

Department of Business Management

MPhil in Business Management
Option: Supply Chain Management



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



GENERAL INFORMATION 2023/2024

Academic plan: 07255285 | Academic programme: CM018

Make today matter

1. Why study Supply Chain Management?

Supply chain managers oversee some of the most essential business processes affecting the profitability of firms today. These managers are responsible for synchronising the flow of products, information, and funds between their organisations and both their suppliers and customers in a way that adds value for the end consumers of their products.

In today's turbo-charged competitive environment, supply chain managers are increasingly part of their organisation's strategic management teams that work to competitively position their organisation and their supply chain in a global marketplace.

As logistics and supply chain networks become increasingly complex, with tighter deadlines and greater financial risks from disruptions, supply chain professionals can benefit from additional education and credentials to assist them in their current position or to advance their careers in logistics or supply chain management.

A master's degree in supply chain management can give you the higher-order skills and abilities to think in tandem about the people, processes, and technologies required for world-class integrated supply chain management.

The programme content focuses on key issues such as the fundamental theory of supply chain management, contemporary issues in supply chain management and strategic management.



2. Who should apply?

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Business Management option Supply Chain Management degree programme is designed for professionals who want to attain an advanced degree while continuing to work for their respective organisations.

Although many individuals in the programme have academic credentials in supply chain management, the programme is also appropriate if your education and/or experience may be in other commerce disciplines or in sciences and engineering.



3. Career opportunities

Organisations in virtually every industry, including nonprofit and government sectors, use supply chains in their daily operations. As a graduate of this degree programme you can be prepared for a variety of senior-level supply chain management positions such as:

- Director of supply chain operations
- Senior supply chain analyst
- Chief Logistics Officer
- Performance improvement manager
- Supply chain technical analyst
- Supply chain solutions manager
- Distribution Executive
- Logistics manager
- Commodity manager

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4. Admission requirements

- The minimum entry requirements are an appropriate honours degree with at least 60% average and sufficient exposure to Supply Chain Management to the satisfaction of the Head of Department.
- Selection takes place based on the above criteria. Selection is not guaranteed as the department receives many applications annually and can only admit a limited number of students in each programme based on academic credentials.
- A BTech degree is not recognised as an equivalent to an honours degree.
- An English language proficiency test may be required as all class discussions, assignments, tests, examination papers and textbooks are in English.
- The Head of the Department can prescribe any additional modules on honours level to ensure that the candidate complies with all the requirements. Any additional modules will serve only as prerequisites for admission into the programme and will not count towards the credits required for the degree.
- A maximum of 15 students will be admitted per annum.

5. 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 on a Monday evening from 17:30 – 21:00 during the 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. Students have a maximum of two years to complete the MPhil degree but it is advisable to complete the programme in one year.



6. Curriculum



Semester 1		Credits
OBS 817	Theory of Supply Chain Management	(25)
OBS 811	Strategic Management	(20)
NME 804	Research Methodology	(20)
Semester 2		
OBS 818	Contemporary issues in Supply Chain Management	(25)
OBS 898	Mini-dissertation: Research Article	(90)

*All modules must be passed.

7. 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.

8. 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.



9. 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



10. Application process



Online applications can be done at [www.up.ac.za](#). Alternatively, the form can be downloaded at the Student Service Centre (SSC).

and the application fee can be paid with a credit card. The fee can be 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](#).



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 (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) 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](#).



11. 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.



12. Closing dates

The closing date for applications for admission is 30 September preceding the year of first registration. The closing date for applications for students with international qualifications is 31 August preceding the year of first registration.



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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).

The fees for 2023 are as follows:

- Registration fee: R10 000 per annum (payable during January before online registration)
- Total course fees: R55 454 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 2024.

Additional information about the registration and tuition fees may be obtained on the University's web page (www.up.ac.za/student-fees) or from the Student Service Centre (tel. 012 420 3111, e-mail: 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 2024?

You will be informed during December 2023 whether your application for admission as an MPhil student in 2024 was successful or not. If successful, you should formally register as an MPhil student during January 2024 and preferably complete your online registration before 31 January 2024.

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 2025.

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 ± 12 participants (in the case of a qualitative study) or survey $\pm 150 - 200$ respondents (in the case of quantitative studies).