



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

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### Department of Business Management

# MPHIL STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT

Programme code: 07255244

## What is the degree about?

Communication is pivotal in organisations, be it on a technical, managerial or strategic level in corporate, public or non-governmental organisations. From this perspective, communication specialists help organisations to articulate their strategic goals, build and maintain relationships with different stakeholders and protect corporate reputations. The programme equips students with the required knowledge to create value and function on the executive level in organisations.



## Why study MPhil (Strategic Communication Management)

The MPhil (Strategic Communication Management) degree programme aims to introduce students to this dynamic area of specialisation and help them develop key skills for career opportunities in a wide range of contexts.

This field also offers continuous professional development (CDP) courses through the relevant local and international professional bodies.



## Who should apply?

The MPhil (Strategic Communication Management) degree programme is designed for professionals who want to attain an advanced degree while continuing to work.

**Although individuals in the programme have academic credentials in Communication Management, the programme is also appropriate if your education and/or experience are in other disciplines such as Business Management and/or Marketing Management.**



## Career opportunities

Completing this qualification will give practitioners the combined business and communication knowledge and skills to advance through levels of management and strategy to the highest levels of corporate management. The awareness of important concepts such as reputation management, stakeholder relationship management and strategic corporate communication and its influence on corporate governance will open career opportunities to practitioners in the corporate and consulting environment.

## Application and entry requirements

The Department of Business Management admits approximately 25 students into the MPhil (Strategic Communication Management) programme per year. Selection is based on the final marks for major subjects achieved in the final year of study, as stipulated in the minimum requirements.

The minimum entry requirements are an appropriate undergraduate and honours degree (NQF level 8) with at least 60% average and sufficient exposure to Communication Management and or/Business Management and/or Marketing Management to the satisfaction of the Head of Department.

- A relevant undergraduate and honours degree.
- A BTech degree is not recognised as an equivalent to an honours degree.
- Selection is not guaranteed as the department can only admit a limited number of students in each programme based on academic credentials.
- Selection interviews will be conducted in November 2024.
- There are no electives and all modules must be passed.



**A complete, certified academic record must accompany applications. Applicants from other universities must provide the Department with sufficient proof that they have complied with the minimum admission requirements.**

The Department will use e-mail to correspond with applicants. The official UP e-mail address will be used to correspond with prospective students. Applicants who have not heard from the Department by December 2024 must contact the Department of Business Management to determine the outcome of their application.

## Important dates

31 August 2024	Closing date for international applicants
30 September 2024	Closing date for South African applications
20 November 2024	Shortlisted applicants notified
25 – 27 November 2024	Selection interviews
11 December 2024	Accepted applicants notified

## How should I apply?

- Prospective students can apply online at
- All postgraduate students with international qualifications must submit an evaluation from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). More information can be obtained from
- International students may contact the International Cooperation Division for more information at

If you experience difficulty with the application process, please contact the Student Service Centre via email or telephonically +27 012 420 3111.



## STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme consists of coursework subjects 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. 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.

### **KOB 811 Strategic Communication Management**

Module code: KOB 811

Module name: Strategic Communication Management

#### **Module content:**

The purpose of the module is to investigate the management of communication in excellent organisations from the perspective of the Chief Communication Officer (CCO). Focus areas include stakeholder and public relationship management, corporate brand and reputation management, communicative and social value creation, and communication technology.

Credits: 25

Semester: Semester 2

### **KOB 810 Communication Management Theory**

Module code: KOB 810

Module name: Communication Management Theory

#### **Module content:**

The objective of KOB 810 (Communication theory) is to apply theory to academic research and practice. This will be achieved by critically reading and studying, communication theories, and evaluating the practical value they hold for communication management as a field of study and as a profession.

Credits: 25

Semester: Semester 1

## OBS 811 Strategic Management

Module code: OBS 811

Module name: Strategic Management

### Module content:

The module introduces key principles and concepts of strategy; competitive strategy; emergent and deliberate strategy; formulation of strategy; analysis of the external and internal environment; stakeholder analysis; competitive advantage; shareholder value; strategy and performance; hyper-competition; corporate and business level strategy.

An advanced strategic management simulation that is online and interactive is included in the subject to apply competitive strategy principles, and to foster team collaboration.

Credits: 20

Semester: Semester 1

## NME 804 Research Methodology

Module code: NME 804

Module name: Research Methodology 804

### Module content:

Strong emphasis on basic and applied research, with the aim of working towards academic publication and a doctorate.

Credits: 20

Semester: Semester 1 (weekly contact sessions)

## OBS 898 Mini Dissertation

Module code: OBS 898

Module name: Mini Dissertation: Research Article 898

### Module content:

This module equips the student to conduct independent research by executing a research project on a relevant topic, of which the findings are reported in an academic article.

Credits: 90

Semester: Semester 1



### 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 and November/December each year.
- 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 the document: "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

Alternatively, please contact the Student Service Centre +27 12 420 3111 or for finance related queries.

## Application process

Prospective students can apply online at [www.wits.ac.za](#) and the application fee can be paid with a credit card. Alternatively, the form can be downloaded at [www.wits.ac.za](#) and submitted to the Student Service Centre (SSC).

All postgraduate students with international qualifications must 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 must also write the international TOEFL ( [www.toefl.com](#) ) or IELTS ( [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.wits.ac.za](#)



### 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.



### Selection

- Selection into the MPhil programme is not guaranteed as the Department receives many applications annually and can only admit a limited number of students. Selection takes place 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.



### Enquiries

For administrative queries kindly contact:

**Postgraduate coordinator: Sipho Noko**  
**Department of Business Management**  
Economic and Management Sciences Building

Tel: +27 12 420 6257  
Email: [siphonoko@wits.ac.za](#)

**Programme Lead: Dr Tsietsi Mmutle**  
**Department of Business Management**

Tel: +27 12 420 2698  
Email: [tsietsi@wits.ac.za](#)

EMS Faculty Student Advisor:

**Ms Thabiso Motsei**  
**Faculty Administration**  
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Tel: +27 12 420 4435  
Email: [thabiso@wits.ac.za](#)

[PLEASE SEE THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS \(FAQS\) ON THE NEXT PAGE >](#)



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

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

Most students complete the MPhil degree 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 the MPhil degree in one academic year. You must 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 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 2024 are as follows:

- Registration fee: R 12 500 per annum (payable during January before online registration)
- Total course fees: R 58 780 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 2025.

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 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, 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 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 2025?

You will be informed during December 2024 whether your application for admission was successful or not. If successful, you should formally register as an MPhil student during January 2025 and preferably complete your online registration before 31 January 2025.

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 MPhil degree. 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).