

RPL Application Form

Section 5: Motivation for direct access against SAQA exit level outcomes

Access to Doctoral studies through RPL**

In order to access a PhD, a candidate should demonstrate him/herself competent at Master's level. However, the candidate should also demonstrate that he/she is ready to cope with studies at Doctorate level.

In terms of SAQA guidelines, the learning outcomes are:

- A well-rounded and systematic knowledge base in one or more discipline(s)/field(s) and a detailed knowledge of some specialist areas;
- A coherent and critical understanding of one or more discipline(s)/field(s) terms, rules, concepts, principles and theories; an ability to map new knowledge onto a given body of theory; and an acceptance of a multiplicity of "right" answers;
- Effective selection and application of the essential procedures, operations and techniques of a discipline/field; an understanding of the central methods of enquiry and research in a discipline/field; and a knowledge of at least one other discipline/field's mode of enquiry;
- An ability to deal with unfamiliar concrete and abstract problems and issues using evidence-based solutions and theory-driven arguments;
- Well-developed information retrieval skills; critical analysis and synthesis of quantitative and/or qualitative data; presentation skills following prescribed formats, using IT skills appropriately;
- An ability to present and communicate information and their own ideas and opinions in well-structured arguments, showing an awareness of audience and using academic/professional discourse appropriately;
- A capacity to operate in variable and unfamiliar learning contexts, requiring responsibility and initiative;
- A capacity to accurately self-evaluate and identify and address own learning needs;
- An ability to interact effectively in a learning group.