

# MPhil Insolvency and Business Rescue

Programme code 07255350

The 2020 Interim Executives Survey, included more than



**600**  
executives



from  
**29** countries cited:

“ One of the top reasons they cited for being called into an organisation was to fix what’s wrong. Seventy-nine percent said they were hired to fix a failing organisation, or to reorganise a company or division. ”



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe  
Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Law

Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid  
Lefapha la Molao

## WHY STUDY INSOLVENCY AND BUSINESS RESCUE?

Studying insolvency law with business rescue together will enable you to gain a detailed understanding of the legal, financial, economic and governance issues underpinning debt finance and recovery. You will also gain advanced knowledge of theoretical and practical issues guiding formal and informal debt restructuring procedures. This unique master's programme combines modules from business and law making it the first crossdisciplinary local degree of its kind and one of the few programmes addressing insolvency related issues in South Africa.

On the basis of the conveyed findings and methods, students learn to approach the complex problems associated with corporate crises in an interdisciplinary and interprofessional manner, and to solve them within the confines of the law regulatory system in a reliable and economically efficient way. They are taught to use instruments designed for the systematic early detection of corporate crises, to develop restructuring concepts, and to safeguard them in their application. In addition, the students acquire the ability to cope with crisis situations through internal and external communication. They learn to apply the theoretical knowledge previously acquired in business games designed and run by restructuring experts. Apart from this a module on internal insolvency and rescue also forms part of the curriculum.

The high quality of the teaching is ensured by a top-class team of lecturers consisting of representatives from science and practice. It consists of professors from University of Pretoria's **Faculty of Law** and **Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences** as well as external lecturers. They include experienced lawyers who specialise in insolvency law or restructuring, renowned insolvency and business rescue practitioners, partners in consulting firms, economists with a relevant job profile and communication experts.



## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Insolvency and Business Rescue degree programme is designed for professionals who want to attain an advanced degree while continuing to work at their respective organisations.

Although many individuals in the programme have academic credentials in law, the programme is also appropriate if your education and/or experience may be in any commerce disciplines or in sciences and engineering with the relevant experience in the field insolvency or turnaround management.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Organisations in virtually every industry, including nonprofit and government sectors, many benefit from expertise in insolvency and turnaround management at some point.

**As a graduate of this degree programme you can be prepared for a variety of senior level positions such as:**



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

At least an honours degree in an academic discipline related to financial management or business management or four year law degree;

**OR**

any other qualification in an academic discipline relevant to this MPhil programme, that allows admission to a master's programme at the institution where the undergraduate qualification was obtained. If the duration of that qualification is less than four years, substantial proven practical or professional experience in insolvency and/ or business rescue practice will furthermore be required, subject to the discretion of the Dean.

**OR**

any other NQF level 8 qualification in an academic discipline relevant to this MPhil programme at 65% or higher.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme consists of coursework and a research article. The coursework part of the degree programme is offered during the first and second semester of the first year of study and the research article during the second semester.

The coursework is presented by means of five contact sessions per module during the first and second semester. Contact block weeks will take place after hours on a Monday to Thursday evening from 17:30 – 21:00 during the first semester and second semester.

Attendance of the contact sessions is compulsory. All lectures, tests and examination sessions will be conducted at the University of Pretoria's main campus in Hatfield or online. Students have a maximum of two years to complete the MPhil degree but it is advisable to complete the programme in one year.



## CURRICULUM

Semester 2 (2021)		Credits
IIL 821	International Insolvency	20
OBS 821	Turnaround Management	20
NME 804	Research methodology for business	20
Semester 1 (2022)		
LBR 822	Liquidation and Business Rescue	20
OBS 822	Financial distress assessment	20
OBS 898	Mini-dissertation	90

\*All modules must be passed.

## EXAMINATION AND PASS REQUIREMENTS

- **A semester mark of 40% is required to be admitted to the examination.** The semester mark will be compiled from assignments, group projects and written tests.
- Examinations will take the form of written evaluations during May/June each year.
- A three hour examination paper is written in each of the coursework modules.
- **A final mark of 50% is required to pass a module.**
- It is important to note that there are no re-examination opportunities at 800-level.

## ACADEMIC WRITING

Postgraduate studies emphasise analytical skills by means of assignments, reports and case studies. The main consideration is the student's ability to independently gather, process and effectively communicate information.

Each student must take cognisance of the contents of: "Referencing in Academic Documents, Official guidelines of the Department of Business Management". All assignments, reports and case studies, which students submit for evaluation, must comply with these guidelines.

## FEES AND FUNDING

Full particulars concerning university fees and applicable regulations are contained in the Student Fees Guide of the University of Pretoria.

