



Department of Auditing

MPhil Specialising In Fraud Risk
Management

07255332

Admission requirements for 2026

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

The Unit for Forensic Accounting In The Department of Auditing

MPHIL SPECIALISING IN FRAUD RISK MANAGEMENT (FRM) (Web-supported)

Introduction and aim of the programme

Managing the risk of fraud and corruption has become a major concern internationally as well as in South Africa. The ability of criminals to launder the proceeds of crime, thus avoiding prosecution and the forfeiture of such proceeds, deepens this concern. The use of technology has caused these crimes to become more sophisticated, and its impact even greater.

Several international and domestic financial scandals have resulted in significant losses for investors and creditors, illustrating that fraud and corruption affect the bottom line of organisations. Limiting the losses directly associated with fraud and corruption already makes a strong business case for proper fraud risk management, without even considering its effect on organisational reputation, trust, staff morale and affected communities.

In an effort to combat fraud and corruption, governments and regulators have introduced many onerous laws and regulations. These not only target criminals, but also place major responsibilities on organisations to comply with legislation and regulations.

This programme in fraud risk management aims to equip individuals, such as forensic accountants, fraud examiners, prosecutors, other individuals working for investigative agencies or those involved in risk management and compliance, with the necessary competencies to play an active role in managing the risks of fraud and corruption in organisations.

Who should register?

Although almost all disciplines can benefit from this programme, it is strongly recommended for:

- Compliance officers
- Risk managers
- Financial officers
- Human resource practitioners
- Fraud examiners
- Forensic accountants and auditors
- Prosecutors and investigators
- Auditors and internal auditors
- In-house legal practitioners.

Admission Requirements

All applications must comply with all other requirements for the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management (FRM) and regulations pertaining thereto. Due to capacity constraints, only a limited number of students can be admitted and academic merit is and remains the overriding premise during the selection process.

Minimum admission requirements

1. Relevant honours degree or equivalent SAICA accredited qualification
or
Bachelor of Laws [LLB] degree
or
PGDip in Investigative and Forensic Accounting
2. A weighted average of at least 60% for the relevant honours degree or equivalent SAICA accredited qualification or a weighted average of at least 60% for the Bachelor of Laws [LLB] degree or postgraduate diploma.

Note that preference will be given to prospective students holding a relevant honours degree, post-graduate diploma or LLB degree and who have completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Investigative and Forensic Accounting or who have completed short courses at Enterprises UP (EUP) that bear credit for the corresponding modules in the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management (FRM).

Programme structure

The minimum duration of the programme is 12 months, but virtually all students complete it in 24 months. This period includes the completion of the research component and research article.

The programme consists of the following modules:

- FRM 801 Fraud Risk Management
- FRM 802 Economic Crime Schemes
- FRM 803 Law for Commercial Forensic Practitioners
- FRM 804 Investigation of Financial Crime
- FRM 805 Investigation and Management of Cyber and Electronic Crime
- FRM 806 Money Laundering Detection and Investigation
- FRM 808 Research Article
- FRM 809 Research Methodology

The six coursework modules listed above (FRM 801 to 806) cover the aspects an organisation should address to manage the criminal, civil and reputational risks.

In order to complete the coursework component of the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management (FRM) programme, a student will have to attend 30 days of contact sessions (one five-day session for each of the six modules).

Currently we are presenting classes for most modules either virtually (first session) or contact, (face-to-face second session) and students must choose which session they wish to attend (a student cannot attend both).

Each class block of sessions will be conducted over five days (one week per module) and will deal with each of the respective modules. Each online/contact session during the class block will be presented on the same date and the same venue as each of the above-mentioned corresponding short courses. The classes will therefore be shared with delegates attending the relevant short course.

Students who do not attend the contact classes as EUP delegates are responsible for their own refreshments and lunch for the duration of the contact session.

Three of the above-mentioned coursework modules must be upgraded to NQF Level 9 to comply with the set requirements for an MPhil degree. (Please refer to the relevant explanation further below in this document.)

Research Methodology (FRM 809)

The FRM 809 - Research Methodology module is offered in conjunction with the FRM 808 module and aims to equip students with the research skills deemed necessary for producing the research article required in the FRM 808 module.

Research Article (FRM 808)

In the FRM 808 module, students are required to research a topic related to fraud risk management, culminating in a specified research output (research article). The candidate will pass this module when the article meets the general requirements for submission to a recognised academic journal.

Although we strongly recommend that students only register for the FRM 808 module after completing all the coursework modules, students are allowed to register for this module after completing a minimum of four coursework modules. Note that the FRM 809 module is offered in conjunction with the FRM 808 module.

