



## Auckland Park Theological Seminary's Research Centre

### Request for proposals for Masters and Doctoral studies in Theology

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## **Abbreviations**

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AFMTC	Apostolic Faith Mission Theological College (trading as ATS)
ATS	Auckland Park Theological Seminary
IIQR	International Institute of Qualitative Research
NWU	North West University (formerly PUCHE)
PUCHE	Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education
RAU	Rand Afrikaans University
UJ	University of Johannesburg (formerly RAU)

## **Introduction**

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Auckland Park Theological Seminary invites prospective postgraduate students who are interested in conducting Masters and Doctoral research studies in Pentecostal Theology to contact the Seminary. Please enquire for more information on the application process and requirements. Study grants are also available.

## **Postgraduate research institution**

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Auckland Park Theological Seminary has established a post graduate research institution with the objective to improve its output with regard to **scientific research and publications** pertaining to spiritual leadership and development of leaders within the Pentecostal, Charismatic and African context. It is the first of its kind to focus primarily on the Pentecostal and Charismatic Christian community within the African context.

In Africa, the humanitarian needs are so vast that spiritual leaders need more than the theological skills traditionally associated with training for the ministry. Spiritual leaders need to be social entrepreneurs, individuals with innovative solutions to the community's most pressing social problems and leaders who can offer new solutions to bring about comprehensive social and spiritual change.

There are no clear-cut or easy answers, for the reality in Africa is too complex. Individuals need to be prepared spiritually and cognitively to approach complex opportunities innovatively and creatively.

## **The names and qualifications of the Principal Investigators**

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The academics responsible for the scientific integrity of all research and who will supervise and co-ordinate the various investigations and students, are:

Prof WJ Hattingh: DipTh, BTh, BD, D.Th, full professor at RAU/UJ.

Prof M Nel: DipTh, BA Hons, MTh, BD, DDiv, DTh, PhD.

Dr. FP Möller: BA, BA Hons, MA (Philosophy), D Litt et Phil.

Dr. LP Maré: DipTh, BA, BA Hons, MA (x3), D Litt et Phil.

A postdoctoral research team will support the principal investigators.

## **Postdoctoral research team**

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Dr. Andries Putter  
Dr. Ernich Basson

Dr. Anthony Jacobs  
Dr. Peter Oldewage

Dr. Agrippa Kathide

## A brief description of ATS

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AFM Theological College trading as Auckland Park Theological Seminary (ATS) is the oldest Pentecostal and Charismatic theological seminary in Southern Africa. The seminary has been engaged in theological training and leadership development for the past 50 years. ATS is accredited as an official training institution at the South African Qualification Authorities (SAQA). The International Institute of Qualitative Research (IIQR) of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada endorsed ATS as a co-operating research site in Africa.

In 1993 ATS entered into a contractual agreement with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) (previously the Rand Afrikaans University) that enabled ATS to present students, in collaboration with UJ, with under- and post-graduate programmes up to a doctoral degree in theology. In 2008/9 ATS reached a similar contractual agreement with the North West University (NWU) in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

ATS successfully guided students from Africa, Asia, USA and Europe in obtaining their certificates, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees in Pentecostal theology. ATS provides training for leaders of some of the most prominent Pentecostal/Charismatic churches and other major denomination churches in South Africa.

ATS offers both intramural and distance education programmes.

ATS has three campuses and six learning centres in South Africa. ATS also has international training partnerships with Kasupe Bible College in Zambia and the Bible College in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Working from a Biblical and Christ-centred theological paradigm ATS resolves to achieve the following outcomes:

- i. To train and equip spiritual leaders in Africa who can successfully address the **holistic needs of their communities**.
- ii. To actively guide students and existing leaders to achieve **spiritual, moral and ethical maturity**.
- iii. To train and nurture **social entrepreneurs**.
- iv. To equip leaders to be **economically proficient**.

In 2009 ATS embarked on a programme to drastically improve its output with regard to **scientific research and publications** pertaining to spiritual leadership and development of leaders and established a post-graduate research centre for the Pentecostal, Charismatic and African world.

