



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2017

BSc Environmental Sciences (02133362)

Duration of study 3 years

Total credits 428

Admission requirements

- The following persons will be considered for admission: a candidate who is in possession of a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required Grade 12 certificate with university endorsement; a candidate who is a graduate from another tertiary institution or has been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution; and a candidate who is a graduate of another faculty at the University of Pretoria.
- Life Orientation is excluded in the calculation of the Admission Point Score (APS).
- Grade 11 results are used for the provisional admission of prospective students. Final admission is based on the Grade 12 results.

Minimum requirements												
Achievement level												
Afrikaans or English				Mathematics				Physical Science				APS
NSC/IEB	HIGCSE	AS-Level	A-Level	NSC/IEB	HIGCSE	AS-Level	A-Level	NSC/IEB	HIGCSE	AS-Level	A-Level	
5	3	C	C	5	3	C	C	5	3	C	C	32

Candidates who do not comply with the minimum admission requirements for BSc (Environmental Sciences), may be considered for admission to the BSc - Extended programme for the Physical Sciences. The BSc - Extended programme takes place over a period of four years instead of the normal three years.

Admission requirements for BSc Extended programme for Physical Sciences:

Minimum requirements												
Achievement level												
Afrikaans or English				Mathematics				Physical Science				APS
NSC/IEB	HIGCSE	AS-Level	A-Level	NSC/IEB	HIGCSE	AS-Level	A-Level	NSC/IEB	HIGCSE	AS-Level	A-Level	
4	3	D	D	4	3	D	D	4	3	D	D	26

Other programme-specific information

A student must pass all the minimum prescribed and elective module credits as set out at the end of each year within a programme as well as the total required credits to comply with the particular degree programme. Please refer to the curricula of the respective programmes. At least 144 credits must be obtained at 300-/400-level, or otherwise as indicated by curriculum. The minimum module credits needed to comply with degree requirements is set out at the end of each study programme. Subject to the programmes as indicated a maximum of 150 credits will be recognised at 100-level. A student may, in consultation with the Head of Department and subject to the permission by the Dean, select or replace prescribed module credits not indicated in BSc three-year study programmes to the equivalent of a maximum of 36 module credits.

It is important that the total number of prescribed module credits is completed during the course of the study

programme. The Dean may, on the recommendation of the Head of Department, approve deviations in this regard. Subject to the programmes as indicated in the respective curricula, a student may not register for more than 75 module credits per semester at first-year level subject to permission by the Dean. A student may be permitted to register for up to 80 module credits in a the first semester during the first year provided that he or she obtained a final mark of no less than 70% for grade 12 Mathematics and achieved an APS of 34 or more in the NSC.

Students who are already in possession of a bachelor's degree, will not receive credit for modules of which the content overlap with modules from the degree that was already conferred. Credits will not be considered for more than half the credits passed previously for an uncompleted degree. No credits at the final-year or 300- and 400-level will be granted.

The Dean may, on the recommendation of the programme manager, approve deviations with regard to the composition of the study programme.

Please note: Where elective modules are not specified, these may be chosen from any modules appearing in the list of modules.

It remains the student's responsibility to ascertain, prior to registration, whether they comply with the prerequisites of the modules they want to register for.

The prerequisites are listed in the Alphabetical list of modules.

Promotion to next study year

A student will be promoted to the following year of study if he or she passed 100 credits of the prescribed credits for a year of study, unless the Dean on the recommendation of the head of department decides otherwise. A student who does not comply with the requirements for promotion to the following year of study, retains the credit for the modules already passed and may be admitted by the Dean, on recommendation of the head of department, to modules of the following year of study to a maximum of 48 credits, provided that it will fit in with both the lecture and examination timetable.

General promotion requirements in the faculty

All students whose academic progress is not acceptable can be suspended from further studies.

- A student who is excluded from further studies in terms of the stipulations of the abovementioned regulations, will be notified in writing by the Dean or Admissions Committee at the end of the relevant semester.
- A student who has been excluded from further studies may apply in writing to the Admissions Committee of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences for re-admission.
- Should the student be re-admitted by the Admissions Committee, strict conditions will be set which the student must comply with in order to proceed with his/her studies.
- Should the student not be re-admitted to further studies by the Admissions Committee, he/she will be informed in writing.
- Students who are not re-admitted by the Admissions Committee have the right to appeal to the Senior Appeals Committee.
- Any decision taken by the Senior Appeals Committee is final.



