**Department of Plant and Soil Sciences**

**Application for the BScHons (Plant Science) and BScHons (Medicinal Plant Science) programmes**

Dear prospective honours students,

If you are interested in applying for a BScHons (Plant Science) or BScHons (Medicinal Plant Science) please take note of the following information:

In the BScHons (Plant Science) we have several streams you can join and these include: **Diversity, Plant Ecology, Plant Pathology, Plant Physiology, Plant Biotechnology**

**There is a dual application process:**

1. You must download the **internal departmental application** form from the [Department’s webpage](https://www.up.ac.za/plant-and-soil-sciences/article/45005/postgraduate-degrees-in-plant-and-soil-sciences#BScHons:%20Plant%20Science%20application%20information). This form must be completed and submitted to Dr Nicky Creux (Nicole.creux@fabi.up.ac.za). This form requires you to select which streams you would like to be considered for. If you are unsure, it is recommended you speak with lecturers in each stream/division before making your selection. This form also requires you to provide information about a lecturer you have discussed the programme with and your preferred research interest. It is highly recommended that you speak with several lecturers and see if and what honours projects they have available. The Honours 2025 book will provide a brief overview of the different lecturers and their broad topics they work on, but it is your responsibility to contact them and see if they have projects available for 2025 and are willing to supervise you.
2. You must also apply online through the **UP online application system** so that Faculty Admin can track your application and get you entered on the system. If you are not a previous UP student please note you need to upload you transcripts from your previous institution.

**Study programme:** The duration of an honours degree is one year. Under exceptional circumstances, an extension of one year may be approved by the relevant dean. Modules include theoretical work and practical work, which will be done under guidance during practical blocks on campus (February, March, April and August). Students are also expected to do a practical project involving either laboratory or field work. The total number of credits should add up to 135.

**Outcomes:** are determined by the combination of modules selected. Students may be qualified to do environmental impact assessments (EIA), identify plants, use and develop plant classification systems, extract and isolate bioactive compounds from medicinal plants, employ molecular biological techniques for crop improvement or advanced crop protection, appreciate the complex phytodiversity of southern Africa and its economic potential, advise on the wise and sustainable utilisation of the diversity, become entrepreneurs, consult on matters ranging from environmental impact studies and wildlife management to genetically modified (GM) plants. An Honours degree in Plant Science, Medicinal Plant Science or Biotechnology enables students to subsequently register for a Masters and eventually a Doctorate degree, and so enhance their understanding and appreciation for the extraordinary world of plants. Plant pathologists on the other hand qualify as specialists in crop protection, soil health, seed health, nursery management, postharvest pathologists, tree health specialists, plant virologists and many other scarce skills building dynamic interesting career paths for themselves.

**Aim of the degree:** After completion of the Honours degree the student should have sufficient intensive theoretical subject knowledge to be able to apply it independently, to show insight and be capable of discussing the subject with confidence. The student must be able to identify and formulate a problem, compile a project proposal with the necessary literature survey, conduct research under guidance and present a report in the form of a mini-dissertation and final oral presentation.

**Prerequisites:** A BSc-degree with several Plant Science modules on third year level is a requirement. A GPA of 60% or higher for the final year is required to be accepted for the Honours study. Each application will be considered individually, and the Head of Department will, after an academic staff meeting, make a final decision on whether an applicant will be accepted for the Honours course in Plant Science or Medicinal Plant Science.

**Closing date:** All applications for admission to the BSc Honours degree will have two rounds of selection. **The first round** of selections closes on the **15th of AUGUST** and pre-selections will be made for students with a 65% cumulative average for 300 level subjects and a preferred supervisors has been identified and a project discussed. For all students **the second round** of applications must preferably reach the course co-coordinator BEFORE, OR ON THE **31st of OCTOBER** of the year preceding the intended study.

Please contact Dr Nicky Creux (Nicole.creux@fabi.up.ac.za) if you have further questions. For information on Biotechnology Applications (david.nsibo@up.ac.za), Agric (diana.marais@up.ac.za) and Soil Science (leushantha.mudaly@up.ac.za) programmes, please contact the relevant coordinators.

Kind regards

Plant Science BScHons Coordinator 2025