



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, GEOINFORMATICS AND METEOROLOGY

BSocSciHons

Geographical Sciences: Option Geography and Environmental Science

2023

This information brochure is a guide only. For the latest on the chosen degree please visit the UP website at www.up.ac.za.

1. GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Geography is the study of our planet, both the physical features on our planet and the human population groups, their spatial diversity, movements, cultures, and demographics. Environmental Science typically encapsulates the study of all the anthropogenic changes to our environment, the consequences of these changes, and possible solutions. During your study, you will become increasingly aware of the wonders of our planet Earth, and hopefully, find it an enriching experience. The postgraduate program in Geography and Environmental Science provides a solid foundation for graduates with a broad interest in both geography in general as well as those interested specifically in environmental management. At the same time, the degree also provides the required background for a research career involving the analysis and multidisciplinary research about current geographical and environmental issues. The degree, therefore, provides a solid basis for pursuing a Master's degree in a large number of social geographical fields.

2. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are three main **career fields** in geography, namely teaching, research, and the application of geographical knowledge and skills in practice. Geographers can focus on environmental management; management of urban issues; regional and rural development; or environmental issues, including pollution and the destruction of ecosystems through activities such as mining, agriculture, and tourism. Geographers in the private sector are generally **employed** by planning, architectural, and engineering firms, tourism organisations, environmental conservation bodies, and industry. Government departments involved with agriculture, land reform and rural development (DALRRD), communications (DoC), tourism (DoT), basic education (DBE), higher education and training (DHET), and human settlement (DHS) also employ geography graduates. Many geographers are self-employed. They are mainly involved in areas such as marketing, planning, development, tourism, and policy formulation.

3. APPLICATION, SELECTION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission into BSocSciHons Geography and Environmental Science is a BA or BEd degree that meets the prerequisites of the core modules.

A prospective student must have an average of 60% or more for the prerequisite modules at the third-year level of the bachelor's degree. Selection takes place before admission and the number of places in the programme is limited. Acceptance is conditional on the final marks obtained for the undergraduate bachelor's degree. Students are usually notified by mid-November of the outcome.

Online application is available on www.up.ac.za, click on 'Study > Apply' in the top menu.

Applications for our programs close on 30 September.

The first meeting for Honours students is usually towards the end of January. The final date will be announced early in January via email by the Honours coordinator. Lectures usually commence during the week after the first meeting.

The Honours program is designed for full-time study and classes are presented during the day. If you are working, it is advisable to do the program over two years, and in this case, you have to inform the academic advisor of this at the start of the year.

The University of Pretoria is a residential university, meaning that students should live close by to be able to attend classes and practicals on campus. Although we changed to online and hybrid contact sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic, from 2023 onwards, we expect that students will have to regularly attend classes and write examinations on campus in person.

4. MODULES AND CREDITS

The timetable is announced at the beginning of the year. Classes are usually scheduled during the week during office hours (08:00 to 16:00). The timetable varies from year to year, depending on staff availability and student numbers.

Students are advised to choose 30 elective credits from the following groups:

- **Applied geography:** GGY 701, GGY 718
- **GIS and remote sensing:** GMA 705, GIS 707, GIS 708
- **Communication and information:** INY 713, INY 715, INY 716, INY 722, AGV 713
- **Media:** IMY 771, IMY 773, IMY 779, VKK 756
- **Environment and health:** EHM 772, EOH 775
- **Development and society:** SOC 756, SOC 757, SOC 762, TBE 715

Code	Module name	Credits	Period
Fundamental modules:			
GGY 710	Geographical and environmental principles 710	25	S1 or S2
Core modules:			
ENV 704	Environmental policy and communication 704	15	Q1 or Q2
ENV 785	Environmental assessments 785	15	S1
GGY 704	Research project 704	35	Y1
GGY 780	Urban geography 780	15	Q3 or Q4
Elective modules (to the value of 30 credits):			
AGV 713	Communication for sustainable rural development 713	15	Y
GGY 701	Selected theme 701	15	Q1, Q2, Q3 or Q4
GGY 718	Applied geomorphology 718	15	Y
GMA 705	Advanced remote sensing 705	15	S1 or S2
GIS 707	Special topics 707	15	S1 or S2
GIS 708	Advanced GIS 708	15	S1 or S2
EHM 772	Basis in Environmental Health 772	5	S1
EOH 775	Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health 775	10	S1
INY 713	Information and knowledge management (1) 713	15	S1

INY 715	Information Ethics 715	15	S2
INY 716	Information and knowledge management (II) 716	15	S2
INY 722	Information Society 722	15	S1
IMY 771	Multimedia trends 771	15	S2
IMY 773	Multimedia technology 773	15	S1
IMY 779	Human-computer interaction 779	15	S2
SOC 756	Social theory 756	25	S1
SOC 757	Globalisation and development 757	25	S2
SOC 762	Identity, culture and society 762	25	S2
TBE 715	Responsible tourism management 715	20	Y
VKK 756	Cross-media visual and digital scholarship 756	40	S2

For the latest prerequisites please consult the relevant yearbook.

