ensure consultation and inclusion of the supervisor, facilitator and candidate. The interactive nature of the training allows the participants to share experiences and exchange ideas, which promotes greater understanding, cooperation and the development of communities of practice.

5. PARTICIPANTS, QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION

The programme is open to all academic institutions and research institutions in Southern Africa. The PhD, Masters and Supervisor programmes can preferably accommodate up to 35 participants and the Writing programme up to 20 participants. Participants will be selected by their respective institutions for the respective programmes.

Due consideration will be given to the candidates' qualifications, the scope and the relevance of their professional duties.

6. VENUES FOR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMES

The programmes will be held at venues selected by the respective institutions who fund the programme or the funders who are funding regional and national programmes. Timetables and dates of modules will be negotiated with the THENSA office and published accordingly.

7. COST OF PROGRAMMES

The cost of the programme will be determined by the programme/s selected by the respective institutions and the funders.

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8. SUMMARY - THENSA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMMES

8.1 Doctoral Programme for all Disciplines (3 Options)

8.1.1 The proposal development programme

This is a six-module blended learning programme with residential and online modules. The programme is run over a year programme preparing the candidates for the finalization of a detailed proposal. It has an Embedded Supervisor Programme and is based on a cohort model creating opportunities for regional, national and global networks and communities of practice. It is facilitated by national and internationally recognized academics.

The programme is implemented in a novel triangular model with the candidate, supervisor and facilitator working together in a common learning space. This hands-on, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated throughout the period. Candidates are expected to present themselves for a proposal defence session at the end of the 6 modules. The defence is assessed by national and international experts.

8.1.2 The proposal development and data collection model

This model is an extension of the proposal development model. The candidate is assisted in the second year with data collection tools and statistical analysis of data. The candidate will thereafter work with the supervisor in the third year to write up and submit for examination. There is no defence support and writing support.

8.1.3 Completion of dissertation to presentation for examination

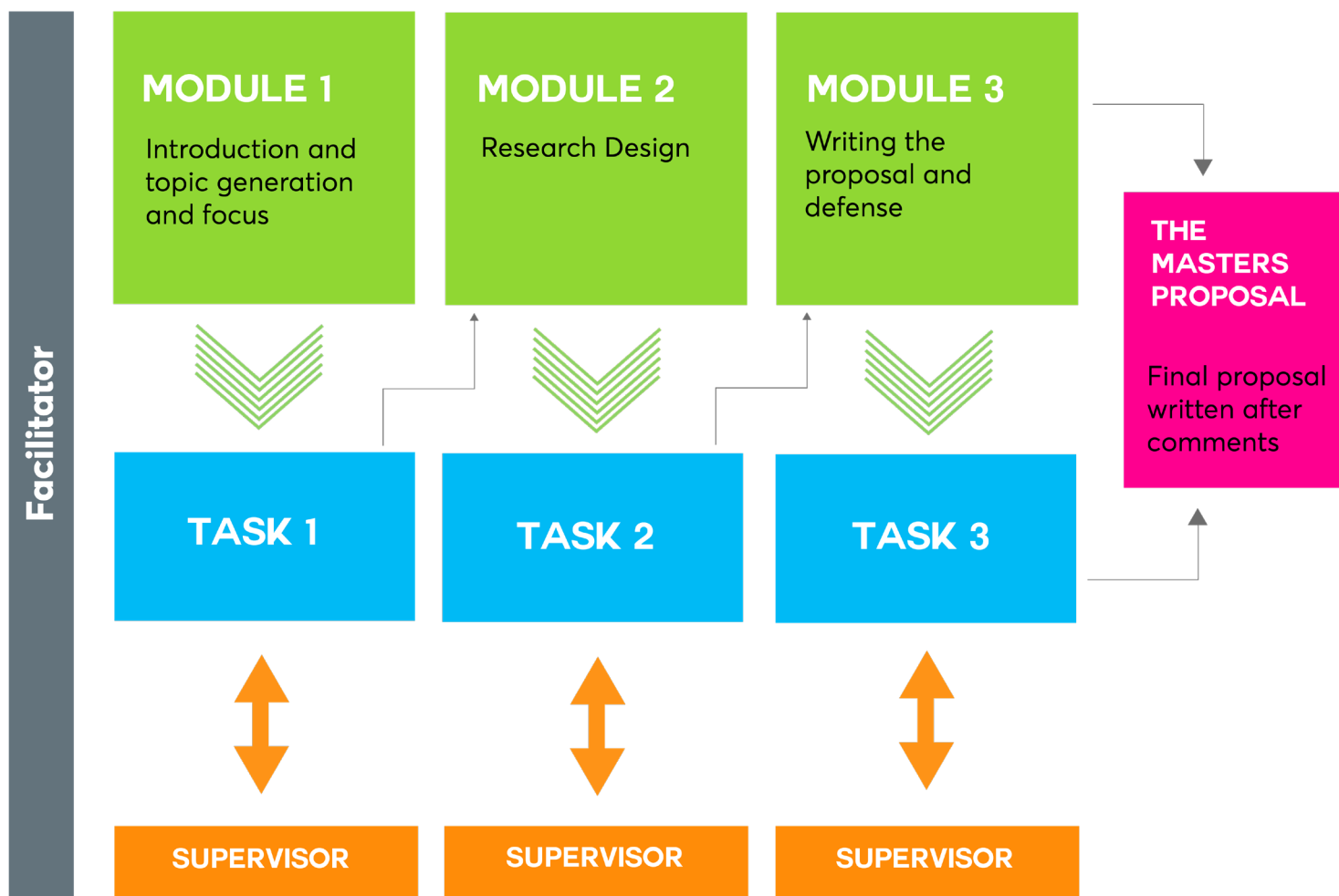
This is a three-year programme as it includes the above modules as well as preparing a dissertation for examination. "Writing up the dissertation" is an additional 2 week-long modules in the third year. Again, there is a complimentary supervisor programme in the third year. The primary objective of the doctoral and supervisors complementary programme is to ensure that PhD candidates will have an assessed PhD proposal ready for registration or a dissertation ready for examination at any university nationally or globally. This programme aims to ensure that dissertations are completed within a three to four-year period. Members of an institution's higher degrees committee are encouraged to attend the dissertation defence sessions.