Pass with distinction

A student obtains his or her degree with distinction if all prescribed modules at 300-level (or higher) are passed in one academic year with a weighted average of at least 75%, and obtain at least a subminimum of 65% in each of the relevant modules.



Curriculum: Year 1

Minimum credits: 140

Minimum credits:

Fundamental = 12

Core = 128

Additional information:

Students who do not qualify for AIM 102 must register for AIM 111 and AIM 121.

Students can take WTW 114 instead of WTW 134 if they meet the entry requirement.

BSc (Geography) and BSc (Environmental Sciences) students may register for WKD 155. Students are not allowed to earn credits for both WKD 155 and WKD 164.

Fundamental modules

Academic information management 111 (AIM 111)

Module credits 4.00

Service modules

Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Education
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
Faculty of Humanities
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Health Sciences
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Theology

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time MAMELODI, 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Information Science

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

Find, evaluate, process, manage and present information resources for academic purposes using appropriate technology.

Academic information management 121 (AIM 121)

Module credits 4.00



Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Faculty of Education Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences Faculty of Humanities Faculty of Law Faculty of Health Sciences Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Faculty of Theology Faculty of Veterinary Science
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Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 2 lectures per week, MAMELODI

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Informatics

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Apply effective search strategies in different technological environments. Demonstrate the ethical and fair use of information resources. Integrate 21st-century communications into the management of academic information.

Language and study skills 110 (LST 110)

Module credits 6.00

Service modules Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Unit for Academic Literacy

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

The module aims to equip students with the ability to cope with the reading and writing demands of scientific disciplines.

Academic orientation 102 (UPO 102)

Module credits 0.00

Language of tuition Afrikaans and English is used in one class

Academic organisation Natural + Agric Sciences Dean

Period of presentation Year

Academic information management 102 (AIM 102)

Module credits 6.00



Service modules Faculty of Education
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
Faculty of Humanities
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Health Sciences
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Theology
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Contact time 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Information Science

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Find, evaluate, process, manage and present information resources for academic purposes using appropriate technology. Apply effective search strategies in different technological environments. Demonstrate the ethical and fair use of information resources. Integrate 21st-century communications into the management of academic information.

Core modules

Biometry 120 (BME 120)

Module credits 16.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Prerequisites At least 4 (50-59%) in Mathematics in the Grade 12 examination, or at least 50% in both Statistics 113, 123

Contact time 1 practical per week, 4 lectures per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Statistics

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Simple statistical analysis: Data collection and analysis: Samples, tabulation, graphical representation, describing location, spread and skewness. Introductory probability and distribution theory. Sampling distributions and the central limit theorem. Statistical inference: Basic principles, estimation and testing in the one- and two-sample cases (parametric and non-parametric). Introduction to experimental design. One- and two-way designs, randomised blocks. Multiple statistical analysis: Bivariate data sets: Curve fitting (linear and non-linear), growth curves. Statistical inference in the simple regression case. Categorical analysis: Testing goodness of fit and contingency tables. Multiple regression and correlation: Fitting and testing of models. Residual analysis. Computer literacy: Use of computer packages in data analysis and report writing.



Plant biology 161 (BOT 161)

Module credits 8.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Education

Prerequisites MLB 111 GS

Contact time fortnightly practicals, 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Plant and Soil Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Basic plant structure and function; introductory plant taxonomy and plant systematics; principles of plant molecular biology and biotechnology; adaptation of plants to stress; medicinal compounds from plants; basic principles of plant ecology and their application in natural resource management.

General chemistry 117 (CMY 117)

Module credits 16.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Education
Faculty of Health Sciences
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Prerequisites Final Grade 12 marks of at least 60% for Mathematics and 60% for Physical Sciences.

Contact time 1 practical per week, 4 lectures per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Chemistry

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

General introduction to inorganic, analytical and physical chemistry. Atomic structure and periodicity. Molecular structure and chemical bonding using the VSEOR model. Nomenclature of inorganic ions and compounds. Classification of reactions: precipitation, acid-base, redox reactions and gas-forming reactions. Mole concept and stoichiometric calculations concerning chemical formulas and chemical reactions. Principles of reactivity: energy and chemical reactions. Physical behaviour gases, liquids, solids and solutions and the role of intermolecular forces. Rate of reactions: Introduction to chemical kinetics.

