College of Humanities and Social Sciences Makerere University
Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the Fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences

Programme Structure
The Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences is a three-year full time programme in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, which is governed by rules and regulations that govern PhD by research at Makerere University. However, given that it employs a cohort system and that the programme is expected to be completed in three years, several research foundational and skills seminars will be given to the fellows at different intervals of the duration of the programme. The rationale of the research foundational and skills seminars is to ensure that fellows are grounded in the knowledge and skills requisite for PhD studies. Given that this is a rigorous programme, fellows should carefully and diligently plan for their entire doctoral study period at Makerere University. Therefore, the programme will require their dedication, commitment, focus and discipline. The core stages of the programme — comparable to all PhD by research programmes at Makerere University — correspond with the three-year duration of the programme:

• Application and registration;
• Research proposal development;
• Continuous progress; and
• Thesis submission and examination.

Year 1
The first year of the programme for the first cohort will start in July 2017 and terminate in June 2018. During the first 6 months of the programme, the graduate school will set up the cohort system or dynamics through activities that build collegiate, interdependence and amity among the fellows requisite of a community of scholars guided by a sense of teamwork and a common purpose. This will act as an extended orientation period where the fellows in the cohort will be introduced to important physical and human resources infrastructure at Makerere University, including Library induction, critical to their study and stay. During this period, the fellows will also be inducted into a series of weekly seminars under the aegis of research foundational seminars. The respective seminars are expected to equip the fellows with skills, knowledge and outlook relevant to graduate research and training. The proposed research foundational and skills seminars will include:

1. Introductory pre-proposal foundational courses in Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences, namely, Issues and Debates in Social and Humanities Research, Philosophies of Humanities and Social Sciences Research, Qualitative Research Methods, and Quantitative Research Methods. Besides the outlined courses, the cohort will attend a special seminar on library research organised in conjunction with the Makerere University Library. This seminar will focus on how the fellows can improve their literature research strategies, use of Makerere University library resources, managing their references and address issues of plagiarism. The cohort will also attend a seminar on scientific writing skills for thesis and dissertation writing.

Note that the Directorate of Graduate Training and Research offers some of these courses on taught doctoral programmes in some colleges. The CHUSS graduate school will liaise with the Directorate of Graduate Training and
Research on the availability of the shared courses so that the fellows can attend them. It is only when the availability of these courses are not in tandem with the programme time lines that special seminars will be organised.

2. The core courses in (1) above will be supplemented with PANGEa Ed programmes as and when they are offered at Makerere University or in the region subject to availability of resources. The fellows in the cohort will offer all the courses in a format that will be determined by the respective course tutors. An Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences fellow, working with his or her supervisors and after a review by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Higher Degrees Committee, will undertake an extensive and continuing process of training needs analysis to establish and plan his or her training needs.

The second part of the first year — running from January 2018 to June 2018 — will be set aside for the fine-tuning of the research proposal. The graduate school would have matched fellows with expert(s) in their field of proposed study to develop a research proposal during the period of specialised seminars to enable them complete the research proposals early enough given the target of finishing the programme in 3 years. This also takes into account that PhD students are given an academic year to develop a research proposal. The fellows are expected to defend their proposals at the College Higher Degrees Committee whenever the fellow and his/her supervisor think it is ready, but not later than May 2018. Thereafter, the graduate school will expedite their admission as graduate students in the College of Humanities and Sciences, Makerere University.

**Year 2**

The second year of an Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences is earmarked for data collection and thesis drafting/writing. The first part of the second year will be earmarked for data collection. Working closely with their supervisors and doctoral committees, the fellows will collect data in accordance to their plans as specified in their respective proposals. In the second part of the second year, the fellows are expected to devote all their time to thesis drafting/writing. Besides thesis drafting/writing, the fellows are also expected to participate in:

- The academic life of the college by attending or giving talks, seminars and workshops about their work.
- Attend specialized courses organized by the Graduate School or PANGEa Ed to spruce up their research and writing skills.
- Make regular presentations to doctoral committees and at the department/school/college level.

