
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

MSc Option: Forest Management and the Environment (Coursework) (03251039)

Duration of study 2 years

Total credits 180

Programme information

The Centre for Environmental Studies is a graduate school for multidisciplinary training and research focusing on the environment. Training aims to satisfy the need for environmental professionals for implementing current environmental legislation as well as industry-driven environmental management systems.

This programme is coordinated by the Department of Plant Production and Soil Science.

The purpose of this option is to equip graduates with a biological and/or agricultural background to specialise further to obtain skills in environmental management and in sustainable forest resource use and management. On completion of the training, candidates should be conversant with the multifunctional nature of the forest resource base and be equipped to render advice concerning forest resource use and management with an understanding of the environmental consequences associated with exploitative use of natural resources. This includes grounding in forest resource use and management, including yield regulations in natural and commercial forest systems, participatory approaches to natural resource management, ecosystem structure, composition and function, ecosystem services, notions of ecosystem health, control of invasive species and community restoration, understanding of local communities, forestry and rural development, participatory planning and monitoring, the forest harvesting schedules and logistics, non-timber forest products, the science of wood and forest wood products utilisation, understanding of the basic economics of natural resources and social development and planning.

The MSc degree is conferred on the grounds of a dissertation and such additional postgraduate coursework as may be prescribed.

Renewal of registration

As long as progress is satisfactory, renewal of the registration of a master's student will be accepted for the second year of the study. Registration for a third and subsequent years will only take place when the Student Administration of the Faculty receives a written motivation that is supported by the head of department and Postgraduate Studies Committee.

General

Candidates are required to familiarise themselves with the General Regulations regarding the maximum period of registration and the requirements on the submission of a draft article for publication.

Admission requirements

Candidates must have either a three-year BSc and a BScHons or a four-year degree qualification in agricultural forestry or biological sciences. Admission is subject to the approval of the Forestry Chair in consultation with the Director of the Centre for Environmental Studies.

Additional requirements

Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in the English language up to the level required by either the TOEFL test (www.ets.org/toefl) or the IELTS language proficiency test (www.ielts.org).

Promotion to next study year

The progress of all master's candidates is monitored biannually by the supervisor and the postgraduate coordinator. A candidate's study may be terminated if the progress is unsatisfactory or if the candidate is unable to finish his/her studies during the prescribed period.

Subject to exceptions approved by the dean, on recommendation of the head of department, and where applicable, a student may not enter for the master's examination in the same module more than twice.

Pass with distinction

The MSc degree is conferred with distinction to candidates who obtain a final average mark of at least 75% and a mark of at least 75% for the dissertation/mini-dissertation from each of the members of the examination panel. Where a member of the examination panel awards a mark of less than 75% for the dissertation/mini-dissertation, that member of the examination panel must offer, in writing, support for his/her decision, or indicate in writing that he/she supports the examination committee's decision to confer the degree with distinction.



Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 180

Core modules

[Environmental paradigms 810](#) (ENV 810) - Credits: 15.00

[Research project 891](#) (ENV 891) - Credits: 90.00

[Environmental law 816](#) (ENV 816) - Credits: 15.00

[General introduction to forestry 831](#) (FOR 831) - Credits: 15.00

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 180

Core modules

[Environmental paradigms 810](#) (ENV 810) - Credits: 15.00

[Research project 891](#) (ENV 891) - Credits: 90.00

[Environmental law 816](#) (ENV 816) - Credits: 15.00

[General introduction to forestry 831](#) (FOR 831) - Credits: 15.00

Elective modules

[Strategic environmental management 822](#) (ENS 822) - Credits: 15.00

[Environment and land reform 823](#) (ENS 823) - Credits: 15.00

[International environmental management systems 822](#) (ENV 822) - Credits: 15.00

[Environmental change 881](#) (OMS 881) - Credits: 15.00

[Trees in a multifunctional landscape 833](#) (ENV 833) - Credits: 15.00

[Forest resource use planning and management 832](#) (FOR 832) - Credits: 15.00

[Forest engineering 833](#) (FOR 833) - Credits: 15.00

[Wood science and forest products 834](#) (FOR 834) - Credits: 15.00

[Silviculture 836](#) (FOR 836) - Credits: 15.00

[Forest resource economics and policy 831](#) (LEK 831) - Credits: 20.00

[Forest ecology and management 835](#) (FOR 835) - Credits: 15.00

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section. Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.