General chemistry 127 (CMY 127)

Module credits 16.00



Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Faculty of Education Faculty of Health Sciences Faculty of Veterinary Science
Prerequisites	Natural and Agricultural Sciences students: CMY 117 GS or CMY 154 GS Health Sciences students: none
Contact time	1 practical per week, 4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Separate classes for Afrikaans and English
Academic organisation	Chemistry
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Theory: General physical-analytical chemistry: Chemical equilibrium, acids and bases, buffers, solubility equilibrium, entropy and free energy, electrochemistry. Organic chemistry: Structure (bonding), nomenclature, isomerism, introductory stereochemistry, introduction to chemical reactions and chemical properties of organic compounds and biological compounds, i.e. carbohydrates and aminoacids. Practical: Molecular structure (model building), synthesis and properties of simple organic compounds.

Aspects of human geography 156 (GGY 156)

Module credits 8.00

Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Faculty of Education Faculty of Humanities Faculty of Health Sciences
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 tutorial per week, 3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Geography, Geoinf + Meteor
Period of presentation	Quarter 2

Module content

This module begins by fostering an understanding of human geography. Then follows with the political ordering of space; cultural diversity as well as ethnic geography globally and locally; population geography of the world and South Africa: and four economic levels of development. The purpose is to place South Africa in a world setting and to understand the future of the country.

Southern African geomorphology 166 (GGY 166)

Module credits 8.00

Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Faculty of Education Faculty of Humanities Faculty of Health Sciences
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Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Geography, Geoinf + Meteor
Period of presentation	Quarter 3

Module content

Investigating southern African landscapes and placing them in a theoretical and global context. The geomorphological evolution of southern Africa. Introduction to the concepts of Geomorphology and its relationships with other physical sciences (e.g. meteorology, climatology, geology, hydrology and biology). The processes and controls of landform and landscape evolution. Tutorial exercises cover basic techniques of geomorphological analysis, and topical issues in Geomorphology.

Molecular and cell biology 111 (MLB 111)

Module credits	16.00
Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology Faculty of Education Faculty of Health Sciences Faculty of Veterinary Science
Prerequisites	Refer to Regulation 1.2: A candidate who has passed Mathematics with at least 50% in the Grade 12 examination
Contact time	4 lectures per week, 1 practical per week
Language of tuition	Separate classes for Afrikaans and English
Academic organisation	Genetics
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Introductory study of the ultra structure, function and composition of representative cells and cell components. General principles of cell metabolism, molecular genetics, cell growth, cell division and differentiation.

Climate and weather of Southern Africa 164 (WKD 164)

Module credits	8.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education Faculty of Humanities
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Geography, Geoinf + Meteor
Period of presentation	Quarter 4



Module content

An introduction to the climate and general seasonal climatic circulation patterns of Southern Africa. Basic weather types and weather processes within the Southern African context. Interpretation of synoptic maps and synoptic station reports. Impacts of climate change and extreme climate events on society.

*BSc (Geography) and BSc (Environmental Sciences) students may register for WKD 155. Students are not allowed to earn credits for both WKD 155 and WKD 164.

Mathematics 134 (WTW 134)

Module credits 16.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Education
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Prerequisites Refer to Regulation 1.2: At least 50% for Mathematics in the Grade 12 examination .

Contact time 4 lectures per week, 1 tutorial per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Mathematics and Applied Maths

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

**Students will not be credited for more than one of the following modules for their degree: WTW 134, WTW 165, WTW 114, WTW 158. WTW 134 does not lead to admission to Mathematics at 200 level and is intended for students who require Mathematics at 100 level only. WTW 134 is offered as WTW 165 in the second semester only to students who have applied in the first semester of the current year for the approximately 65 MBChB, or the 5-6 BChD places becoming available in the second semester and who were therefore enrolled for MGW 112 in the first semester of the current year.*

Functions, derivatives, interpretation of the derivative, rules of differentiation, applications of differentiation, integration, interpretation of the definite integral, applications of integration. Matrices, solutions of systems of equations. All topics are studied in the context of applications.

Animal diversity 161 (ZEN 161)

Module credits 8.00

Service modules Faculty of Education
Faculty of Veterinary Science

Prerequisites MLB 111 GS or TDH

Contact time 2 lectures per week, fortnightly practicals

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Zoology and Entomology

Period of presentation Semester 2



Module content

Animal classification, phylogeny, organization and terminology. Evolution of the various animal phyla, morphological characteristics and life cycles of parasitic and non-parasitic animals. Structure and function of reproductive, respiratory, excretory, circulatory and digestive systems.

