

<b>Department</b>	Economics
<b>Discipline</b>	Economics
<b>Research Focus Area</b>	<b>Public Economics</b>
<b>Total Capacity for 2024</b>	<b>8 (4 Master's and 4 PhD's)</b>

<b>Supervision Team details:</b>	<b>Academic Profile</b>	<b>Capacity</b>
<p>Prof T van der Merwe<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>(Contact person for this focus area)</b></p> <p>Office: 4-27                      Email: <a href="mailto:vdmert@unisa.ac.za">vdmert@unisa.ac.za</a>                      ORCID : <a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10500/16272">http://hdl.handle.net/10500/16272</a></p>	<p>Prof van der Merwe is a professor in the Department of Economics. He holds a PhD (Economics) from the University of South Africa. His research focuses on public economics, especially public goods, expenditure programs, social security issues, as well as the economics of language.</p> <p><b>Supervision Type:</b> Qualitative research.</p> <p>Econometrics: Basic</p>	None
<p>Prof Z Robinson</p> <p>Office: 5-77                      Email: <a href="mailto:robinz@unisa.ac.za">robinz@unisa.ac.za</a>                      ORCID ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6375-7535">https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6375-7535</a>.</p>	<p>Prof Robinson is a professor in the Department of Economics. Prof Robinson holds a PhD (Economics) from the University of Cape Town. Prof Robinson's research focuses mainly on macroeconomics (specifically public economics and mineral economics).</p> <p><b>Supervision type:</b> Quantitative and qualitative research</p> <p>Econometrics: Advanced</p>	2 Master's 4 PhD's
<p>Dr N Mkhize</p> <p>Office: 4-37                      Email: <a href="mailto:mkhizni@unisa.ac.za">mkhizni@unisa.ac.za</a>  <b>ORCID ID:</b>  <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6207-7538">orcid.org/0000-0001-6207-7538</a></p>	<p>Prof Mkhize holds a PhD (Economics) degree from the University of South Africa. His research focus areas include Labour Economics, Open Economy Macroeconomics, Inclusive Growth, Public Finance, and Health Economics.</p> <p><b>Supervisor type:</b> Qualitative and quantitative</p> <p>Econometrics: Intermediate</p>	None
<p>Dr SJ Joubert</p> <p>Office: 4-46                      Email: <a href="mailto:sjjoube@unisa.ac.za">sjjoube@unisa.ac.za</a></p> <p>ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3880-1033">https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3880-1033</a></p>	<p>Dr Joubert holds a DCom (Economics) degree from the University of South Africa. His research interests include financial markets, household finances and fiscal sustainability.</p> <p><b>Supervision type:</b> Quantitative and qualitative research</p> <p>Econometrics: Advanced</p>	1 Master's

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<p>Dr G Maluleke Office: 4-15 Email: <a href="mailto:malulg@unisa.ac.za">malulg@unisa.ac.za</a></p> <p>Orcid ID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5234-3115">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5234-3115</a></p> <p>Google Scholar: <a href="https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=dQ_GK3UAAAAJ&amp;hl=en">https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=dQ_GK3UAAAAJ&amp;hl=en</a></p>	<p>Dr Maluleke holds a PhD (Economics) degree from the University of South Africa. Her research interests include macroeconomic analysis, public finance, economic development, and international trade in emerging economies.</p> <p><b>Supervisor type:</b> Quantitative</p> <p>Econometrics: Intermediate</p>	<p>1 Masters (Co-Supervision)</p>
<p><b>Model of supervision</b></p>	<p>Candidates will be allocated to a supervisor but will be required to work independently within the requirements of higher degree studies. Additionally, the candidate will have to present his/her work to a panel of academic at colloquia. / Additionally, the candidate should submit his/her work to be reviewed by a blind peer review process.</p> <p>As part of the process of obtaining the Master’s, the Department of Economics, requires that all Master’s degree candidates present the proposal to the departmental higher degrees committee. The presentation must be within one (1) year of successful registration of the programme. Therefore, all registered students are required to make allowance for the presentations in their year plan. The presentations will take place in the department. Accommodation and travel arrangements should be made by the student. Under extenuating circumstances, provision will be made for presentations via skype for students who are not able to physically attend.</p> <p>The following should be noted regarding the presentation of the proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A complete draft of the proposal must be submitted to the candidate’s supervisor by the end of August of the relevant year.</li> <li>2. The proposal presentations will take place in the last week of October. Students will be informed of the respective dates in due course.</li> <li>3. Each candidate has to prepare a 15-minute presentation.</li> <li>4. All feedback must be incorporated and final proposal submitted to the supervisor by the third week of November of the respective year.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Selection criteria:</b></p>	<p>Refer to the qualification website for selection criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Selection Procedure</b></p>	<p>Refer to the qualification website for selection procedure.</p>	
<p><b>Research scope</b></p>		
<p><b>Reading: Subject Field</b></p>	<p><b>This is a selection of articles and/or recent books in this research focus area. Further reading over and above these is essential.</b></p>	

	<b>No specific articles are prescribed here, because of the diverse scope of topics researched in public economics. It is, however, essential that you read extensively on the chosen topic.</b>
<b>Reading: Research Methodology</b>	<b>This is a selection of journals you may read to orientate you better with regard to methodology. Further reading over and above these is essential:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Journal of Public Economics</li> <li>• 2 National Tax Journal</li> <li>• 3 Finanz Archiv/Public Finance Analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Resources:Scholar community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Institute of Public Finance</li> </ul>
<b>Potential M&amp;D research focus areas or research projects</b>	
<b>Unit of Analysis</b>	<b>Research Focus</b>
The economic rationale of government in a mixed market economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficiency, markets and governments</li> <li>• Market failures: externalities, public goods and inequality</li> <li>• Government failure: public choice, bureaucratic behaviour and corruption</li> </ul>
The economics of public expenditure and, in particular, public spending on social security and social insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government expenditure and its size</li> <li>• Social insurance and social security</li> <li>• Transfer payments and their impact</li> </ul>
The economics of selected tax types and tax reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxation as a source of finance and its impact on equity and economic efficiency</li> <li>• The economics of various taxes</li> <li>• Tax reform and policy trends in emerging market economies</li> </ul>
Fiscal federalism and intergovernmental fiscal relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal federalism and the supply of local public goods</li> <li>• Public debt</li> </ul>