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| **Department** | | | Operations Management | |
| **Discipline** | | | Operations Management | |
| **Research Focus Area** | | | Process/Improvement/Supply chain/Industry 4.0 | |
| **Capacity for 2025** | | | 1 Masters | |
|  | | | | |
| **Supervision Team details:** | **Academic Profile** | | | **Capacity** |
| **Dr Anthea Amadi-Echendu**  **[[1]](#footnote-1)(Contact person for this focus area)**  Office: NSR 4-53  Email: amadiap@unisa.ac.za  ORCID : <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6940-1027>  Institutional repository link  [ResearcherID: G-1831-2014](http://www.researcherid.com/rid/G-1831-2014) | Anthea Amadi-Echendu [MCom, Unisa; LLB, Unisa; DPhil (UP)], IEB Certificate in Assessment; IEB Certificate in Moderation] is currently a lecturer in the Department of Operations Management at Unisa. She has presented numerous conference papers at local and international conferences, published several articles in accredited journals and authored various book chapters. She works primarily within the interpretivistic research philosophy that applies a qualitative methodology.  Previous industry experience includes several years in various positions on branch, regional and national levels, including management at a leading bank in South Africa and a prominent information technology organisation. | | | 1 Masters  1 PhD co-supervision |
| **Model of supervision** | Candidates will be allocated to a supervisor but will be required to work independently within the requirements of higher degree studies. Additionally, the candidate should submit his/her work to be reviewed by a blind peer review process. | | | |
| **Selection criteria: Master’s/Doctorate** | Refer to the qualification website for selection criteria. | | | |
| **Selection Procedure** | Refer to the qualification website for selection procedure. | | | |
| **Research scope** | Inclusive of the following areas:   1. Operations management which relates to the management of resources that creates products and services of a business 2. Operations strategy that focuses on the decisions and actions of the operation to achieve its objectives and complete its activities 3. Process design – configuring how something works and how the operation is arranged to deliver a workable solution 4. Innovation and design in services and products – exploring how new methods, ideas, products or processes may enhance operational performance in a novel way 5. Supply network design – setting the operations in relation to other operations that it may interact with to optimise performance 6. Process technology – how the use of machines, equipment, applications and devices may enable the delivery of products and services 7. Planning and control – Reconciling the demands of the market with the resources and ability of the operation to deliver the required demand 8. Supply chain management – managing the interconnectedness of organisations in producing value to the end user in the form of products and services 9. Lean – improving quality and removing waste from processes 10. Operations improvement – performance improvement of operations and process improvement 11. Industry 4.0 technologies: Blockchain, Artificial intelligence, etc. that may enhance business intelligence and thus optimise operations of a business 12. Information management by looking at the process of how information can be obtained, translated 13. Conveyancing and property management – exploring the processes and other business-related aspects of the purchasing, selling or transfer of immovable property transactions | | | |
| **Reading:**  **Subject Field** | **This is a selection of articles and/or recent books in this research focus area. ‎Further reading over and above these is essential:**  Access research papers on the specific research topic from:   1. [Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)](https://doaj.org/) 2. [African Journals Online (AJOL)](http://www.ajol.info/) 3. Scopus 4. ScienceDirect.com 5. https://www.jstor.org | | | |
| **Reading:**  **Research Methodology** | **This is a selection books on methodology. Further reading over and above these is essential:**   1. Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill. 2015. Research methods for business students, 7th edition. Pearson 2. Saunders, M.N., 2011. Research methods for business students, 5/e. Pearson Education India. 3. Hofstee, H. 2006. Constructing a Good Dissertation. EPE: Johannesburg, South Africa. 4. Trafford, V. and Leshem, S., 2008. *Stepping stones to achieving your doctorate: focusing on your viva from the start*. Maidenhead, Open University Press. | | | |
| **Resources: Scholar community** | n/a | | | |
| **Potential M&D research focus areas or research projects** | | | | |
| **Unit of Analysis** | | **Research Focus** | | |
| **Requirements in general** | | 1. Production and operations management focus 2. Literature relating the specified area 3. Technical presentation is important 4. Good writing skills 5. Student must be able to work independently 6. Student must be teachable and listen to recommendations | | |
| **The necessary aspects as a fundamental output of the research** | | 1. Title of the proposal 2. Literature relating the specified area 3. Statement of a problem 4. Research objectives 5. Literature on the study (references from literature is very important) 6. Proposed methodology 7. Technical presentation 8. Ethical considerations 9. Referencing from academic sources 10. Academic writing in proficient English | | |

1. Please note that consulting the research focus area leader is no assurance that your application will be approved. If, however, your application is approved, it is also not a guarantee that he/she will be allocated as your supervisor. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)