



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

Make today matter

www.up.ac.za

Department of Business Management

MPHIL IN RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Programme code 07255286

What's the degree about?

Leadership is seen as the ultimate solution for or cause of our problems. This is one of the reasons that humanity has committed significant amounts of time to understand good and effective leadership. Globally society is facing a set of complex interrelated challenges all of which shape the social, economic and environmental realities within which we live.

Given the increasing political and economic influence of private sector organisations, there is an increased need for considering how these organisations position themselves in relation to society and how they consider and exercise their responsibility towards society as a whole.

The University of Pretoria's MPhil in Business Management Option: Responsible leadership is dedicated to continuing the exploration of the important themes and questions within the field of leadership and how it can contribute to promoting the role of business organisations as agents able to create value for society at large.



Why choose the MPhil Responsible Leadership programme?

The programme is unique in its approach and focus. The programme helps participants to understand the nuances of the context in which organisations are expected to enact their corporate social responsibilities as a member of society. The programme will enable participants to understand the various interventions geared towards addressing points where social and environmental challenges overlap with the operations and material issues of business. Understanding the context and history of corporate social responsibility interventions and leadership will allow participants to identify key points of intervention for promoting social and environmental goals.



Course outline

- This one-year programme consists of coursework and a research proposal and a mini-dissertation. The coursework part of the degree programme as well as the research proposal is offered during the first semester of the year. The mini-dissertation is offered as a year module.
- All lectures, tests and examination sessions will be conducted at the University of Pretoria's main campus in Hatfield – attendance of all contact sessions is compulsory.

Curriculum

One year full time programme:

Semester 1		
OBS 811 (20 Credits)	Strategic Management	This module focuses on the key concepts and principles of strategy. It addresses the formulation, implementation and measurement of various forms of strategy and provides students with the skills to do contextual and internal resource analysis. This is linked with basic concepts of leadership and how it relates to responsible leadership in thinking and application.
OBS 820 (25 Credits)	Business and Society	The aim of this module is to develop an understanding of the role of business in a complex multi- stakeholder society. The module will reflect on the state of major sustainability systems (natural environment, society and economy) and the role and impact of business on those.
OBS 819 (25 Credits)	Responsible Leadership	This module critically analyses individual and collective leadership responsibility with a particular emphasis on business leadership and its role in shaping a sustainable future. The aim of the module is to develop an appreciation for the emerging theories on leadership and alternative views on the role and nature of leadership.
NME 807 (20 Credits)	Research Methodology	The focus of this module is to assist students to conceptualise their research projects and finalise their research proposals.
Semesters 1 and 2		
OBS 860 (90 Credits)	Mini-dissertation: Business Management	The vast majority of the time in the second semester will be devoted to assisting students to write their mini-dissertations.



Who should apply?

The programme has in the past drawn a diverse group of participants from across all sectors. Given the nature of the challenges this course focuses on, leaders and managers from all industries can benefit from the programme. The programme has proven to be of use for managers in the non-profit sector and individuals charged with managing the corporate social responsibility projects and departments for corporates as well as those charged with the management of the engagement process with stakeholders.

What are the entry requirements?

- The minimum entry requirements is an appropriate honours degree (NQFlevel 8) with at least 60% average.
- A BTech degree is not recognised as an equivalent to an honours degree.
- 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.
- An academic writing proficiency test may be required.

How should you apply?

- Applications are done online at
- 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
- International students may contact the International Cooperation Division for more information at

Key dates

31 August 2025	Application closing date for international residents
30 September 2025	Application closing date for South African residents
20 November 2025	Shortlisted applicants notified
25 – 27 November 2025	Selection interviews
11 December 2025	Accepted applicants notified



Contact sessions

The dates for the first semester orientation and contact sessions will be communicated in December of 2025.

Note: Applicants will be contacted in November and asked to submit motivation letters and a short academic essay as part of the application process.



What are the costs?

Full particulars concerning university fees and applicable regulations are contained in the Student Fees Guide of the University of Pretoria at



Enquiries

For administrative queries kindly contact:

Postgraduate Coordinator: Carto Abrams-Swarts
Department of Business Management
Economic and Management Sciences Building

Tel: +27 12 420 4271
Email:

Academic queries: Mr Pieter Conradie
Department of Business Management

Tel: +27 12 420 5929
Email:

EMS Faculty Student Advisor:

Ms Thabiso Motsei
Faculty Administration
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Tel: +27 12 420 4435
Email:

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 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 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 2025 are as follows:

- Registration fee: R 12 500 per annum (payable during January before online registration)
- Total course fees: R 62 305 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 2026.

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 2026?

You will be informed during December 2024 whether your application for admission as an MPhil student in 2025 was successful or not. If successful, you should formally register as an MPhil student during January 2026 and preferably complete your online registration before 31 January 2026.

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 2026.

7. What does the MPhil research project entail?

The MPhil research project contributes 90 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 will be qualitative and you will work within the parameters provided to you by the course co-ordinators. Your study leader will guide you to refine your research topic.