Credits for short courses completed at Enterprises University of Pretoria (EUP)

The Unit for Forensic Accounting has developed a model in terms of which it is envisaged that credit-bearing short courses offered at EUP may be deemed as equivalent modules on the postgraduate programmes offered by the said Unit.

All the coursework modules in the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management can be completed as credit-bearing short courses offered by EUP.

The following credit-bearing short courses presented at EUP, as set out in Column A of the following schedule, may bear credit in respect of the corresponding module set out in Column B of the same schedule:

Column A EUP short course	Column B MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management
Course in Fraud Risk Management	FRM 801 Fraud Risk Management
Course in Economic Crime Schemes	FRM 802 Economic Crime Schemes
Course in Law for Commercial Forensic Practitioners	FRM 803 Law for Commercial Forensic Practitioners
Course in the Investigation of Financial Crimes	FRM 804 Investigation of Financial Crimes
Course in the Investigation and Management of Cyber and Electronic Crime	FRM 805 Investigation and Management of Cyber and Electronic Crime
Course in Money Laundering Detection and Investigation	FRM 806 Money Laundering Detection and Investigation

Credits from short courses can only be obtained when **both** the following requirements have been met:

- The delegate must have obtained a final mark of at least 60% in the corresponding credit-bearing short course.
- The delegate must have completed the corresponding credit-bearing short course within a maximum period of three years before date of enrolment for the MPhil specialising Fraud Risk Management programme.

The advantages of following the credit-bearing short course route for a prospective MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management student, are as follows:

- By attending the relevant short courses, of which the virtual/contact sessions are presented over five days, a participant in the formal programme will receive a more in-depth and practically orientated learning experience compared to similar programmes offered by other institutions.
- By attending corresponding short courses before actually registering for the formal MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management programme, a student can stagger his or her studies, taking into account employment and personal circumstances and commitments.
- According to the selection criteria for admission to the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management programme, preference will be given to delegates who have successfully completed relevant corresponding credit-bearing short courses and excelled in those.

Upgrade of coursework modules to NQF level 9

The coursework modules, whether they were completed as part of the Postgraduate Diploma in Investigative & Forensic Accounting or the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management, or as credit-bearing short courses, are offered on NQF Level 8. All registered students must comply with the MPhil requirements with specialisation in Fraud Risk Management degree and must pass three coursework modules on NQF Level 9. This is accomplished by upgrading three of the NQF Level 8 coursework/credit-bearing short course modules to NQF Level 9. This module upgrade to NQF Level 9, is done by means of an additional examination that is written in each of the three coursework modules mentioned earlier in this paragraph.

(**Note** that the same module upgrade requirement, applies to all students, whether they have completed the coursework modules as part of the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management (FRM) degree, as part of completing the PGD in Investigative and Forensic Accounting or as credit-bearing short courses through EUP).

Format of the module upgrade examination

A single upgrade examination will be set, consisting of six (6) parts. Each separate part of the examination will pertain to a different coursework module and will enable students to upgrade that specific module.

The upgrade examination will be a **closed-book examination**. This implies that students will **not** be allowed to take any study material into the exam room or use any form of electronic assistance while writing the examination, may it be cell phones, smart watches, iPads or laptops.

Each student registered for the MPhil specialising in FRM degree will have to complete **three** of the six parts of the upgrade examination to upgrade those modules to NQF Level 9.

The total duration of the examination will be three (3) hours (1 hour per question).

Note that students who previously received credits in the Postgraduate Diploma for modules completed in the certificate program through UP Enterprises before enrolling for the Postgraduate Diploma, must complete those parts of the upgrade examination that pertain to the modules they were granted credits for. Credits could have been granted for one, two or three modules and, depending on the number of modules that credits were granted for, sufficient other module(s) of their choice must be added – provided the total number of modules upgraded amounts to three modules.

All other students (who did not receive credit for modules as described above) must answer the questions pertaining to any three modules of their choice, on condition that they have already passed these modules on NQF Level 8.

Assessment and pass requirements

Students have to achieve the following in order to obtain the MPhil specialising in FRM degree:

i. Pass the six required coursework modules on NQF Level 8

A student will be required to submit one research report in each of the listed modules. The research report will contribute 40% of the final mark and will constitute a year mark.

Students will be examined in each of the six modules. A sub-minimum of 40% must be obtained in each examination. The examination will contribute 60% of the final mark.

