



Make today matter

Although plants are incredible organisms, much of their potential remains unexplored. What is well established, however, is that plants are unparalleled factories for producing valuable natural products.

A three-year degree in Plant Sciences provides a broad foundation in the field, with opportunities for further specialisation in medicinal plant science, plant biotechnology, or ecology and biodiversity.

In medicinal plant sciences, students explore the discovery and application of plant-based medicines and phytotherapeutically significant compounds. Those studying plant biotechnology delve into molecular tools and the use of model plants to understand plant physiology. In ecology and biodiversity, students study South Africa's rich vegetation, its origins, and strategies for conservation and sustainable management.



Who is the ideal candidate?

The ideal candidate is someone who is inquisitive, has a broad interest in plants and the environment, conservation and in improving wellness and quality of life.



What makes this programme unique?

The Department of Plant and Soil Sciences is dynamic, innovative, modern and relevant. Staff members undertake world-class research and 70% have received NRF ratings.

Much of the research is of an applied nature and contributes to the improvement of agricultural crops and methods, knowledge of plant diseases, the use of plant-derived compounds, biodiversity (including evolutionary systematics and ecology) and plant biotechnology.



Which companies employ our graduates?

Our graduates are employed at:

- The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)
- The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- Pharmaceutical industries
- Tertiary institutions
- Government departments



