



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

BSocSciHons Geographical Sciences Geography and Environmental Science (01243020)

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 135

NQF level 08

Programme information

Closing date for applications: 30 September annually.

Admission requirements

- An approved three-year bachelor's degree in environmental, earth, geographical or planning sciences or a directly related major in the field of social sciences with an overall average of 60% for 300- and 400-level modules.

Other programme-specific information

Appropriate modules, other than the above and approved by the honours coordinator or head of department, may be taken. However, a minimum of 45 elective module credits should come from the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology.



Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 135

Elective modules

Select 5 modules to the value of 75 credits

Core modules

Research project 702 (GGY 702)

Module credits 35.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

An approved individual research project, carried out under the guidance of a lecturer. The project culminates in a research report in the format of a research paper and presentation. The student is expected to obtain the respective skills (theoretical and practical research techniques, data analysis, communication and computer skills) necessary for the research topic.

Geographical and environmental principles 710 (GGY 710)

Module credits 25.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

The module provides a critical review of the structures and paradigms in which the geographical and environmental sciences are practised. Particular reference is made to the development and impact of paradigms and the interdependence of systems within space and time.

Elective modules

Natural woodland and forests: Ecology and management 700 (BOT 700)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Department of Plant and Soil Sciences



Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Definitions of woodlands and forests and vegetation and forest resources in southern Africa; Classification of forest and woodland in southern Africa; Woodland dynamics including disturbance, recruitment, growth and mortality, recovery after disturbance; Ecosystem services (microclimate and nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration etc); Sustainable forest resource management (resource assessment, socio-economic assessment e.g. wood and non-forest products, participatory resource management processes); Forest health; Monitoring of resource-use impacts and adaptive management; Development of a framework for sustainable conservation and use of non-timber forest products; Climate change and resilience. Forest disease and pathology.

Environmental assessments 785 (ENV 785)

Module credits 15.00

Service modules Faculty of Health Sciences

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

The aim of this module is to understand the principles and processes behind environmental assessments. The module will give an overview of the history of assessments, compare assessment processes internationally, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, provide an overview of the South African regulatory context and the environmental authorisation process.

Selected theme 701 (GGY 701)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 discussion class per week, 1 web-based period per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

A self-study module on an aspect or aspects of geographical or environmental science selected in consultation with the head of the department from: (a) themes not covered in existing options; or (b) educational subjects.

Applied geomorphology 718 (GGY 718)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week



Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module focuses on processes and applications of geomorphology. Topics that may be studied include: soil erosion and conservation, weathering, geomorphic response to environmental change, slope processes and geomorphological hazards. The module includes practical fieldwork and field assessments.

Urban geography 780 (GGY 780)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 discussion class per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The main themes of the module include: overview of global urbanisation theories and processes; urban morphology and change; the administrative structure and functions of African cities and; the quality of urban life in the developing world.

Environmental change 789 (GGY 789)

Module credits	15.00
Service modules	Faculty of Health Sciences
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week, 2 discussion classes per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Study themes include past environmental change, causes and consequences of human-induced environmental change and South Africa and climate change.

Aspects of land reform and the environment 793 (GGY 793)

Module credits	15.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English



Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

The module aims to provide students with an understanding and knowledge of contemporary land reform issues against the background of international land reform experiences. The module also touches on other rural development strategies and ultimately aims to enhance the student's ability to conceptualise and analyse policy in the context of broader environmental issues.

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.