



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Tlhago le Temo

BScAgric (Plant Pathology)

The BScAgric (Plant Pathology) programme entails the study and control of plant diseases.

The ideal candidate is a creative thinker who wants to explore and understand problems, why and how they arose, and to find solutions. Finding the culprit (ie the pathogen) that caused disease or even death (of plants) is very much like being a detective working at a crime scene to figure out what happened. Like veterinary scientists and medical doctors, plant pathologists also work with patients but with the difference that they cannot communicate with the plant. They therefore have to rely on observation, experience and intuitive knowledge to figure out what is wrong and to find a solution.

A student who does well in this programme is often one who is curious, creative, passionate driven and ambitious to explore new challenges.

Agricultural scientists often work in the field or in plant nurseries, farms, pack houses, processing plants, markets or retail. They may also be involved in the local or international food trade. They are multifaceted thinkers who enjoy solving problems, are curious about nature and want to provide food for the table by ensuring healthy plants, crop protection, high yields and reduced waste and losses.

What makes this programme unique?

The programme covers both basic and applied research and ensures safe food and food security for all.

Which companies employ our graduates?

Our graduates are employed at:

- National Department of Agriculture
- Agricultural Research Council
- Agrochemical companies
- Seed and plant production companies
- Undercover crop production endeavours, eg vertical farming, greenhouses and hydroponics
- Tissue culture laboratories
- Diagnostic laboratories
- Biological control companies
- Nurseries and garden centres
- Lawn and landscape maintenance firms
- Agricultural cooperatives
- Private agricultural estates, farms and big corporate estates
- Work with agricultural departments in provinces with many small-scale farmers
- The SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Council (CSIR)
- Exporting or importing companies
- Fresh Produce Markets and Retailers
- National and International certification bodies such as auditors, assessors or technical experts in good agricultural practices or food safety
- United Nations, Food and Agricultural Organisation, World Health Organisation, World Trade Organisation or International Standards Organisations
- Researchers and lecturers at Colleges, Technical University or Universities

What career opportunities exist for graduates?



Consultant plant pathologists often collaborate with economists, soil scientists, horticulturists, entomologists and farmers, big corporates, pesticide companies or retailers. They not only advise, but also influence governments, industry and the general public regarding critical matters such as trade, phytosanitary and sanitary matters, and the right to food.



Lecturers and researchers at universities and technical colleges provide quality creative education and share their skills and experiences with students to prepare them for careers in the flower industry, turf grass or horticultural sectors, crop production, viticulture, agronomy, soil sciences and entomology, as well as agricultural economics. They are classical transdisciplinary thinkers who can solve mega problems and are innovative in finding practical solutions for farmers and others in the agricultural sector.



Agricultural scientists and researchers at various companies and academic institutions research many different aspects of plant health, crop protection, food security and food safety.

| Programme | Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2022 | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-------------------|-----|
| | Achievement level | | | APS |
| | English Home Language or English First Additional Language | Mathematics | Physical Sciences | |
| BScAgric (Plant Pathology) [4 years] Closing dates: SA – 30 September, Non-SA – 31 August | 5 | 5 | 5 | 32 |