



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

MSc (Applied Science) *Geotechnics* (12253163)

Department Civil Engineering

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Programme information

The degree is conferred on the basis of a dissertation and examination on the field of study of the dissertation and/or divisions of the field of study as required by the relevant head of department.

Admission requirements

1. Relevant BScHons degree awarded by the University of Pretoria (or equivalent)
2. Cumulative weighted average of at least 65% for the honours degree
3. Evidence of knowledge of research methodology
4. Comprehensive intellectual CV
5. An entrance/admissions examination may be required

Note: Additional work/modules may be required in order to reach the desired level of competency

Examinations and pass requirements

Upgrading from a master's to a doctoral degree

1. This EBIT faculty regulation should be read in addition to G41.
2. Upgrading from a master's to a doctoral degree can only be considered for exceptional students.
3. Application for upgrading can only be submitted after at least one year of study for the master's degree, but no later than two years.
4. The application for the upgrading must include the following:
 - A letter from the candidate requesting the upgrade which includes a brief motivation.
 - A progress report prepared by the candidate and supported by the supervisor on the work completed to date for the master's degree. The report must provide proof that the results obtained thus far are of such standard and scientific importance that it justifies its converting to a doctoral degree.
 - All details regarding presentations during conferences and accepted publication(s) in internationally accredited and high impact journals must be provided in full.
5. A detailed explanation by the candidate of the intended doctoral project with an indication of the objectives of the project, methodology and the outcomes he or she intends to achieve with the project.
6. A recommendation of the supervisor with specific comment on the ability of the applicant as potential doctoral



candidate as well as on the expediency and feasibility of the upgrading.

7. A report from at least one external referent. The supervisor should forward 2 nominations to the head of the relevant department for recommendation to the DD Research and Postgraduate studies who will appoint one referent.
8. A minimum of one journal article, where the candidate is the first author, in a high-impact accredited journal with an explanation by the supervisor with respect to the specific contribution made by the candidate.
9. A recommendation by the head of department.



Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Dissertation 890 (SST 890) - Credits: 180.00

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.