University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

BEngHons Microelectronic Engineering (12240191)

Duration of study	1 year
Total credits	128

Programme information

The curriculum is determined in consultation with the relevant heads of departments. A student is required to pass modules to the value of at least 128 credits.

The degree is awarded on the basis of examinations only.

Admission requirements

Subject to the stipulations of Reg. G.1.3 and G.54, a BEng degree or equivalent qualification is required for admission.

Other programme-specific information

Students may take modules to the value of 32 credits from other fields of specialisation or from other departments, with approval of the Coordinator: Postgraduate Studies.

Examinations and pass requirements

i. The examination in each module for which a student is registered, takes place during the normal examination period after the conclusion of lectures (i.e. November/January or June/July).
ii. A student registered for the honours degree must complete his or her studies within two years (full-time), or within three years (part-time) after first registration for the degree: Provided that the Dean, on recommendation of the relevant head of department, may approve a stipulated limited extension of this period.
iii. A student must obtain at least 50% in an examination for each module where no semester or year mark is required. A module may only be repeated once.
iv. In modules where semester or year marks are awarded, a minimum examination mark of 40% and a final mark of 50% is required.
v. No supplementary or special examinations are granted at postgraduate level.

Pass with distinction

A student passes with distinction if he or she obtains a weighted average of at least 75% in the first 128 credits for which he or she has registered (excluding modules which were discontinued timeously). The degree is not awarded with distinction if a student fails any one module (excluding modules which were discontinued timeously).

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 128

Elective modules

Introduction to research 732 (EIN 732)

Module credits	32.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	16 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Electrical, Electronic and Com
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The aim of this module is to teach students to critically evaluate research literature, including conference papers and journal articles, in order to determine the current state of knowledge in a particular specialist area. It will also provide students with the principles of research to enable them to conduct research and prepare an original project in their particular specialist area.

Analogue electronic design 732 (EME 732)

Module credits	32.00
Prerequisites	Analogue electronic design EME732 (E5), 3rd year Electronics or equivalent or permission from the lecturer
Contact time	32 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Electrical, Electronic and Com
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The integrated circuit (IC) or “chip” is the motor of the present electronic revolution. The ever-increasing impact of electronics is driven mainly by large-scale ICs such as processor and memory chips. The electronic circuit techniques used in these chips can only be understood on a deep level by a study of classical analogue electronics aimed at integrated circuit design for fabrication in CMOS, bipolar and BiCMOS processes. In addition, analog circuit techniques perform an essential role in the interfaces between the “real world” and digital systems. Examples are: voltage references, amplifiers, filters, level-converters, buffers. Important topics in this respect are feedback and stability theory as specialized for electronic circuits. The course includes: IC fabrication technology, models for IC transistors, transistor current sources and amplifiers, output stages, operational amplifiers, frequency response and stability of feedback amplifiers, nonlinear and computational circuits.

Communication electronics 732 (EMK 732)

Module credits	32.00

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	32 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Electrical, Electronic and Com
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Introduction to radio communication systems, small signal amplifiers, multistage amplifiers, differential amplifiers, network noise, intermodulation distortion, noise factor and sensitivity, frequency selective networks, impedance matching, high frequency amplifiers, broadbanding techniques, AGC, oscillators, phase-locked loops, PLL applications, frequency synthesizers, power amplifiers, modulators and demodulators, frequency mixers.

Research project: Theory 732 (EPT 732)

Module credits	32.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	10 lectures per week
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Electrical, Electronic and Com
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module will cover the essential theoretical background of the student’s proposed M Eng topic and include inter alia the following:
(i) Field definition and descriptions
(ii) In-depth study into background and theory relevant to the problem to be addressed
(iii) Problem definition and description
(iv) Mathematical simulations of the problem

Research project: Design and laboratory 733 (EPT 733)

Module credits	32.00
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	10 lectures per week
Language of tuition	English
Academic organisation	Electrical, Electronic and Com
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

This module will include extensive laboratory experiments to test the principles and possible solutions of the proposed M Eng research project and will include inter alia the following. These will include hardware and/or software experiments:
(i) Introduction to instrumentation and measuring techniques in general and specifically as applied in the field of research.
(ii) Structured laboratory work to introduce the specific problem investigated for the research undertaken.
(iii) Structured laboratory work to test the proposed solution for the problem addressed.
(iv) Confirmation experiments.