

REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION (RIPS)

PH.D PROGRAMME IN POPULATION STUDIES

INTRODUCTION

The Ph.D (Population Studies) programme includes a one-year course work component that will entail vigorous instruction in mainly conceptual and theoretical issues in the field of Population Studies, in addition to the technical and substantive aspects of the discipline. Furthermore, instruction in the philosophy of the social sciences will be offered at the faculty level to enhance their understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of the social sciences. The course work will prepare the Ph.D candidate to appreciate and have adequate understanding of the discipline of Social Science and the particular field of Population Studies. The Ph.D candidate will also be exposed to concrete analytical approaches in the Social Sciences and Population Studies to enhance their execution of the research thesis required for partial fulfilment of the Ph.D (Population Studies) programme.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Ph.D (Population Studies) programme will be limited to candidates with a relevant Master's degree.

Duration of Course

The duration of the Ph.D (Population Studies) programme shall normally be four years for full-time students and six years for part-time students.

Requirements for Graduation

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|-------------|---|--------------------|
| Course Work | - | 18-24 hours |
| Seminar | - | 12 hours |
| Thesis | - | <u>45 hours</u> |
| Total | - | <u>75-81 hours</u> |

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Year 1

First Semester

Core Courses

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| FSSP 701: | Philosophy of the Social Sciences (3 credits) |
| POPS 701: | Computer Aided Population Analysis (3 credits) |
| POPS 703: | Logic of Social Research (3 credits) |
| POPS 705: | Population Theory and Policy (3 credits) |

Second Semester

Core Courses

- POPS 702: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)
POPS 704: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods (3 credits)
POPS 706: Social Dynamics, Development and Demographic Processes (3 credits)

Elective Courses

- POPS 708: Climate Risk Assessment, Population and Policy (3 credits)
POPS 712: Gender, Health and Development (3 credits)
POPS 714: Population-Environment Nexus (3 credits)
POPS 716: Dynamics of Population, Urbanisation and Human Development in the Developing World (3 credits)
POPS 718: Functional Integrating of Population and Development Variables (3 credits)
POPS 722: Advanced Population Estimation and Projection (3 credits)

Note: Students are expected to take a minimum of one elective course.

YEAR 2, 3 and 4

1. Comprehensive PHD Student Qualifying Examinations include the following:
 - a. Three written take home term papers based on the general area of study to be organised by September 30th in the First Semester as follow:
 - i. Technical Demography paper that will cover all technical demography courses undertaken. This paper shall be made up of the following courses:
 - POPS 701: Computer Aided Population Analysis
 - POPS 704: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods
 - ii. Substantive Demography paper involving all non-technical Demography courses undertaken. This paper will cover the following courses:
 - POPS 703: Logic of Social Research
 - POPS 705: Population Theory and Policy
 - POPS 702: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods
 - POPS 706: Social Dynamics, Development and Demographic Processes
 - iii. Elective paper focusing on all elective courses undertaken at the Institute. This paper shall have two sections and candidates shall be required to answer questions from only one section. The following two courses shall constitute this paper:
 - POPS 708: Climate Risk Assessment, Population and Policy
 - POPS 722: Advanced Population Estimation and Projection

It should be noted that for each of the three term papers, all lecturers teaching courses involved will discuss the form of the paper.

2. An oral examination to be administered by a panel of examiners. This shall be in October. Candidates shall be examined on their understanding of theories on the three components of population change: fertility, mortality and migration. In addition,

candidates would be required to demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of social science research methods (both quantitative and qualitative). This shall be in the form of questions and answers between the panel and the candidate.

