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# University of Pretoria Yearbook 2018

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## BScHons Plant Science (02240707)

**Minimum duration of study** 1 year

**Total credits** 135

### Programme information

#### Renewal of registration

- i. Subject to exceptions approved by the Dean, on the recommendation of the head of department, and in the case of distance education where the Dean formulates the stipulations that will apply, a student may not sit for an examination for the honours degree more than twice in the same module.
- ii. A student for an honours degree must complete his or her study, in the case of full-time students, within two years and, in the case of after-hours students, within three years of first registering for the degree and, in the case of distance education students, within the period stipulated by the Dean. Under special circumstances, the Dean, on the recommendation of the head of department, may give approval for a limited extension of this period.

In calculating marks, General Regulation G.12.2 applies.

Apart from the prescribed coursework, a research project is an integral part of the study.

### Admission requirements

BSc in Plant Science, or a recommendation from the head of the department if the candidate did not major in Plant Science. Preference will be given to applicants with the highest final grade point averages for their preceding degree and qualifying applicants may be subjected to an entrance evaluation examination. Admission is furthermore contingent on the availability of supervisors and/or research projects within the participating departments.

### Other programme-specific information

BOT 705 and BTW 701 are for BScHons (Biotechnology) students. PB students who wish to take one of these modules as an elective need to apply to the programme leader.

The curriculum for the balance of the credits will be determined by the heads of department of the interdepartmental BScHons (Biotechnology) degree programme.

### Pass with distinction

The BScHons degree is awarded with distinction to a candidate who obtains a weighted average of at least 75% in all the prescribed modules and a minimum of 65% in any one module.



## Curriculum: Final year

### Minimum credits: 135

Minimum credits: 135

Core credits: 85

Elective credits: 50

The programme consists of compulsory modules and elective modules. Students may register for modules to the maximum of 20 credits presented by another department, which forms part of the elective modules.

The following fields are presented in the BScHons in Plant Science programme:

- Plant Diversity (D)
- Plant Biotechnology/Physiology (PB)
- Plant Ecology (E)
- Option: Medicinal Plant Science

Apart from the compulsory and elective modules, a project, leading to a research report (60 credits), forms an essential part of the training programme. One seminar (15 credits) must also be written and presented. Field excursions are undertaken.

In addition to the compulsory modules, electives are selected in consultation with the supervisor.

Suitably qualified candidates may also apply for the interdepartmental BScHons in Biotechnology degree (Code 02240393) with a supervisor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science.

Please consult Prof P Bloomer, Tel: +27 12 420 3259, for further details.

## Core modules

### Research report 782 (BOT 782)

#### Module content:

Teaching and planning, execution and documentation of a research project.

**Module credits** 60.00

**Prerequisites** No prerequisites.

**Language of tuition** Module is presented in English

**Department** Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

**Period of presentation** Semester 1

### Seminar 783 (BOT 783)

#### Module content:

Literature study, discussion and oral presentation of a subject related to the main discipline.

**Module credits** 15.00

**Prerequisites** No prerequisites.

**Language of tuition** Module is presented in English

**Department** Department of Plant and Soil Sciences



**Period of presentation** Semester 1

## Elective modules

### Statistics for biological sciences 780 (BME 780)

**Module content:**

The principles of experimental design as required for the selection of an appropriate research design. Identification of the design limitations and the impact thereof on the research hypotheses and the statistical methods. Identification and application of the appropriate statistical methods needed. Interpreting of statistical results and translating these results to the biological context.

**Module credits** 15.00

**Service modules** Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

**Prerequisites** No prerequisites.

**Contact time** 2 Block weeks

**Language of tuition** Module is presented in English

**Department** Statistics

**Period of presentation** Semester 1

### Natural woodland and forests: Ecology and management 700 (BOT 700)

**Module content:**

Definitions of woodlands and forests and vegetation and forest resources in southern Africa; Classification of forest and woodland in southern Africa; Woodland dynamics including disturbance, recruitment, growth and mortality, recovery after disturbance; Ecosystem services (microclimate and nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration etc); Sustainable forest resource management (resource assessment, socio-economic assessment e.g. wood and non-forest products, participatory resource management processes); Forest health; Monitoring of resource-use impacts and adaptive management; Development of a framework for sustainable conservation and use of non-timber forest products; Climate change and resilience. Forest disease and pathology.

**Module credits** 15.00

**Prerequisites** No prerequisites.

**Language of tuition** Module is presented in English

**Department** Department of Plant and Soil Sciences

**Period of presentation** Semester 2

### Molecular techniques 705 (BOT 705)

**Module content:**

Students are guided through the methodology of research planning and data handling. They are offered hands-on experience in a range of advanced techniques employed in molecular research and analysis.



