BSc Biochemistry

Life at the cellular and molecular level depends on the specific interaction and cooperation of many individual biomolecules. To understand life at a fundamental level, biochemists study the role of individual biomolecules and relate this function to its unique structure. Challenges of global relevance, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, antimicrobial drug resistance and other human or animal diseases are addressed by using flow cytometry, cell sorting, biophysical analysis, protein crystallography, genome analysis, selective gene expression and metabolic profiles. Biochemists can work in medicine, veterinary science, the food and pharmaceutical industries and agriculture, and many other fields.

First-year students are exposed to a range of biological and physical science subjects to ensure a firm scientific basis. In the second and third years, they delve deeper into biochemistry, combining theoretical lectures with appropriate practical studies to learn the principles and methodology of research. In the third year, the study of the genome, transcriptome, proteome and lipidome of a living cell is pursued. Proteome analysis, crystallography, cell structure and function, enzymology and immunology are applied to understand the molecular basis of disease.

Ideally, biochemistry is combined with chemistry, microbiology, genetics, human physiology, plant science, zoology and food science. All these subjects include both theoretical and practical aspects. Students may choose elective modules related to their studies.

Postgraduate studies in Biochemistry include honours, master's and doctoral degrees. The one-year honours degree is open to students from the biological or chemical sciences and includes exposure to a range of technologies, some self-study and a research project. At the master's and doctoral levels, students conduct research in fields such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, anti-microbial drug resistance, diabetes, other human diseases and plant-derived medicines.

For more information, please consult the Faculty webpage.

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Career Opportunities

Biochemistry offers many opportunities for exciting and challenging careers in the food and pharmaceutical, fine chemicals and waste processing industries. Careers at research councils, such as the Medical Research Council (MRC), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) and the Water Research Commission (WRC) are possibilities, as are academic institutions, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and forensic and pathology laboratories. Career opportunities include those of researcher, teacher, lecturer and medical representative. Graduates are comfortable in work environments such as universities, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology companies and related industries.

Programme Code

02133398

Closing Dates

Applications for this plan have closed.

Admission Requirements

Important information for all prospective students for 2022

- The admission requirements apply to students who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a **National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications.**
- **Applicants with qualifications other than the abovementioned** should refer to:
  - **Brochure:** Undergraduate Programme Information 2022: Qualifications other than the NSC and IEB, available at click here.
- **Citizens from countries other than South Africa (applicants who are not South African citizens)** should also refer to:
  - **Brochure:** Newcomer's Guide 2021, available at click here.
  - **Website:** click here.

- **School of Tomorrow (SOT), Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) and General Education Development Test (GED):** The University of Pretoria no longer accepts qualifications awarded by these institutions.
- **National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) Level 4:** The University of Pretoria may consider NCV candidates, provided they meet the exemption for bachelor's status criteria and the programme requirements.

Transferring students

A transferring student is a student who, at the time of application for a degree programme at the University of Pretoria (UP) –

- is a registered student at another tertiary institution, **or** was previously registered at another tertiary institution and did not complete the programme enrolled for at that institution, and is not currently enrolled at a tertiary institution, **or** has completed studies at another tertiary institution, but is not currently enrolled at a tertiary institution, **or** has started with tertiary studies at UP, then moved to another tertiary institution and wants to be readmitted at UP.

A transferring student will be considered for admission based on

- an NSC or equivalent qualification with exemption to bachelor's or diploma studies (whichever is applicable); **and** meeting the minimum faculty-specific subject requirements at NSC or tertiary level; **or** having completed a higher certificate at a tertiary institution with faculty-specific subjects/modules passed (equal to or more than 50%), as well as complying with faculty rules on admission;
- previous academic performance (must have passed all modules registered for up to the closing date of application) or as per faculty regulation/promotion requirements;
- a certificate of good conduct.

Note: Students who have been dismissed at the previous institution due to poor academic performance, will not be considered for admission to UP.

Returning students

A returning student is a student who, at the time of application for a degree programme –

- is a registered student at UP, and wants to transfer to another degree at UP, **or** was previously registered at UP and did not complete the programme enrolled for, and did not enrol at another tertiary institution in the meantime (including students who applied for leave of absence), **or** has completed studies at UP, but is not currently enrolled or was not enrolled at another tertiary institution after graduation.

A returning student will be considered for admission based on

- an NSC or equivalent qualification with exemption to bachelor's or diploma studies (whichever is applicable); **and** meeting the minimum faculty-specific subject requirements at NSC or tertiary level; **or** previous academic performance (should have a cumulative weighted average of at least 50% for the programme enrolled for);
- having applied for and was granted leave of absence.

Note: Students who have been excluded/dismissed from a faculty due to poor academic performance may be considered for admission to another programme at UP. The Admissions Committee may consider such students if they were not dismissed more than twice. Only ONE transfer between UP faculties will be allowed, and a maximum of two (2) transfers within a faculty.

Important faculty-specific information on undergraduate programmes for 2022

- The closing date is an administrative admission guideline for non-selection programmes. Once a non-selection programme is full and has reached the institutional targets, then that programme will be closed for further admissions, irrespective of the closing date. However, if the institutional targets have not been met by the closing date, then that programme will remain open for admissions until the institutional targets are met.
- The following persons will be considered for admission: Candidates who have a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required National Senior Certificate (NSC) with university endorsement; candidates who are graduates from another tertiary institution or have been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution, and candidates who are graduates of another faculty at the University of Pretoria.
- Life Orientation is excluded when calculating the Admission Point Score (APS).
- Grade 11 results are used for the conditional admission of prospective students. Final admission is based on the final NSC/IEB results.