Introduction to environmental sciences 101 (ENV 101)

Module credits 8.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Education
Faculty of Humanities

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 3 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Quarter 1

Module content

Introducing the basic concepts and interrelationships required to understand the complexity of natural environmental problems, physical and human environment, human induced environmental problems, the ways in which the natural environment affects human society and biodiversity, an introduction to major environmental issues in Southern Africa and sustainable development in the context of environmental issues.



Curriculum: Year 2

Minimum credits: 144

Minimum credits:

Core = 84

Elective = 60

Additional information:

Electives can be chosen from the following departments: Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology, Geology, Plant Production and Soil Science, Physics, Chemistry, Plant Science, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Zoology and Entomology, Anthropology and Archaeology and Computer Science.

Core modules

South African flora and vegetation 251 (BOT 251)

Module credits 12.00

Service modules Faculty of Education

Prerequisites BOT 161 or TDH

Contact time 1 practical per week, 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Plant and Soil Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

Origin and affinity of South African flora and vegetation types; principles of plant geography; plant diversity in southern Africa; characteristics, environments and vegetation of South African biomes and associated key ecological processes; centre of plant endemism; rare and threatened plant species; biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management; invasion biology; conservation status of South African vegetation types.

Plant physiology and biotechnology 261 (BOT 261)

Module credits 12.00

Service modules Faculty of Education

Prerequisites BOT 161, CMY 117, CMY 127 or TDH

Contact time 2 lectures per week, 1 practical per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Plant and Soil Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 2



Module content

Nitrogen metabolism in plants; nitrogen fixation in Agriculture; plant secondary metabolism and natural products; photosynthesis and carbohydrate metabolism in plants; applications in solar energy; plant growth regulation and the Green Revolution; plant responses to the environment; developing drought tolerant and disease resistant plants.

Process geomorphology 252 (GGY 252)

Module credits 12.00

Service modules Faculty of Education
Faculty of Humanities

Prerequisites GGY 166 or GLY 155

Contact time 4 lectures per week, 2 practicals per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Quarter 2

Module content

Physical processes that influence the earth's surface and management. Specific processes and their interaction in themes such as weathering; soil erosion; slope, mass movement and fluvial processes. Practical laboratory exercises are based on the themes covered in the module theory component.

Introductory geographic information systems 283 (GGY 283)

Module credits 14.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Faculty of Education
Faculty of Humanities

Prerequisites GMC 110

Contact time 2 lectures per week, 1 practical per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), theoretical concepts and applications of GIS. The focus will be on the GIS process of data input, data analysis, data output and associated technologies. This module provides the foundations for more advanced GIS and Geoinformatics topics.

Introductory soil science 250 (GKD 250)

Module credits 12.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology



Prerequisites	CMY 117 GS or TDH
Contact time	1 practical per week, 3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Separate classes for Afrikaans and English
Academic organisation	Plant and Soil Sciences
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Origin and development of soil, weathering and soil formation processes. Profile differentiation and morphology. Physical characteristics: texture, structure, soil water, atmosphere and temperature. Chemical characteristics: clay minerals, ion exchange, pH, buffer action, soil acidification and salinisation of soil. Soil fertility and fertilisation. Soil classification. Practical work: Laboratory evaluation of simple soil characteristics. Field practicals on soil formation in the Pretoria area.

Invertebrate biology 251 (ZEN 251)

Module credits	12.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education
Prerequisites	ZEN 161 GS or TDH
Contact time	4 lectures per week, 1 practical per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Zoology and Entomology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1

Module content

Origin and extent of modern invertebrate diversity; parasites of man and domestic animals; biology and medical importance of arachnids; insect life styles; the influence of the environment on insect life histories; insect phytophagy, predation and parasitism; insect chemical, visual, and auditory communication; freshwater invertebrates and their use as biological indicators.

African vertebrates 261 (ZEN 261)

Module credits	12.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education
Prerequisites	ZEN 161 GS or TDH
Contact time	1 practical per week, 4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Zoology and Entomology
Period of presentation	Quarter 3



Module content

Introduction to general vertebrate diversity; African vertebrate diversity; vertebrate structure and function; vertebrate evolution; vertebrate relationships; aquatic vertebrates; terrestrial ectotherms; terrestrial endotherms; vertebrate characteristics; classification; structural adaptations; habits; habitats; conservation problems; impact of humans on other vertebrates.

Elective modules

Geographic data analysis 220 (GIS 220)

Module credits 14.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Prerequisites GMC 100 AND (STK 110 OR BME120)

Contact time 1 practical per week, 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

The nature of geographical data and measurement. Application of statistics in the geographical domain. Probability, probability distributions and densities, expected values and variances, Central Limit theorem. Sampling techniques. Exploratory data analysis, descriptive statistics, statistical estimation, hypothesis testing, correlation analysis and regression analysis.