	Option 1			
	Option 2			
	Option 3			
	YEAR 1 Module 1-5 Proposal Development	YEAR 2 Module 4B	YEAR 3 Module 6	YEAR 4 Monitoring and Evaluation
PROGRAMME	1. Candidate attends module 1-5 2. Supervisor attends module 1 and 5 proposal defence	1. Proposal presented to University and candidate registers for PhD 2. Module 4B dealing with data and statistical analysis of data	1. Writing up the dissertation 2. Presentation of dissertation for examination 3. Preparation of a paper for publication	1. Examination results and correction where necessary 2. Graduation
OUTCOME	1. Completed proposal for PhD is defended by candidate and assessed by international panel and peers	1. Module 4 B (dealing with data and analysis of data, writing) 2. Progress monitored by the THENSA and Supervisor	1. First and second draft presented to supervisor and assessors 2. PhD defence 3. Final submission	PhD Graduation

8.2 The Masters' Programme for all Disciplines

The curriculum is made up of three modules (each module being a week-long) residential programme. The modules are facilitated within a cohort model with candidates from various disciplines. Supervisors are encouraged to participate in module 1 and 3. The programme is run over a six-month period and enables a candidate to prepare a masters' proposal that will meet the requirements of a specific institution. Candidates will possess the theoretical and applied knowledge, comprehensive understanding of relevant techniques, the application and critical evaluation of such techniques and preparation for ethical clearance at institutions.



8.3 The Supervisor Enhancement Programme for all Disciplines (2 days with 3-month Online Support and may run concurrently with the PhD Programme)

The Supervisor Enhancement Programme provides an opportunity for supervisors to become familiar with the proposal development process for Masters' and Doctoral candidates. The programme introduces a range of supervision models and the related principles and practices of coaching and mentoring. It provides a theoretical basis for supervision and researcher development. The module draws on humanist, constructivist and other learning theories that understand supervision to be a process of inducting doctoral candidates into disciplinary-related discourse communities underpinned by values, attitudes, and cultural contexts of what can be considered as knowledge and how that knowledge is created.

This module is presented in a flexible and interactive way, which allows participants to share their knowledge and experience built across a range of institutions and contexts.

8.4 Writing for Academic Publications Programme (3 days with 3-month Online Support)

The general objective of the programme is to contribute to the preparation for the publication of papers in the Department of Higher Education Training (DHET) accredited local and international journals. This is a structured programme that will enhance quality, accelerate the writing and completion of peer-reviewed and assessed academic articles that will be supported and tracked through to publication. This programme will ultimately contribute to developing and supporting the global knowledge economy. It is aimed at encouraging the development of a critical mass of a new generation of young writers producing papers in accredited journals.

Modality of the Programme: The Programme includes one on one-contact sessions, group sessions and one online support throughout the writing process.



THE CURRICULUM AND MODEL



9. CONCLUSION

It is envisaged that through these initiatives, universities can expect an increase in a critical mass of staff and students with Masters' and PhD qualifications, enhanced supervision capacity and accelerated research outputs.



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Detailed information can be found on THENSA website <https://www.thensa.co.za/>