
University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

MPhil MPhil (04250002)

Duration of study 1 year

Total credits 200

Programme information

If admitted, a student can register immediately for the MPhil programme. The following two or three modules must be registered for and completed within one year of registration:

1. Research methodology (RHP 802) offered by the Faculty of Law.

(If the student can show sufficient evidence of competence in research skills required at postgraduate level the Postgraduate Committee of the Faculty of Law on recommendation of the supervisor, may exempt the student from this module.)

2. Research proposal and oral defence of the research proposal (RHP 804).

An oral defence of the research proposal including an assessment of the feasibility of the dissertation statement, research question or questions and argument to be developed in the MPhil dissertation is required. A draft research proposal including a bibliography that covers the main fields to be covered by the study, the dissertation statement, research question or questions and argument must be sent to the examination panel three weeks prior to the oral defence. (Such a draft research proposal must first be approved by the supervisor.) The student must convince the adjudicating panel of the feasibility of the topic and his or her knowledge of the research subject and ability to conduct the research. Where required by the panel, the draft proposal must be further reworked in light of the comments at the oral defence and a final proposal submitted to the satisfaction of the supervisor before the student may embark on the writing of the dissertation. (No exemption can be granted from this requirement.)

A student who does not complete the abovementioned two modules within one year of registration may be excluded from the Faculty and if he/she seeks readmission to the Faculty, may submit a written request to the Dean that his/her application for readmission to the Faculty be considered in terms of the set procedure.

3. Structured research proposal preparation (RHP 806) (non-credit-bearing)

The supervisor may prescribe that a particular student must follow a structured programme to be determined by the supervisor and approved by the Postgraduate Committee. The supervisor may also set the requirements, as approved by the Postgraduate Committee, for complying with the module.

Admission requirements

At least an honours degree in an academic discipline relevant to legal aspects in South Africa or Africa as well as to the contents of the specific MPhil (coursework) programme,

OR

any other qualification in an academic discipline relevant to legal aspects in South Africa or Africa as well as to the contents of the specific MPhil (coursework) programme that allows admission to a master's programme at the institution where the undergraduate qualification was obtained. If the duration of that

qualification is less than four years, substantial proven practical or professional experience in legal aspects in South Africa or Africa will furthermore be required, subject to the discretion of the Dean.

Foreign qualifications are subject to SAQA evaluation.

A candidate will only be admitted to the MPhil programme if he/she complies with the standard of competence in applicable subjects as determined by the head of department, also taking into account the candidate's academic record and any applicable experience.

A candidate will only be admitted to the MPhil programme if the Faculty can provide a suitable supervisor in light of the applicant's preliminary research proposal.

Additional requirements

Also consult General Regulations G.30-G.56 as well as the LLM/MPhil Policy document of the Faculty of Law.

Research information

With regard to the curriculum, the relevant General Regulations apply and the dissertation counts 100% for the final mark. The dissertation consists of 36 000-48 000 words – including footnotes but excluding the list of contents and the bibliography. The topic of the dissertation must be relevant to a discipline in the field of legal studies, and be approved by the Dean. The final copy of the dissertation must be accompanied by a proof of submission of an article to a journal. The article must be based on the research that the student has conducted for the dissertation and be approved by the supervisor.

Agreement

A written agreement between the student and supervisor should be signed. The document serves as the basis for the interaction between the student and the supervisor. It indicates their individual roles, responsibilities and expectations and making it clear that they are entering into a binding undertaking with each other. The supervisor has the responsibility to ensure that the mini-dissertation is properly prepared by the student.

Pass with distinction

For the degree to be awarded with distinction a student must obtain a minimum of 75% for the dissertation.



Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 100

Fundamental modules

Research methodology 802 (RHP 802)

Module content:

(a) Planning and organising a research project (b) Drafting a research proposal: Hypotheses and Research question (c) Theory in research and methodological approaches to legal research (d) Language (e) Citation and ethics of citation (f) Drafting of chapters and presentation (g) Substantive themes in legal research

Module credits	5.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 seminars
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Jurisprudence
Period of presentation	Semester 1 and Semester 2

Research proposal and oral defence of the research proposal 804 (RHP 804)

Module credits	0.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Double Medium
Academic organisation	Law Dean's Office
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Core modules

Dissertation: Law 890 (MPI 890)

Module content:

Module credits	200.00
Language of tuition	Both Afr and Eng
Academic organisation	Law Dean's Office
Period of presentation	Year





Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 100

Core modules

Dissertation: Law 890 (MPI 890)

Module content:

Module credits	200.00
Language of tuition	Both Afr and Eng
Academic organisation	Law Dean's Office
Period of presentation	Year

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 each student to familiarise himself or herself 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.