Remote sensing 220 (GMA 220)

Module credits 14.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Prerequisites GMC 110

Contact time 2 lectures per week, 1 practical per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Semester 1



Module content

This module will provide a thorough introduction to the basic scientific principles involved in remote sensing, and some of the applications to studies of the Earth's surface. This includes examining the basic physics of electromagnetic radiation and the complex interactions of radiation with the surface and atmosphere (i.e. spectral signatures). In addition, basic concepts of photogrammetry will be discussed. The theoretical background laid out in the first half of the module will provide the tools for examining various remote sensing applications using data obtained in different parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. The applications will include uses of satellite remote sensing data for mapping and monitoring vegetation, soils and minerals, snow and ice, water resources and quality, and urban landscapes. The laboratory section will include hands-on experience with various satellite image data sets.

Sustainable crop production and agroclimatology 251 (PPK 251)

Module credits 15.00

Prerequisites BOT 161

Contact time 3 lectures per week, fortnightly practicals

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Plant and Soil Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

Influence of climate on cropping systems in South Africa. The surface energy balance. Hydrological cycles and the soil water balance. Sustainable crop production. Simple radiation and water limited models. Potential yield, target yield and maximum economic yield. Crop nutrition and fertiliser management. Principles of soil cultivation and conservation. Climate change and crop production – mitigation and adaptation.

Physical meteorology 261 (WKD 261)

Module credits 12.00

Prerequisites WTW 114

Contact time 4 lectures per week, 1 tutorial per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Quarter 1

Module content

Conservative forces and conservation laws. Basic thermodynamic laws for dry and humid air. The equation of state. Adiabatic processes and temperature lapse rates. The Clausius-Clapeyron equation. Calculation of the wet adiabat.

City structure, environment and society 266 (GGY 266)

Module credits 24.00



Service modules Faculty of Education
Faculty of Humanities

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 practical per week, 3 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

An urbanising world. Urban structure and land use. Urban processes. The urban environment. Social structure and change in cities. Living in the city. Economy, society and politics in the city. Third-world cities and South African cities. Urban futures.



Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 144

Minimum credits:

Core = 84

Elective = 60

Core modules

Environmental geomorphology 361 (GGY 361)

Module credits 18.00

Service modules Faculty of Humanities

Prerequisites GGY 252 and only for students studying BSc (Geography) or BSc (Environmental Sciences).

Contact time 4 lectures per week, 2 practicals per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Quarter 4

Module content

*Note: The module is available for BSc (Geography) and BSc (Environmental Sciences) students only. The theory content of this module is the same as GGY 363 and students are not allowed to earn credits for both GGY 361 and GGY 363.

Interactions of geomorphic processes within the physical and built environments; themes such as geomorphology and environmental change, slope processes and the environment, geomorphic risks and hazards, soil erosion and conservation, geomorphology in environmental management, applied weathering. Practicals involve fieldwork including sampling and mapping and subsequent laboratory analysis.

Geographic information systems 310 (GIS 310)

Module credits 24.00

Service modules Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Prerequisites GGY 283 or GIS 221

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

Advanced theory and practice of Geographic Information Systems; GIS applications; design and implementation of GIS applications.



Spatial analysis 320 (GIS 320)

Module credits	22.00
Service modules	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Prerequisites	GIS 220 and GGY 283
Contact time	3 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Geography, Geoinf + Meteor
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Construction of Raster Geovisualisations, spatial model construction and use, multi-criteria decision analysis. Factor analysis: Principle component analysis. Geostatistics: Spatial dependence modelling, ordinary kriging. Markov chains and cellular Automata, combined models. A project or assignments of at least 64 notional hours.

Human environmental interactions 301 (ENV 301)

Module credits	18.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education Faculty of Humanities
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 lectures per week, 1 practical per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Geography, Geoinf + Meteor
Period of presentation	Quarter 2

Module content

The module focuses on contemporary environmental issues in southern Africa. Recent and future impacts of human pressures on natural resources, the state of the environment in South Africa, management of critical resources, population trends, biodiversity loss, pollution, water scarcity, desertification, climate change, waste accumulation and management, environmental management tools, environmental education and environmental management legislation.