University of Pretoria website: click here

Minimum requirements Achievement level English Home Language or English First Additional Language	**Mathematics**	**Physical Sciences**	**APS**
NSC/IEB 5	NSC/IEB 5	NSC/IEB 5	**32**

Candidates who do not comply with the minimum admission requirements for BSc (Biochemistry), may be considered for admission to the BSc – Extended programme – Biological and Agricultural Sciences, which requires an additional year of study.

BSc – Extended Programme – Biological and Agricultural Sciences

Minimum requirements			
Achievement level			
English Home Language or English First Additional Language	**Mathematics**	**Physical Sciences**	**APS**
NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	NSC/IEB	
4	4	4	**26**

Note:

*The BSc – Extended programmes are not available for students who meet all the requirements for the corresponding mainstream programme.

*Please note that only students who apply in their final NSC or equivalent qualification year will be considered for admission into any of the BSc – Extended programmes.

Duration of study

3 years, full-time.

Faculty Notes

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is home to more than 6 500 undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Faculty presents degrees in fields ranging from the proverbial A to Z – from actuaries to zoologists, and consists of 13 departments.

All degree programmes are designed to develop problem-solving individuals who can easily adapt to changing circumstances and take the lead in their chosen fields of specialisation. The qualifications awarded are of world-class and provide access to a multitude of career opportunities for dynamic and creative people. According to the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings the University has achieved new world rankings in Physical Sciences, a discipline which features strongly in NAS and also maintains excellent positions on the ISI Web of Science (WOS) field rankings in Plant and Animal Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Environment and Ecology Sciences.

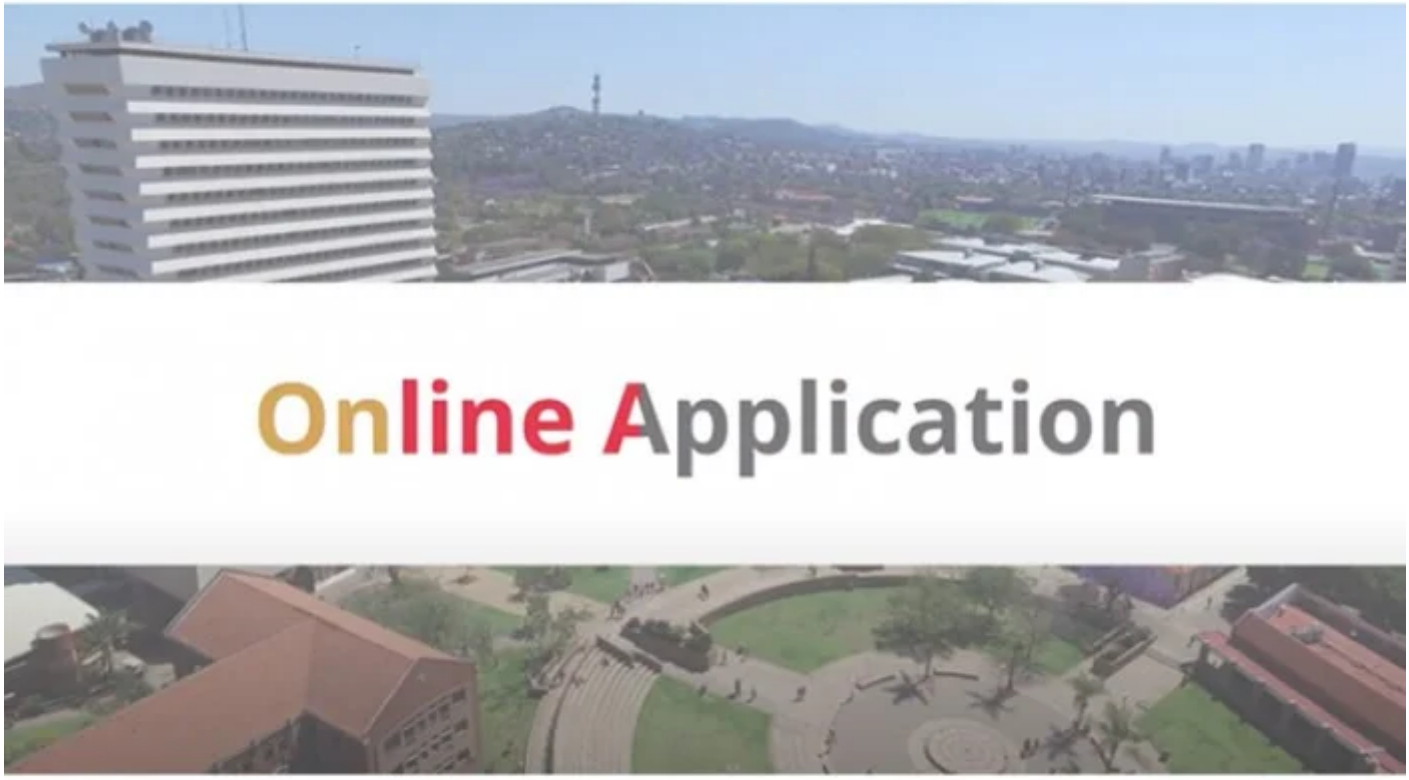
In the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, we strive to continuously improve our high impact research and significantly address the national shortage of PhD graduates that respond to global and

local challenges.

Enquiries about the programme

Click Here

How to apply


Online Application

Note: Also consult General Rules and Information on the Yearbook website for additional information.

Disclaimer: Due to the continuous restructuring of the Faculty and this website, some of the information displayed here may not fully reflect the most recent developments in the Faculty. Any discrepancies that are experienced may be taken up with Student Administration of the Faculty.