It is the responsibility of students to acquaint themselves with the relevant regulations. Information concerning university fees and the applicable regulations can be obtained from

[www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding](http://www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding)




## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Online applications can be done at [www.up.ac.za/apply](http://www.up.ac.za/apply) and the application fee can be paid with a credit card. Alternatively, the form can be downloaded at [www.up.ac.za/downloadpdfform](http://www.up.ac.za/downloadpdfform) and submitted to the Student Service Centre (SSC).
- All postgraduate students with international qualifications need to submit an evaluation from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). More information on this evaluation can be obtained from [www.saqa.org.za](http://www.saqa.org.za)
- Students with international qualifications who want to apply for Masters' degree courses at the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences also have to write the international TOEFL ([www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org)) or IELTS ([www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)) test as proof of English language proficiency.
- Applications will not be considered for selection if the English language proficiency test result (if required) as well as the SAQA evaluation is not available at the time of application.

No application will be considered for admission if any of the required documents are outstanding.

International students may contact the International Cooperation Division for more information at

[www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division](http://www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division) 

## SELECTION

- Selection is not guaranteed as the department receives many applications annually and can only admit a limited number of students in each programme. Selection takes place annually in November of the preceding academic year.
- In view of this process it is premature to engage with staff of the department prior to selection and confirmation of acceptance.
- Acceptance letters are sent out by faculty administration early in December of the preceding academic year and will set out the conditions of acceptance.

## CLOSING DATES

**The closing date for applications for admission is 31 March on year of first registration. The closing date for applications for students with international qualifications is 31 August preceding the year of first registration.**

## ENQUIRIES

For administrative queries kindly contact:

### Carto Swarts

Tel: +27 12 420 4271

Email: [carto.abrams-swarts@up.ac.za](mailto:carto.abrams-swarts@up.ac.za)

### Academic queries: Dr Wesley Rosslyn-Smith Department of Business Management

Email: [wesley.rosslyn-smith@up.ac.za](mailto:wesley.rosslyn-smith@up.ac.za)





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S MPhil DEGREES

### 1 What is the duration of an MPhil degree?

Most students complete the department's MPhil degrees in one (1) academic year, but you are allowed to spread your studies over two (2) years if necessary. However, the registration and tuition fees are payable per year of study (not per course). It is therefore financially advantageous to complete an MPhil degree in one academic year. You will have to obtain special permission from the Head of Department and the Deputy Dean: Research and Postgraduate Studies to interrupt or to extend your studies beyond two academic years.

### 2 What are the costs involved?

The registration and tuition fees are adjusted annually and are usually published on the University's web site during December ([www.up.ac.za/student-fees/article/2735935/postgraduate-tuition-fees-per-faculty](http://www.up.ac.za/student-fees/article/2735935/postgraduate-tuition-fees-per-faculty)).

#### The fees for 2020 were as follows:

- Registration fee: R7 500 per annum (payable during January before online registration)
- Total course fees: R47 995 per annum (includes the registration fee)

You can use the amounts listed above +10% for budgeting and planning purposes while awaiting information on the exact registration and course fees payable in 2021.

Additional information about the registration and tuition fees may be obtained on the University's web page ([www.up.ac.za/student-fees](http://www.up.ac.za/student-fees)) or from the Student Service Centre (tel. 012 420 3111, e-mail: [ssc@up.ac.za](mailto:ssc@up.ac.za)).

### 3 How much time should I have available for my MPhil studies?

Postgraduate studies require a lot of time and effort. You should have at least 20 to 25 hours available per week to focus on your MPhil studies. During peak times, you may even have to invest more time to prepare for tests, examinations and major written assignments.

### 4 Which factors should I consider to ensure my success as an MPhil student?

To be successful as an MPhil student, you will *inter alia* have to be internally motivated to succeed, invest the required time and effort in your studies, and deliberately seek stability in your life. Experience shows that it is not

wise to undertake major life changes along with your MPhil studies. Such major life changes could include getting married, starting a family, changing jobs or starting a new career, relocating to another town or city, or accepting a foreign work assignment.

On a practical level, you will also require access to a PC or laptop and to a stable high-speed Internet connection after hours and over weekends.

### 5 Is attendance of the contact sessions compulsory?

Yes, attendance of all the contact sessions is compulsory.

### 6 By when should I be formally registered as an MPhil student for 2021?

You will be informed during April 2021 whether your application for admission as an MPhil student in 2021 was successful or not. If successful, you should formally register as an MPhil student during May 2021 and preferably complete your online registration before 31 May 2021.

You have to be formally registered in order to access study material on clickUP, the University's online learning management platform, as well as the UP Library's e-journals collection. These resources are crucial for your studies

**Late registrations and degree changes will not be allowed after 15 February 2021.**

### 7 What does the MPhil research project entail?

The MPhil research project contributes 110 of the 180 credits in each of the department's MPhil degrees. For this project, you will be required to individually plan and conduct an empirical research study under the guidance of a study leader in the department. Your study can be either qualitative or quantitative and must be aligned with your study leader's research interests and methodological expertise. Your study leader will guide you to identify an acceptable and feasible research topic for your study. You will be required to interview  $\pm 12$  participants (in the case of a qualitative study) or survey  $\pm 150 - 200$  respondents (in the case of quantitative studies).