Career opportunities

Academic/
teacher

Agricultural
specialist

Climate change
biologist

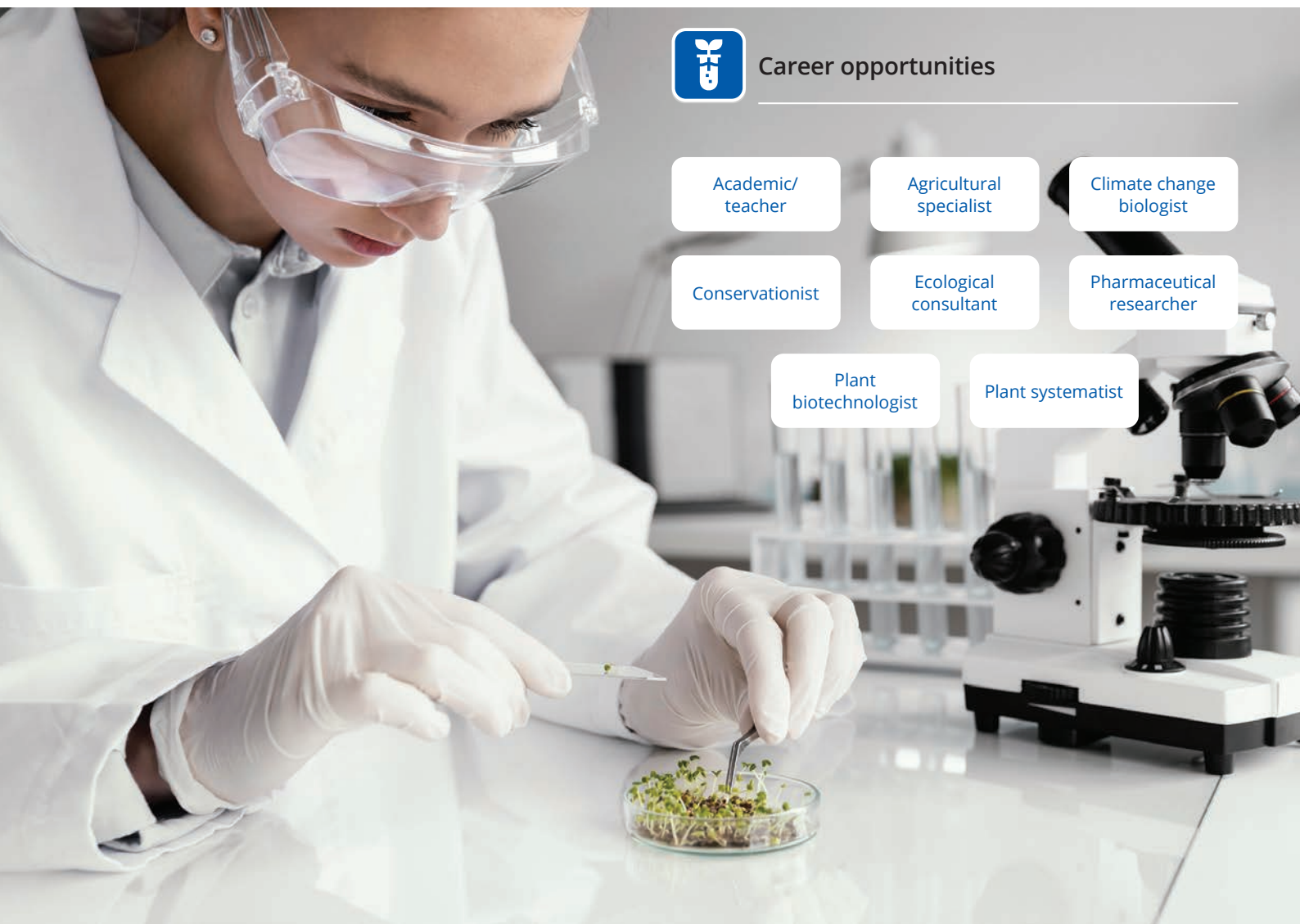
Conservationist

Ecological
consultant

Pharmaceutical
researcher

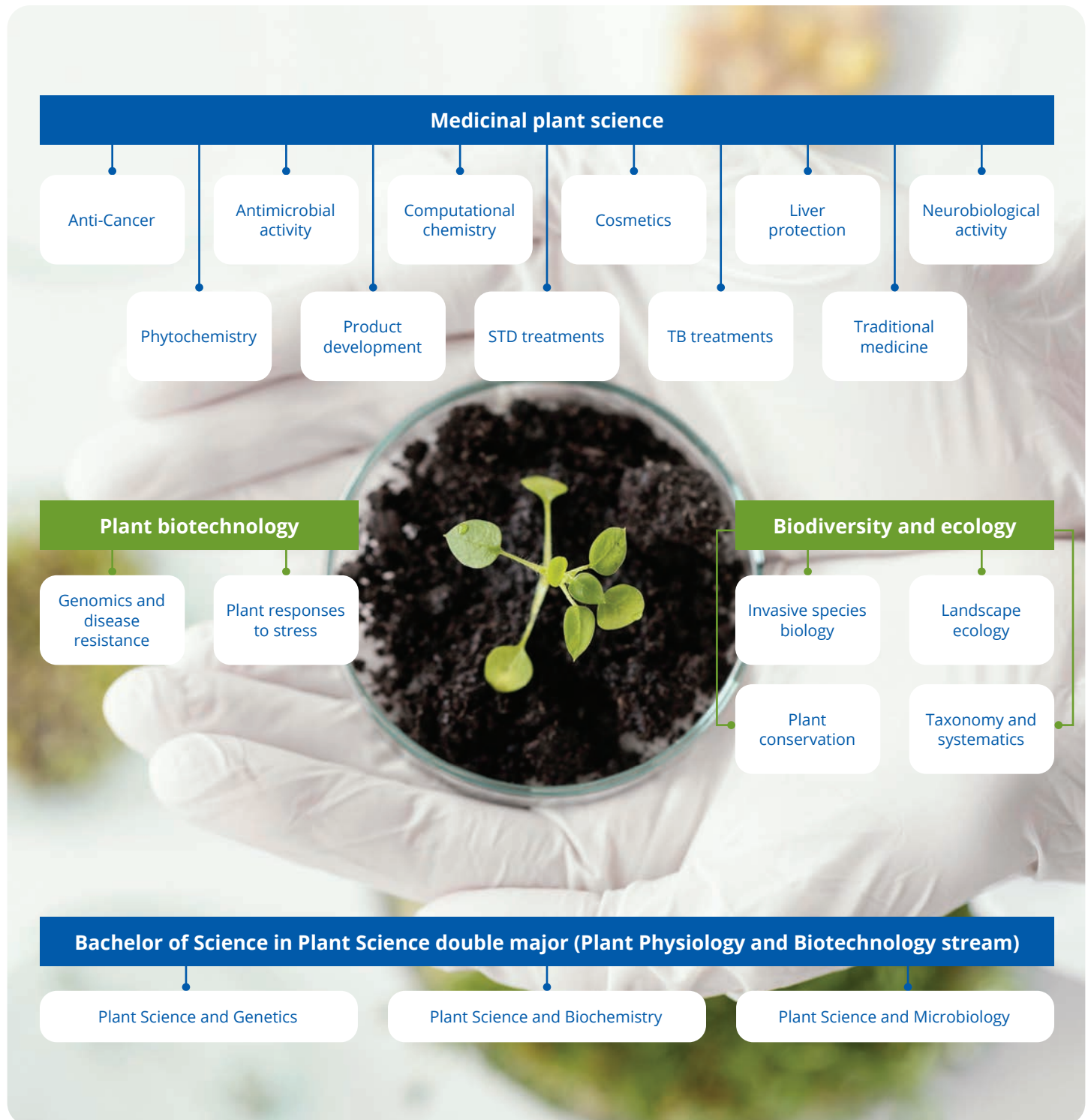
Plant
biotechnologist

Plant systematist





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Minimum admission requirements

