



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

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Department of Business Management

MPHIL IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Programme code 07255181

What's the degree about?

The rapidly changing structure of the employment market in South Africa has a direct impact on the employability of ordinary South Africans – more and more, economic growth is based on individual skills, competencies and services offered. Entrepreneurship has become the universal mainstay for most countries as a catalyst of competencies and services-based economic development.

In emerging economies, such as South Africa, entrepreneurship is seen as a solution to low economic growth, unemployment, poverty and social exclusion. Entrepreneurs oversee some of the most essential business processes and challenges affecting the profitability of firms today.

The MPhil degree in Entrepreneurship can give you the higher-order competencies to think in tandem about the opportunities, people, processes, and technologies required to operate within an entrepreneurial environment.



Why choose the MPhil Entrepreneurship programme?

The programme content focuses on the entrepreneurial start-up and action processes, creativity and opportunity recognition, business planning, social entrepreneurship, performance motivation and marketing as well as financial management within the context of entrepreneurship enablement and development. Furthermore, the programme emphasises entrepreneurial growth and small business policy development with relevance to the enabling environment. Students are required to conduct empirical research on a cutting edge entrepreneurship topic.



Course outline

- This one-year programme consists of coursework (block contact sessions), a research proposal and research article.
- The research proposal is offered during the first semester of the year.
- The research article is offered during the second semester of the year.
- The coursework is offered in the first and second semester of the year. Attendance of all contact sessions is compulsory.
- All lectures, tests and examination sessions will be conducted at the University of Pretoria's main campus in Hatfield.

Curriculum

One year full time programme:

Module code	Module name	Semester	Credits
ENP 822	Entrepreneurial start-up process	1 st	25
ENP 843	Entrepreneurial growth process	2 nd	25
OBS 811	Strategic Management	1 st	20
NME 804	Research Methodology (proposal)	1 st	20
OBS 898	Mini dissertation: Research Article	2 nd	90



Who should apply?

The degree programme is designed and intended for individuals who work in an entrepreneurial environment and are involved with small business development. Although many students in the programme have academic credentials in entrepreneurship or business management, the programme is also appropriate if your education and/or experience may be in other commerce disciplines or in sciences and engineering.

The programme focuses specifically on research and entrepreneurial development, therefore individuals should display exceptional motivation in these areas.

What are the entry requirements?

- The minimum entry requirements are a Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship OR an appropriate honours degree (NQF level 8) with atleast 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
October 2025	Shortlisted applicants invited to writing assessment and selection interview
November 2025	Final selection



Contact sessions

The contact session schedule will be shared with successful applicants in December 2025.



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:

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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 62 375 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 2025 whether your application for admission as an MPhil student in 2026 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.