- a. A presentation of a research proposal in the general area of study, but not on the thesis research area; i.e., this should be different from the thesis research proposal. This will be presented in the first week in November. This shall be in two parts: a written proposal which shall be examined by all lecturers and a seminar powerpoint presentation of the written proposal later where lectures and students will have the opportunity to ask questions on the presentation. At this presentation, each lecturer present shall score and grade each candidate as part of the comprehensive examinations. The candidate should demonstrate adequate knowledge in research proposal writing and presentation ranging from conceptualization of the study problem and research questions, objectives and rationale/justification of the study, knowledge of relevant literature highlighting existing gaps the study is interested in filling, development/adoption of relevant conceptual/theoretical framework for the analysis, relevant hypotheses (if any), sources of data and methodology including sampling techniques, unit of analysis and techniques of analysis as well as limitations of the study (if any).

It should be noted that candidates who are not successful in the comprehensive examinations will have the opportunity to re-write any failed paper within one month after the main examinations before proceeding fully into the PHD programme. If a candidate is not successful in the second attempt, he/she will be asked to withdraw from the PHD programme and opt for MPHIL as may be considered appropriate.

Seminar I (3 Credits) - Research Proposal

Seminar II (3 credits) - Experiential Research Learning

RIPS has established a research field site in an urban poor community that straddles the Sodom and Gomorrah and Ga-Mashie areas in Accra since 2008. The community is within easy reach of the University of Ghana. Repeated surveys on population, health, environment and poverty issues among the urban poor is being conducted and this is providing unique opportunity for training in research methodology, and also leading to the creation of high-quality longitudinal data for use in programming and planning.

During the second year of the PhD training at RIPS, students will be attached to the various lead investigators at RIPS depending on their areas of research. The students will be expected to co-ordinate the various field activities, and fully participate in all the related field activities ranging from community entry, household listing, sampling, study design, questionnaire formulation, sampling, data collection (both quantitative and qualitative) data capture, analysing data to writing publishable peer review journal articles. It is expected that this will be beneficial to PhD students in that they will be dealing with the realities of fieldwork such as community mobilisation, handling attrition, and communicating research with end-users. Integrating this practical aspect into the PhD training will further enable students to have

hands-on skills that will make them attractive in the labour market. Finally, the research field site will improve skills of PhD students in handling longitudinal studies.

Seminar III (3 credits) - Progress Report on Thesis

Seminar IV (3 Credits) - Presentation of Findings

Thesis (45 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

FSSP 701: Philosophy of the Social Sciences (3 credits)

The FSSP 701 course is a faculty-level designed course and the description is available above.

POPS 701: Computer Aided Population Analysis (3 credits)

This course covers the basic principles and techniques of population analysis. Topics will include rates, ratios and standardization in the analysis of mortality, fertility, nuptiality and migration. The concepts of mid-year and person-year will be introduced. Basic life table analysis and direct and indirect standardization with respect to demographic events will be discussed. It will also cover indirect techniques of demography analysis, and the concepts of stationary and stable populations. Various methods and models for estimating migration and fertility, the assumptions involved, and the application of these methods will be examined. The analysis will be mainly undertaken with computer applications.

POPS 702: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods (3 credits)

This course covers the premise and process of qualitative social inquiry, building on the fundamentals of social research concepts and design. . It introduces students to the main methods for qualitative data collection, analysis and theory building. Methods covered will include classic approaches such as interviewing, observation, ethnography, and contemporary applied approaches such as life histories and community participatory methods. Analytical approaches will include grounded theory, thematic analysis and framework analysis. Training will be offered in the use of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) packages NVivo and Atlas.ti. The course will blend theory and practice and offer students practical opportunities to test classroom developed skills in the field and on primary data.

POPS 703: Logic of Social Research (3 credits)

The main objective of the course is to introduce students to the fundamental logic, assumptions and orientations for carrying out social research and data analysis. The course will survey the principles and logic of social research; concept formulation and translation into measurement; hypotheses development and causal reasoning; asking questions and the analysis of responses in research. The course will also present an overview of research methodologies, both qualitative and quantitative, and introduce students to scholarly writing.