Elective modules

Plant ecology 358 (BOT 358)

Module credits	18.00
Prerequisites	BOT 161 and BOT 251 or TDH
Contact time	2 lectures per week, 1 practical per week
Language of tuition	Separate classes for Afrikaans and English
Academic organisation	Plant and Soil Sciences



Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

Theory of plant community concepts, floristic and structural composition, plant diversity, ecological succession, landscape ecology. Data processing techniques. Species interactions and an evaluation of their effects on interacting species. Fundamentals of plant population biology: life tables; plant breeding systems and pollination; population dynamics; life history strategies; intraspecific competition; interspecific competition and co-existence.

Soil classification and surveying 350 (GKD 350)

Module credits 14.00

Prerequisites GKD 250 GS

Contact time 2 lectures per week, 1 practical per week

Language of tuition Separate classes for Afrikaans and English

Academic organisation Plant and Soil Sciences

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

A taxonomic system for South Africa. USDA's Soil Taxonomy. Land suitability evaluation. Optimal resource utilization. The conservation component. Ecological aspects. Ecotype, land types. Soil maps. Practical work: Field practicals and compulsory excursion. Identification of soil horizons, forms and families. Land suitability evaluation. Elementary mapping exercise.

Remote sensing 320 (GMA 320)

Module credits 22.00

Prerequisites GMA 220

Contact time 2 lectures per week, 1 practical per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to provide students with a working knowledge and skills to learn methods and techniques for collecting, processing and analysing remotely sensed data. Throughout the module, emphasis will be placed on image processing, image analysis, image classification, remote sensing and applications of remote sensing in geographical analysis and environmental monitoring. The module is composed of lectures, readings, laboratory exercises and research tasks. A project or assignments of at least 64 notional hours.

Population ecology 351 (ZEN 351)

Module credits 18.00

Service modules Faculty of Education



Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 practicals per week, 4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Zoology and Entomology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1

Module content

Scientific approach to ecology; evolution and ecology; the individual and its environment; population characteristics and demography; competition; predation; plant-herbivore interactions; regulation of populations; population manipulation.

Community ecology 353 (ZEN 353)

Module credits	18.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 lectures per week, 2 practicals per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Zoology and Entomology
Period of presentation	Quarter 2

Module content

The scientific approach; characteristics of the community; the community as a superorganism; community changes; competition as a factor determining community structure; disturbance as a determinant of community structure; community stability; macroecological patterns and mechanisms.

Behavioural ecology 363 (ZEN 363)

Module credits	18.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	2 practicals per week, 4 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Zoology and Entomology
Period of presentation	Quarter 4

Module content

The history of behavioural ecology. A causal, developmental, evolutionary and adaptive approach. Sensory systems and communication. Sexual selection, mate choice and sperm competition. Kin selection and group living. Special reference to social insects. The behavioural ecology of humans. Phylogenetic basis of behavioural analysis. The role of behavioural ecology in conservation planning.



Conservation ecology 364 (ZEN 364)

Module credits	18.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	4 lectures per week, 2 practicals per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Zoology and Entomology
Period of presentation	Quarter 4

Module content

This module is intended to provide students with skills to undertake field surveys that are essential for research and planning in the conservation of biodiversity. The module has a large fieldwork component. A field trip will be conducted over a ten-day period during the September vacation in the Sani Pass region of the Drakensberg (including South Africa and Lesotho).

The students will be actively involved in planning and executing the field surveys, and will be responsible for analysing and presenting the results. The students will gain valuable practical experience in the field by applying a number of survey techniques and focusing on several different taxa that are relevant to conservation ecology.

Sustainable development 356 (GGY 356)

Module credits	18.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education Faculty of Humanities
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	3 lectures per week, 1 practical per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Academic organisation	Geography, Geoinf + Meteor
Period of presentation	Quarter 1

Module content

The module conceptually integrates environmental, economic, and social components of sustainable development. Other topics covered include changing perceptions on development and environment, development paradigms, challenges of sustainable development, actors and actions in sustainable development, rural and urban livelihoods, and a Third World assessment of sustainable development in the developing world.

Development frameworks 366 (GGY 366)

Module credits	18.00
Service modules	Faculty of Education Faculty of Humanities
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	3 lectures per week, 1 practical per week



Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Academic organisation Geography, Geoinf + Meteor

Period of presentation Quarter 3

Module content

Classic development frameworks. Spatial development history and legacy in South Africa. Overview of contemporary environmental legislation in South Africa. Rural development strategy. Rural and agricultural reconstruction. Land reform. Urban development and strategy. Urban spatial reconstruction. National spatial development frameworks.

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.