

**UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**  
**Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics**  
**Postgraduate studies**

**Some frequently asked questions (FAQ's)**

**GENERAL**

**1. What are the admission requirements for postgraduate studies?**

Please see the information on the webpage <http://www.up.ac.za/math/postgrad> for the particular prerequisites for each study programme. Also see the postgraduate brochure of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Please note that diplomas and BTech degrees are not accepted.

**2. When will I know the outcome of my application for admission?**

Each application for admission from outside UP has a long route to follow before it reaches the Department and the departmental selection committee. It can take up to two months (or even longer depending on the time of the year) before the outcome of the application is available, after which the Office of the Faculty Administration mails the applicant a letter to his/her postal address (and possibly an e-mail as well, if requested), informing him/her of the outcome.

Once you have a student number, you can track the status of your application for admission as follows: Go to the University webpage and go via the Portal Login to the "Student Services Centre".

**3. Where can international students find more information?**

On the homepage of the University of Pretoria <http://web.up.ac.za/> you will find a link "Information for International Students"

**4. When does the academic year start?**

The 2014 academic year started on 3 February 2014 for senior students. The date for 2015 will be made available at a later stage.

**5. When does registration take place?**

If your application for admission into a particular study programme has been successful, you can register as follows:

The registration for honours students in this Department takes place in the beginning of February, after the first meeting in the first semester (see point 10 of this document).

Master's and doctoral students can register any time in February, with the approval of their supervisors. Send an e-mail to [yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za](mailto:yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za) if you have queries.

International students should take note that there are many prerequisites to be met before they can register. Details are supplied in the letter of admission that successful applicants receive and are also available on the link mentioned in point 3 above.

**6. Can I start my studies in the second semester?**

Many of the honours modules presented in the second semester, rely on a first semester module as a prerequisite (please see the honours brochure of the Department) and therefore

honours students can very seldom start in the second semester except in some cases where one module can be taken.

Modules for the MSc: Financial Engineering degree are mainly year modules, therefore students for this degree must commence their studies in the first semester in the beginning of the academic year.

Doctoral students can commence with their studies later in the academic year, provided that arrangements with the supervisor have been made.

In all cases: Great emphasis is placed on the “throughput rate”, i.e. that postgraduate students should complete their studies within the prescribed time. If you commence your studies only in the second semester, that year of registration will still count as a full year’s study.

## **7. How much are the course fees?**

Please contact the Client Service Centre (CSC) at [csc@up.ac.za](mailto:csc@up.ac.za) or telephone +27 (0)12 420-3111 in this regard. Mention the name of the study programme or supply the plan code as well as your student number if available.

Alternatively, go to the University webpage to “Information for Postgraduate Students” and then to “Fees and Funding”. Select “Fees” and then the links “Summary of fees” as well as “Tuition fees per Faculty”.

## **8. What funding options are available?**

Go to the University webpage to “Information for Postgraduate Students” and then to “Fees and Funding”. At “Postgraduate Funding”, extensive information can be found on bursaries, the UP Postgraduate Scholarship, NRF scholarships and grants, etc. Also see “External bursaries” as well as “Study Loans”.

No applications are required for the UP Postgraduate Scholarship, as all eligible candidates come into automatic consideration by the Faculty Research Committee.

When Pilot Programme Bursaries for doctoral or master’s study become available, the call for applications will be placed on the departmental postgraduate webpage.

# **HONOURS**

## **9. What is the duration of Honours studies?**

The duration of the studies for all the BSc (Honours) degrees in this Department is normally one year for full-time, and two years for part-time students.

## **10. When do the Honours lectures take place?**

The lectures in the majority of the modules for the BSc (Hons) degree studies in Mathematics or Applied Mathematics or Mathematics of Finance (whether you are full-time or part-time), are in the evenings (mostly from 17:30). One or two modules may be presented in an earlier slot due to the number of modules being more than the five available evenings of the week. These may alternate from year to year to accommodate part-time students.

All lectures for the BSc (Hons): Financial Engineering degree (whether you are full-time or part-time) are in the evenings (mostly from 17:30), except for a few “block” modules (see the study programme in the postgraduate brochure). These block modules are presented for 1½ to 2½ days each at a time, about two or three times per semester. For those days part-time students will have to take leave from work.

First meeting at the beginning of the academic year:

Honours students have an official first information meeting, normally at the end of January / beginning of February. The exact date (usually at 17:30 on the same day as the first lecture

day for senior undergraduate students) will be made available on the departmental postgraduate webpage. One of the agenda points of this meeting is to finalise the honours timetables.

## **MASTER'S**

### **11. What is the duration of Master's studies?**

The duration of the study for this degree is normally two years, i.e. the course work (three modules) in the first year and the dissertation in the second year.

### **12. When is the schedule (timetable) for Master's modules available?**

The schedule for each semester will be finalised in the beginning of that semester. Master's students do not have a general first meeting, but will be informed by e-mail of the exact dates and times of the lectures or in some cases of the organisational meeting to determine a lecture time. They should also consult the departmental postgraduate web page. The lectures normally commence early in February. Enquiries at [yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za](mailto:yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za)

Lectures for Master's modules will normally be scheduled to begin at 17:00 or 17:30 during the week, but some of the modules for the MSc: Financial Engineering degree are scheduled for Saturday mornings (not necessarily every Saturday).

## **DOCTORAL**

### **13. What type of Master's degree is required for admission to the PhD in Mathematical Sciences?**

An appropriate Master's degree (obtained with distinction) is required, the programme composition of which must include a heavy research component that led to a dissertation reflecting originality either in the content or in the presentation.

### **14. What additional information needs to be provided by applicants for doctoral studies?**

When you apply for admission the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics requires the following additional information/documents, to be sent directly to the Department to [yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za](mailto:yvonne.mcdermot@up.ac.za) :

- The dissertation itself (electronic version)
- A detailed description of the work done for the Master's dissertation
- A recommendation from your Master's supervisor.