Minimum credits: 135

For detailed module descriptions, please consult the University's website *Study > Yearbooks*. Select *Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences* on the left, click on *Honours* and then *BSocSci Geography and Environmental Sciences* on the right.

5. MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

AGV 713, Communication for sustainable rural development 713

Introduction to the Communication Process, its role and importance. Communication and perception - role of Extension in AKIS. Clarification of principles and definitions; theory of communication; Strategies for communication and Extension methods. Key elements and channels of communication; credibility; persuasion; public speaking; audio visual aids; mass media and their effect; new reporting; articles and newsletters. Designing communication interventions. Impact assessment approaches and tools. Appreciative Communication Inquiry: 5-D Approach.

EHM 772, Basis in Environmental Health 772

ENV 704, Environmental policy and communication 704

The module introduces students to contemporary debates about the role of policy, discourse and communication in achieving environmental sustainability. The outcomes of development interventions and projects on different scales (global, national and community) are used to demonstrate and reflect on the contested nature of environmental policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. Ultimately, students are encouraged to critically engage with the politics of policy formulation and implementation; and the discursive tactics used to communicate policy-related objectives, outcomes and interventions

Prerequisites: ENV 301 Human environmental interactions or equivalent.

ENV 785, Environmental assessments 785

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.

EOH 775, Introduction to Environmental and Occupational Health 775

GGY 701, Selected theme 701

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.

GGY 704, Research project 704

An approved individual research project on an environmental/geography topic within the natural sciences. The project is 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.

GIS 708, Special topics 707

A special topic in Geoinformatics linked to research specialization in the department and/or visiting lecturers. For example, research trends and advances in a specific topic or field of specialization in Geoinformatics. The module is presented in the form of guided advanced readings, seminars and/or discussion sessions.

GIS 708, Advanced GIS

Advanced topics in GIS application, such as principal component analysis, multi-criteria evaluation and other geospatial analysis methods, and their application relating to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Prerequisites: GIS 310 *Geographic Information Systems* or equivalent.

GGY 710, Geographical and environmental principles 710

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

GGY 718, Applied geomorphology 718

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. Dates for field trips will be confirmed at a later stage.

Prerequisites: GGY 361 *Environmental geomorphology* or GGY 363 *Applied geomorphology* or equivalent.

GGY 780, Urban geography 780

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.

Prerequisites: GGY 301 *Theories and applications of human geography* or equivalent.

GMA 705, Advanced remote sensing 705

The aim of the module is to provide knowledge and understanding of image analysis and information extraction methods in remote sensing. The emphasis is on equipping students with knowledge and skills necessary to process imagery to extract diverse biophysical and geospatial information. The course gives insight into the possibilities and limitations of the application of modern remote sensing/image acquisition systems for Earth and atmosphere research purposes at different levels of detail.

Prerequisites: GMA 320 *Remote sensing*, or equivalent.

INY 713, Information and knowledge management (I) 713

This module consists of two main sections. A theoretical framework of information and knowledge management will be addressed in section one. Section two covers the enablers of information and knowledge management. These include: leadership, corporate culture, organisational learning, strategy, laws and policies, measurement and information technology.

INY 715, Information Ethics 715

This module focuses on the main moral ethical issues pertaining to information and ICT, globalisation, privacy and knowledge flow. It covers amongst others the following fields: information and computer ethics; cyber warfare and terrorism; information philosophy; information security; privacy and the right to information; digital identity management; cyber law; e-waste; globalisation and the impact on society.

INY 716, Information and knowledge management (II) 716

This module offers students the opportunity to become conversant with various knowledge management programmes as well as the development, implementation and evaluation of knowledge management strategies. It introduces students to traditional and advanced knowledge management models and frameworks, a selection

of knowledge management theories, knowledge management's resiliency management role, and trending issues in the field of knowledge management.

Prerequisites: *INY 713 (Information and knowledge management[!]).*

INY 722, Information Society 722

This module evaluates the evolution of previous industrial revolutions to the fourth industrial revolution. It compares and critiques the fourth industrial revolution in the light of concepts of the information and knowledge societies, and examines relevant themes in the literature. It also discusses the implications for knowledge workers.

IMY 771, Multimedia trends 771

History of multimedia ideas and technology; current trends in multimedia, latest technologies and future trends of multimedia.