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<b>Module credits</b>	15.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Admission into BSc Hons in Plant Science (Plant Biotechnology/Physiology)
<b>Contact time</b>	1 discussion class per week, 1 lecture per week, 5 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

### Plant nomenclature 712 (BOT 712)

#### Module content:

The regulations of the International Code for Botanical Nomenclature. Principles of nomenclature. History of plant collecting. Type specimens.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

### Seed ecology 714 (BOT 714)

#### Module content:

Regeneration of plants from seed under natural conditions. Early stages in the life of a plant from ovule to established seedling: seed production; seed predation; seed dispersal; seed germination and dormancy, seed bank dynamics and seedling establishment.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week, 1 web-based period per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

### Plant morphology 717 (BOT 717)

#### Module content:

Speciation in flowering plants; plant variation. Sex determination in flowering plants. Reproductive systems in flowering plants.



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<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

### Introduction to plant biotechnology 718 (BOT 718)

#### Module content:

Plant genome: structure and composition of the plant genome (nuclear, mitochondrial and chloroplast); applications in plant biotechnology: plant tissue culture (micropropagation, somatic embryogenesis and cell suspension cultures). Genetic manipulation and gene transfer technology (Agrobacterium-based and other) and DNA-marker technology.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

### Primary plant metabolism 719 (BOT 719)

#### Module content:

Regulation and interaction of primary plant metabolic pathways on the sub-cellular and whole plant level.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 discussion class per week, 1 practical per week, 1 web-based period per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

### Plant ecology 730 (BOT 730)

#### Module content:

Practical applications of plant ecology principles. Designing and executing field studies. Exposure to skills of field ecology and plant identification. This module includes a compulsory 5-day field component.



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<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	8 hours per day for 5 days
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

### Plant taxonomy 741 (BOT 741)

#### Module content:

Classification, identification and nomenclature, methodology of a revision study, analysis and presentation of taxonomic information, evolution, phylogeny and cladistics.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

### Plant classification and phytogeography 742 (BOT 742)

#### Module content:

An overview of phylogenetics sets the scene, and sources of taxonomic information (morphology, anatomy, chemotaxonomy, cytogenetics, reproductive biology, palynology, ethnobotany and paleobotany) and how these data are used are discussed. This is followed by a section on the use of phylogenies as tools to understand ecological and geographical patterns and processes. Modern plant distribution patterns are assessed from the framework of the competing explanations of dispersal and vicariance.

<b>Module credits</b>	20.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	BOT 366
<b>Contact time</b>	1 practical per week, 2 lectures per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

### Applications in plant biotechnology 746 (BOT 746)

#### Module content:



Creation of genetically modified plants and their impact on modern agriculture.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

### Advanced phytomedicine 761 (BOT 761)

#### Module content:

Metabolism and functions of secondary compounds such as tannins, alkaloids, terpenoids, flavonoids and free amino acids. Importance of secondary compounds in the defence mechanisms of plants. Isolation and identification of medicinal bioactive compounds from plants. Their current scope and potential applications in ethnobotany. Strategies to discover new pharmaceuticals from ethnomedicine.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week, 1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

### Trends in plant science 784 (BOT 784)

#### Module content:

Literature study of recent publications in a subject related to one of the elective disciplines.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

### Practical plant identification 786 (BOT 786)

#### Module content:

Principles of identification, classification and nomenclature; identification of plants; family recognition; collection of plant specimens for identification; herbarium as a source of information. Variation in seed plants and breeding systems. Practical work involves an excursion.



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<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	BSc with first year Botany/Plant Science
<b>Contact time</b>	2 lectures per week, 2 practicals per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

## Spatial analysis in ecology 788 (BOT 788)

### Module content:

Mapping and analysing spatial data. Theory and basic techniques of analysing and manipulating spatial data using geographical information systems. Mapping of vegetation types, species distributions and diversity, species traits. Understanding the spatial drivers of biodiversity patterns. The influence of scale on biodiversity analyses. Relevance for conservation planning for mapping biodiversity risk and prioritising conservation, especially in a South African context.

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	2 lectures per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Department of Plant and Soil Sciences
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

## Biotechnology in the workplace 701 (BTW 701)

### Module content:

Introduction to the principles and realities of working in the field of biotechnology. Discussions on various aspects, including entrepreneurship; intellectual property; patent rights; financial management; grant applications and product marketing. The module will be assessed by way of a simulated grant application for the development of a hypothetical biotechnological venture.

<b>Module credits</b>	15.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Module is presented in English
<b>Department</b>	Genetics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	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.