It should be noted that in the second and third years, the fellows’ progress — including but not limited to data collection, thesis writing, seminars/conference presentation, journal articles/book chapter writing and participation in college academic life — will provide the criteria for their evaluation. During this time supplementary seminars on data collection, thesis/article writing and academic presentation will be provided. The fellows will be informed of the seriousness of the DGRT requirement of publishing an article from their research in a peer-reviewed journal or book project before graduation. The focus of the evaluation will be to ascertain whether the fellows are on course and will finish the programme in the
stipulated time as well as identify the challenges and constraints they are facing. Fellows, whose progress would be found to be unsatisfactory, will either be cautioned or discontinued.

Year 3

The third year is the final year of the programme and will be dedicated to thesis writing. While the writing of the PhD thesis might have started earlier in the second part of the second year (January to June), it is in year 3 that the fellows will be expected to tie up all aspects of the thesis together in preparation for submission and examination by the end of the year. This timeline is important because it gives the graduate school a 3-months window to finalise the examination and vive voce process for the fellows to be eligible for graduation in January of the following year. In the event that a fellow does not complete his/her thesis writing by the June of year 3, s/he will be granted an extension of up to three months to complete the writing and submit his/her thesis for examination.

Appendix 1 Foundational Courses

Practice of Humanities and Social Sciences Research

The objective of this seminar is to provide students with knowledge that will help them develop their doctoral research project, enable them to think about what it means to do a PhD in the humanities and social sciences, reflect on the possibility of combining different research methods and paradigms and consider the ethics of humanities and social sciences research. This is why this course will be designed to provide students with an opportunity to think about what it means to do a PhD in the humanities and social sciences and to discuss key facets of the practice of humanities and social research.

Philosophies of Humanities and Social Science

This seminar introduces students to some of the standard methodological and theoretical problems posed by social inquiry. The seminars will focus on the question of whether methods of the humanities and social sciences are the same or different from those of the natural sciences. The topics to be addressed include: introduction to social research; questions in the philosophy of knowledge relating to science, realism, language and materials; objectivity in the social sciences; challenges to objectivity via standpoint epistemology; and the feminist and postmodern/postcolonial challenges to objectivity. The tutors will assemble an appropriate bibliography to ensure an in-depth engagement with the issues.

Qualitative Research Methods

The objective of this seminars is to help fellows understand the available options for conducting a qualitative social research and how this orientation differs from other traditions, gain some understanding and first-hand experience of the different ways to collect and analyse qualitative data and understand some of the challenges and issues associated with each method in order to make informed choices when designing a PhD project. The seminar addresses practical, analytic and intellectual questions related to the collection and analysis of qualitative data. The seminar will position fellows as qualitative researchers so that the learning will be directly relevant to their future research. This means that the responsibility to carry out the required activities and to solve the inevitable issues that will likely arise sits firmly with the fellows. This will allow fellows to decide whether this approach is suitable for their proposed projects.

Quantitative Research Methods
The objective of this course is to create an understanding of basic principles of quantitative research design, equip fellows with competence in understanding and applying a range of statistical analysis techniques (both descriptive and inferential), provide fellows with practical experience of the computer-based manipulation and analysis of quantitative data and a critical awareness of the impact of data collection methods, concept operationalization and other contextual factors on the meaning of the findings generated by quantitative data analyses. The course will focus on concepts, methods and skills, which are central to quantitative humanities and social research. In addition to quantitative data analysis, approaches to data collection and concept operationalization will be considered. Key aspects of descriptive and inferential statistics will be covered, stretching from comparisons of means and the examination of simple cross-tabulations to an initial discussion of multivariate approaches, focusing on regression and correlational analysis. The illustration and application of the techniques will utilise statistical software, specifically SPSS and will be based on 'hands-on' manipulation and analysis of data from hypothetical quantitative sources.