To pass a module a final year mark of at least 50% must be obtained.

ii. Upgrade three NQF Level 8 coursework modules to NQF Level 9

A mark of 50% is required for each part of the upgrade examination.

The final mark appearing on the academic record for the upgraded (NQF Level 9) modules will be calculated by applying the following weights:

<u>Item contributing towards the final mark for the module on NQF Level 9</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Mark obtained for the coursework module on NQF level 8:	40%
Mark obtained for the coursework module in the NQF Level 9 upgrade examination:	60%

The mark achieved in the module upgrade examination will constitute the mark indicated for the specific module on the student's academic record for the MPhil with specialisation in Fraud Risk Management degree. Any other modules for which

students have obtained credits will show a code, indicating that credit was granted for the relevant module.

Students will be allowed one opportunity to rewrite the upgrade examination in any of the modules they have not passed during their first attempt at the upgrade examination, being it only one, two or all three of the modules. Such rewriting will take place during the next scheduled upgrade examination opportunity.

iii. Conduct research and deliver the required research output

The Research Methodology module (FRM 809), develops your research skills and capabilities to support the main research project, namely the research article in module FRM 808. In 2026, both modules are geared to support the development of your research capacity and the execution of your research project by the end of October.

A minimum mark of 50% is needed in the assessments in the Research Methodology module to pass and a mark of 50% must be attained in the research article to pass the Research Article module.

Fees

Kindly contact the Client Services Centre with regard to **any queries** related to study fees. (012 420 3111) or email: ssc@up.ac.za. The Unit for Forensic Accounting is unable to provide you with a quotation for study fees.

ICFP Accreditation

The Board of the ICFP (Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners) accredited the University of Pretoria (UP) MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management and the Postgraduate Diploma in Investigative and Forensic Accounting after the assessment of the various programme outcomes. The accreditation of the programme means that the University of Pretoria has put in place the appropriate resources that should enable it to deliver the programme at the required standards and levels of quality.

Students who meet specific educational and practical experience criteria can apply to the ICFP and be awarded the professional designation, (FP)SA (Commercial Forensic Practitioner South Africa) (SAQA ID 848).

Kindly liaise directly with the ICFP to make use of this excellent opportunity (email: chrisdebeer@icfp.co.za or tel +27 12 663 1961)

Procedure to enrol for the MPhil specialising in Fraud Risk Management

Step 1:

Apply online (at www.up.ac.za) for admission to the University of Pretoria and pay an application fee. The University's generic e-mail address is ssc@up.ac.za

This is the only way to apply for admission to the University. You must complete this application by **30 September** of the year preceding the year in which you intend to commence with your formal studies. **International students** must apply on or before **31 August** of the year preceding the year in which you intend to commence with your formal studies.

You are required to upload your academic records and CV when applying online. If you omit this step, your application will be regarded as incomplete and will not be forwarded to our Department. If you have completed credit-bearing short courses via Enterprises University of Pretoria (EUP), please upload these final results as well.

Step 2:

Apply to the Department of Auditing for selection and a departmental application form will be forwarded to you. You will be contacted by the Department of Auditing to confirm the outcome of your application. The departmental application form is available from Ms Lynne van Tonder. (e-mail: lynne.vantonder@up.ac.za) and **must** be submitted to her on or before the closing date.

Important – applicants who have successfully completed credit-bearing short courses via Enterprises University of Pretoria (EUP), are required to provide full details of the course they completed in the departmental application form (course name, date, result). We need this information to verify your results.

Step 3:

Some candidates **may** also be required to attend an interview at the University. In such instances, you will receive a formal letter informing you of the outcome of your application by 30 October in the year in which you made the appointment.

Foreign students – Please note:

All postgraduate students with international qualifications are required to submit an evaluation from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, 0083, Tel +27 12 431 5000 or 0860 010 3188.

All postgraduate students must be proficient in English as it is the official language of tuition, communication and correspondence at the University of Pretoria. Candidates who cannot provide evidence that previous studies were completed in English, must

submit TOEFL or IELTS or Pearson Test of English or Oxford Test of English test results with their application.

Please send the results of the above-mentioned English proficiency tests to Ms R Steenkamp. Tel +27 12 420 3347, or email: ronel.steenkamp@up.ac.za as soon as possible

General Enquiries

For general enquiries please contact Ms Lynne van Tonder on +2712 420 3407 or on e-mail: lynne.vantonder@up.ac.za

PhD specialising in Fraud Risk Management

For those students who want to further their studies in this field, kindly take note that a PhD specialising in Fraud Risk Management is currently offered by the University of Pretoria, but capacity is exceedingly limited.