IMY 773, Multimedia technology 773

In this module students will research and discuss a current topic which can change from year to year. The topic for a specific year can be obtained from the departmental website. The topic is related to the creative use of Multimedia Technologies. An understanding of the current multimedia trends is required together with the knowledge of its usage.

IMY 779, Human-computer interaction 779

In this module, students are exposed to research topics and methodologies within the HCI discipline. Students then apply their understanding by proposing and delivering a research paper.

SOC 756, Social theory 756

This module introduces students to key conceptual vocabularies, as well as selected theoretical paradigms and scholarly works in order to facilitate an understanding of some of the current debates, innovations and controversies in the field. A balance is struck between classic and contemporary social theory, and an emphasis is placed on questions of textuality, canonicity and interdisciplinarity in shaping conversations about social theory and its significance for research, thought and politics.

SOC 757, Globalisation and development 757

This module examines theoretical explanations of globalisation. In doing so its primary goal is to explore ways in which capital in the era of the end of history is compelling us to rethink sociology as a science of the present. The module begins with theoretical discussions in order to lay the ground for talk about development as a process of incorporating (in this case) Africa into the global world system. The module further studies changes brought about by globalisation to the nation-state system, work and gender relations. It also examines nationalism and ethnicity as specific features of capitalism in the era of the end of history.

SOC 762, Identity, culture and society 762

This module focuses on the relationship between the personal and social and how these two domains are intricately related, simultaneously implying sameness and difference in the process of identification. It considers how societal structures and institutions shape and construct identities historically, whilst being shaped by individual agency, in turn. Human experience reveals a range of cross-cutting affiliations, based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexuality and generation, amongst others, implying a multiplicity in belonging, suggesting a relational process, rather than an essence. The social, contingent and constructed nature of identities is highlighted against experiences of dislocation within a context of globalisation.

TBE 715, Responsible tourism management 715

The module equips the learner with responsible tourism management values and requires the learner to develop a portfolio that demonstrates their ability to conduct research, compile and write different research and/or tourism documents/reports, present to audiences and solve tourism-related strategic problems.

VKK 756, Cross-media visual and digital scholarship 756

The module equips the learner with responsible tourism management values and requires the learner to develop a portfolio that demonstrates their ability to conduct research, compile and write different research and/or tourism documents/reports, present to audiences and solve tourism-related strategic problems.

6. FEES, FUNDING AND BURSARIES OPPORTUNITIES

For information about fees and funding (including scholarships and bursaries, visit the UP website, www.up.ac.za, click 'Study', then 'Fees and Funding'.

7. INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The first step for international students is to have their existing academic qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (www.saqa.org.za). It is essential to attach the SAQA certificate to your online application.

Additional information for international students is available on the UP website, www.up.ac.za, click on 'Study' in the top menu, then on 'International Students'.

8. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The weighted average for my final year was below 60%, will I still be considered for the Honours program?

The weighted average on a transcript is calculated for all the modules completed in that year. For admission to BSocSci Geography and Environmental Science, a prospective student must have an average of 60% or in the final year of the bachelor's degree. The overall mark achieved for the bachelor's degree must also be above 60%.

I am currently completing my final year undergraduate studies, therefore the weighted average for all my final year modules is not yet available. Can I still apply for next year?

Yes. But please make sure that the June exam marks are available when you attach your academic record to your application. The selection panel will consider those marks and if applicable, you will be accepted on the condition that your final weighted average is 60% or more.

I completed an undergraduate degree in a related field (not geography and/or environmental science) and received a weighted average of above 60%. Will I qualify for the Honours program?

Your selection for the program will depend on the geography-related modules that you completed during your undergraduate degree and the marks that you obtained for these. The undergraduate modules must meet the admission requirements for the Honours modules listed in Section 4. Remember to attach your full transcripts and yearbook when you apply. The selection panel will then review your transcripts and determine if you meet the admission requirements.

I did not do my undergraduate degree at UP. How do I know whether the undergraduate modules that I completed meet the admission requirements for the Honours modules?

The most directly suitable degrees to be selected for our Honours programs are any BA or Bed degrees that meet the prerequisite requirements for the core modules of the BSocSci Geography and Environmental Science degree. Have a look at the program composition for this degree in the yearbook at <http://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home>. Compare the module descriptions to the modules that you completed to get an idea of the suitability of your undergraduate modules. However, the final decision lies with the selection panel.

9. CONTACT DETAILS

Please email any enquiries to:

Dr JJ Gregory (coordinator and administrative queries), jj.gregory@up.ac.za

Website: <https://www.up.ac.za/ggm>, click on 'Study' > 'Our Programmes'.