ATS decided to engage in the above endeavour as recent research strongly suggests that the centre of Christianity is moving to Southern Africa, and will be mainly black, Pentecostal and Charismatic people (Symington, 2005; Bediako, 2004; Mana, 2004; Jenkins, 2002; Walls, 2002 and Bediako, 1995).

## **Research centre's focus**

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Training of Pentecostal and Charismatic Christian leaders in Southern Africa in terms of **church growth, social and economical reform** and **moral welfare**.

## **The relevance of the research centre and projects**

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The research projects will address the development of a culturally appropriate curriculum and method to train Christian leaders in Southern Africa to creatively address the holistic needs of Africa's people.

The projects will through Masters, Doctoral and postdoctoral studies address various research questions, namely

1. What are the distinctive characteristics of Pentecostal/Charismatic churches that have a positive impact on personal growth and social reform in Africa?
2. What internal and external factors contribute to churches' growth?
3. What is the Pentecostal/Charismatic community's contribution to economical growth, healthcare, education, moral system, etc?

## **A brief statement of the research methodology**

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The research will mainly fall within the domain of Theology but will also work inter-disciplinary with healthcare, sociology, education, economical science, and others knowledge disciplines.

The research methodology will be one of the following:

- Qualitative research (by way of phenomenology, case studies, ethnography, narratives, theory development and appreciative inquiry),
- Quantitative research or
- A mixed research methodology to understand first hand what the current praxis and need in society and churches are.

The primary consideration when planning a research methodology will be to innovatively approach the research context in Africa. In this regard the guidance and experience of the research management committee will be indispensable.

## **The importance of the research projects**

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1. The research will provide better understanding of Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity within Africa and the role it plays within society.
2. It will contribute to a curriculum enhancement and culturally relevant method to train Pentecostal/Charismatic Christian leaders who will be able to address Africa's needs holistically.
3. It will contribute to establish a Pentecostal/Charismatic research centre primarily operated by our own scientists, focusing on Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity within the Africa context.
4. It will enable second and third generation Pentecostal/Charismatic Christians in Africa to understand themselves better and to have a greater impact for God's kingdom.

## **A list of faculty, scholars, graduate students and other contributors to the research centre's proposed plan of activity**

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### **Research management committee and consultants**

- Prof. M Poggenpoel: (GV, D.Phil, L.Akad). Editor-in-Chief of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences journal - Health SA. In 2007 she was awarded the "Leadership Award for promoting qualitative research in Africa" by the IIQR of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. She also received the Education Association of South Africa's Gold medal for excellent research.  
She has published more than 120 articles in international and national journals. She was the promoter/co-promoter of more than 95 doctorates and the supervisor/co-supervisor of 142 master's candidates. She has delivered 150 papers on 60 international and 50 national conferences.
- Prof CPH Myburgh: (BSc (Hons.), MCom, DEd, HED). He is an expert regarding qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Serves on board of directors of the IIQR of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. He has published 124 articles in international and national journals. He was the promoter/co-promoter of 78 doctorates and the supervisor/co-supervisor of 144 master's candidates.

He is a member of the editorial board of:

- EDUCATION (USA educational journal)
- Social Work Practitioner
- South African Journal for Education
- Health SA Gesondheid
- South African Association of Research and Development in Higher Education (SAARDE)
- Curationis

**Research Partner**

The North West University (<http://www.nwu.ac.za>)

**Program Coordinator**

Dr. R Hattingh-Rust: B.Sc, B.Ed, M.Ed(Psig), D.Ed, HED

**Postdoctoral research team**

As mentioned above.

ATS researchers recently conducted and completed studies with in the domain of the above mentioned research questions.

- AC Jacobs – The pastor’s experience of the challenges of multi-cultural Pentecostal/Charismatic congregations in South Africa. (Doctoral study)
- R Hattingh-Rust – A psycho-educational model for the development of inner strength of entrepreneurs in Southern Africa. (Doctoral study)
- APJ Putter - Continual academic development of the AFM pastor. (Doctoral study)
- EF Basson – The functioning of the AFM assembly as a missional faith community. (Doctoral study)
- JM Oldewage – Developing missiological models within people groups through scientific research. (Doctoral study)