



WCJ PHD APPLICATIONS

CONCEPT NOTE REQUIREMENTS

Applications for doctoral study at the Wits Centre for Journalism must be submitted with a concept note of between three to four pages in length, (no more than 1000 words).

The PhD concept note allows the academic selection team to assess your preparedness for doctoral study and to consider the viability of your research topic. It is strongly suggested that you read completed PhDs on topics similar to yours before preparing the concept note.

The concept note must address the following:

1. What is your proposed topic or area of study within journalism and media studies
2. Why you have chosen this topic or area of study (motivation for the study)
3. What do you hope to achieve by undertaking this study (aim/s)
4. Why is this topic or area of study important to undertake (rationale for the study)
5. The key research questions you hope to answer with your topic or area of study (research question/s)
6. A brief review of related literature which will inform your study (literature review)
7. A brief discussion of proposed theoretical framework of your research (theoretical framework)
8. Methods to be used to gather the data for your study (research method/s)
9. The intellectual contribution that your research will make (contribution of the study)

*Include a reference list if you have cited literature in the concept note.

**Include the name or names of proposed supervisor/s if you have one or two in mind.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the WCJ PhD coordinator, Dr Dinesh Balliah (dinesh.balliah@wits.ac.za).