



Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Who is the ideal candidate to study BSc (Plant Science)?

Although plants are amazing organisms, we actually know very little about their potential uses. It is, however, well known that plants are the best factories for synthesising valuable natural products.

A degree in plant sciences is a three-year degree that broadly covers all relevant aspects of plant sciences. Further studies allow students to specialise in medicinal plant science, plant biotechnology or ecology and biodiversity.

In medicinal plant sciences, students learn about the discovery and use of plant medicines and phytotherapeutically important molecules obtained from plants. Students studying Plant Biotechnology learn about molecular tools and the use of model plants to study plant physiology. In the study of plant diversity and ecology, students learn about South Africa's rich and diverse vegetation and its origin, and how to facilitate conservation and management strategies for future generations.



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 is dynamic, innovative, modern and relevant. Staff members undertake world-class research and 70% have received NRF ratings.

Much of the research (including soil science) 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:
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
 - The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
 - The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
 - Pharmaceutical industries
 - Tertiary institutions
 - Government departments



Minimum admission requirements

| Programme | Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023 | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-------------------|-----|
| | Achievement level | | | APS |
| | English Home Language or English First Additional Language | Mathematics | Physical Sciences | |
| BSc (Plant Science) [3 years] Close on availability of space: As soon as the number of places available for this programme are filled, it will be closed for further applications. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 32 |

Website: www.up.ac.za/plant-and-soil-sciences

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