POPS 704: Advanced Quantitative Research Methods (3 credits)

This course will provide students with the understanding of the main techniques for collecting and analyzing quantitative data. The course will also examine the relationship between analysis and data collection. The focus will be on quantitative methodologies such as the survey method and experimental research, enable students develop the basic skills for the statistical analysis and interpretation of quantitative data, using appropriate statistical methods, and equip students with relevant skills in the use of computing and statistical software for analysis. This course will teach students to relate theory to empirical evidence through the statistical approaches of regression analysis.

POPS 705: Population Theory and Policy (3 credits)

From antiquity, discussions about the most reasonable number of people or the need to stabilize, stimulate or retard population growth have emerged. The ideas were formulated with a view to public policy. A country's population policies and programmes must be based on understanding of the complex interrelationships between population trends and social and economic conditions and cultural patterns. The upsurge of population growth in the developing countries, has created the need for better understanding of the factors in population growth. This course will provide students with a theoretical framework for assessing the interrelationships between population and social and economic development.

POPS 706: Social Dynamics, Development and Demographic Processes (3 credits)

This course will enhance student's understanding of the social processes that determine demographic processes and how the processes have created various social consequences for the world's populations. It examines the human development issues such as social capital, social protection, among others and demographic processes that are resulting from social dynamics at global, regional and local levels. It distinguishes between the social and cultural factors associated with the demographic processes of the Global North from those of the Global South and the associated fertility and health transitions. It also examines the wider social structural and institutional factors and processes such as global population and health governance resulting from the activities of the United Nations and its agencies and other bodies, including NGOs.

POPS 708: Climate Risk Assessment, Population and Policy (3 credits)

The course will empower students to examine the robustness of existing measures including policies and strategies in the public and private sectors and related frameworks to identify, assess and manage climate risks to inform policy and strategic interventions. It will seek to: (i) equip students with tools for assessing risks attributed to climate change (ii) introduce the concept of Community-Based Contingency Planning towards climate change disaster risks planning and management, (iii) theory and practice of Environmental and Social Risk Policy Planning and applications (iv) Coastal Risk Assessment (v) Guides/Models that inform the practice of climate risk insurance, especially in the agricultural sector.

POPS 712: Gender, Health and Development (3 credits)

This course aims to enhance students' understanding of the gender issues inherent in population matters and reproductive rights and health. Topics include the concepts of gender, reproductive health and human sexuality; economic, social and cultural factors influencing women's status and roles; gender policy issues in development planning; and the creation of awareness and the empowerment of women for development through viable operational and administrative strategies and structures.

Reading List:

POPS 714: Population-Environment Nexus (3 credits)

The course will discuss ecology and space science, man, area and the environment; adjustment to the environment; the eco-system and the interrelationships between population, environment and development.

POPS 716: Dynamics of Population, Urbanisation and Human Development in the Developing World (3 credits)

This course is designed to enhance students' understanding of the relationship between population change, urbanization and human development in developing countries.. It examines the dynamics of their migration process and urbanization, past and present and the related human development achievements and consequences. The deepening of urban poverty which has become widespread in the developing urban landscape and the implications for human development will also be examined. It also examines the future prospects and contribution of urbanization to development in the developing world.

POPS 718: Functional Integration of Population and Development Variables (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to a process of explicit consideration of the linkages between population variables and socio-economic factors in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies, programmes and specific projects for the achievement of stated goals and objectives. The process also incorporates the relevant population variables into some projection mechanism, along with the pertinent social and economic development variables with which they are expected to interact over the plan period to achieve specified goals or objectives. Monitoring and evaluation is also an essential element of the course.

POPS 722: Advanced Population Estimation and Projection (3 credits)

This course will enable students develop skills in the estimation and projection of populations. It reviews the components of population change and their importance for development planning. It comprises the application of mathematical methods for estimating

inter-censal and post-censal estimates of population growth rates and extrapolations; techniques of demographic and socio-economic projections and use of computer software for population integration into sectoral aspects such as education, food requirements, employment, housing, etc.

- POPS 700: Thesis**
- POPS 710: Seminar I**
- POPS 720: Seminar II**
- POPS 730: Seminar III**
- POPS 740: Seminar IV**