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2026			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
Bachelor of Science in Plant Science [3 years]	5	5	5	32



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

Minimum requirements for
applicants with a school
leaving certificate not issued
by Umalusi (South Africa)



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Refer to the International undergraduate prospectus at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission Information or [click here](#) for more information.

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES Programmes	Minimum requirements for 2026									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	GCSE #		HIGCSE NSSC HL	AS Level	A Level	IB		KOMBI ABITUR	KCSE
		The qualifications in the two columns below will be considered only for conditional admission. If final AS and/or A levels have been completed, these two columns will not apply. It can also not be used for final admission and/or registration.			GCE CIE NSSC AS	GCE CIE CGCE UACE WAEC ZGCE	IB SL	IB HL		
		CIE	UK							
	IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE EGCSE O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE	England Wales Northern Ireland Pearson Edexcel GCSE								
Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry	English Mathematics Physics Chemistry									
Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology										
Bachelor of Science in Ecology										
Bachelor of Science in Zoology										
Bachelor of Science in Entomology										
Bachelor of Science in Genetics										
Bachelor of Science in Human Genetics										
Bachelor of Science in Human Physiology										
Bachelor of Science in Human Physiology, Genetics and Psychology										
Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences		C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Science in Microbiology		C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Science in Plant Science		C	4	3	C	E	4	3	60-69%	B
Bachelor of Science in Chemistry										
Bachelor of Science in Physics										
Bachelor of Science in Geography [Option: Geography and Environmental Science]										
Bachelor of Science in Geoinformatics										
Bachelor of Science in Geology										
Bachelor of Science in Meteorology										
Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Engineering Geology										

Only English with at least a C symbol on this level can be used for final admission.

NOTE: The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences requires the following achievement levels for IELTS and TOEFL: TOEFL – Writing=22; Speaking=23; Reading=21; Listening=17
IELTS – Writing=6; Speaking=6; Reading=6; Listening=6



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Bachelor of Science in Food Science	English Mathematics Physics Chemistry	C C C C	4 4 4 4	3 3 3 3	C C C C	E E E E	4 4 4 4	3 3 3 3	60-69% 60-69% 60-69% 60-69%	B B B B
Bachelor of Science in Food Management [Option: Culinary Science]										
Bachelor of Science in Food Management [Option: Nutritional Science]										
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Agricultural Economics in Agribusiness Management										
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Animal Science										
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Plant Pathology										
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences										
Bachelor of Science in Actuarial and Financial Mathematics	English Mathematics	C A	4 7	3 1	C A	E C	4 6	3 5	60-69% 80-100%	B A
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics	English Mathematics	C B	4 5	3 2	C B	E D	4 5	3 4	60-69% 70-79%	B B+
Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics										
Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Statistics										
Bachelor of Consumer Science specialising in Clothing and Retail Management	English Mathematics	C D	4 3	3 3	C D	E E	4 2	3 2	60-69% 50-59%	B C+
Bachelor of Consumer Science specialising in Food Management										

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IGCSE LGCSE BGCSE EGCSE O Level NSSC OL CGCE UCE NECO WAEC WASSCE ZGCE		England Wales Northern Ireland Pearson Edexcel GCSE								
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics [4-year programme]	English Mathematics	D C	3 4	3 3	D C	E E	2 4	2 3	58% 65%	B- B
Bachelor of Science in Chemistry [4-year programme]	English Mathematics Physics Chemistry	D D D D	3 3 3 3	3 3 3 3	D D D D	E E E E	2 2 2 2	2 2 2 2	58% 58% 58% 58%	B- B- B- B-
Bachelor of Science in Geoinformatics [4-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Geology [4-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Meteorology [4-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Physics [4-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Ecology [4-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Human Physiology [4-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Applied Plant and Soil Sciences [5-year programme]										
Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in Plant Pathology [5-year programme]										

Only English with at least a C symbol on this level can be used for final admission.

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