



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

MSc (Veterinary Science) *Companion Animal Clinical Studies* (08251115)

Department Companion Animal Clinical Studies

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Programme information

Also consult the General Academic Regulations G39 and PG Faculty regulations.

Master's degree by dissertation is a research master's degree that requires a high level of theoretical engagement and in some cases, demonstration of the ability to relate knowledge to a range of contexts for professional practice. It must contain a research component at NQF level 9 (to the value of 180 credits), culminating in the acceptance of a dissertation. A research master's degree is a full research programme designed to develop research skills which amongst others, allows the graduate to progress seamlessly to the research demands of a PhD.

Admission requirements

1. BVSc (or equivalent) degree **or** relevant four-year BScAgric degree **or** relevant BSc honours degree **or** relevant postgraduate diploma (on NQF level 8)
2. An admissions examination may be required
3. The candidate may be required to submit proof of experience in their selected field of study

Examinations and pass requirements

Examination and pass requirements

Also consult the General Academic Regulations G39.

The degree is conferred by virtue of the successful completion of a dissertation and a draft first-author research article.

A dissertation is submitted to the Head: Student Administration, before the closing date for the relevant graduation ceremonies as announced annually (i.e. 31 October or 31 March to qualify for the Autumn or Spring graduation, respectively), after permission is granted by the supervisor and co-supervisor(s). (Also consult the General Academic Regulation G39 with regard to the submission and technical editing of the thesis).

If a dissertation is submitted after the due date specified above, the student takes the risk that the examination of the dissertation may be delayed and the student will not be considered for the graduation concerned. A

student will only be allowed to graduate if the student has successfully complied with all the requirements for the particular programme.

The dissertation will be evaluated by two examiners (for the appointment of the examination panel, consult the General Academic Regulations G39.12.1).

The average of the separate marks awarded by the two examiners, constitutes the final mark for the dissertation.

Compliance with degree requirements

Also consult the General Academic Regulation G40.

- i. A master's degree by dissertation will be conferred on a student only after the successful completion of all requirements of each component of the relevant degree programme, including the submission and successful evaluation of a research-based dissertation, draft publication, and compliance with all the requirements for the particular programme.
- ii. A master's degree is not deemed to be completed if the electronic version of the dissertation has not been submitted to the relevant faculty administration prior to the date of closure of the graduation/finalist list for the forthcoming graduation ceremony.
- iii. No one is entitled to any privileges pertaining to a master's degree before the qualification has been conferred on him or her at a graduation ceremony. In respect of professional registrations, faculties may issue confirmation letters to the relevant professional bodies prior to the graduation ceremonies.

Pass with distinction

A master's degree is awarded with distinction if a student meets the following requirements:

- a. Obtained a mark of 75% or above for the research-based dissertation; and
- b. Completed the qualification within the maximum period allowed for master's study, but not in less than the prescribed minimum period of one academic year. Note: the maximum allowable time is twice the prescribed minimum years of study in relation to postgraduate students who study part-time.



Curriculum: Final year

Fundamental modules

Research methodology 813 (VRM 813)

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Module credits | 0.00 |
| NQF Level | 09 |
| Language of tuition | Module is presented in English |
| Department | Veterinary Tropical Diseases |
| Period of presentation | Semester 1 and Semester 2 |

Module content

A web-based introductory module in research methodology that includes planning and undertaking a research project or clinical trial, collecting and analysing data, scientific writing, and enabling preparation and presenting of a research protocol.

Core modules

Dissertation: Companion animal clinical studies 803 (VWE 803)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Module credits | 180.00 |
| NQF Level | 09 |
| Prerequisites | VRM 813 |
| Language of tuition | Module is presented in English |
| Department | Companion Animal Clinical Studies |
| Period of presentation | Year |

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.



University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.