University of Pretoria Yearbook 2020

BSc Physics (02133203)

Minimum duration of study	3 years
Total credits	428
NQF level	07

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 conditional admission of prospective students. Final admission is based on the Grade 12 results.

Minimum requirements Achievement level English Home Language or English First Additional Language		**Mathematics**		**Physical Science**		**APS**
NSC/IEB	AS Level	NSC/IEB	AS Level	NSC/IEB	AS Level	
5	C	5	C	5	C	**34**

* Cambridge A level candidates who obtained at least a D in the required subjects, will be considered for admission. International Baccalaureate (IB) HL candidates who obtained at least a 4 in the required subjects, will be considered for admission.

Candidates who do not comply with the minimum admission requirements for BSc (Physics), may be considered for admission to the BSc – Extended programme – Physical Sciences. This programme takes a year longer than the normal programmes to complete.

BSc – Extended Programme – Physical Sciences Minimum requirements Achievement level English Home Language or English First Additional Language		**Mathematics**		**Physical Science**		**APS**
NSC/IEB	AS Level	NSC/IEB	AS Level	NSC/IEB	AS Level	

4	D	4	D	4	D	**28**

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 relevant 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 relevant 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 acertain, 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 relevant 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

relevant 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 Senate Appeals Committee.
- Any decision taken by the Senate 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

Fundamental = 12

Core = 64

Electives = 64

Additional information:

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

Students must select elective modules with a total number of at least 64 credits according to the following streams. (Deviations allowed with permission from the head of department):

- **Mathematics as second major:** Due to the modules prescribed for the BSc (Physics) module, taking mathematics as a second major in 3rd year is possible for all options. Please select one of the options below.
- **Second major in applied mathematics or mathematical statistics:** WTW 115, WTW 152, WTW 162, WTW 123, WST 111, WST 121 (64 credits)
- **Second major in chemistry or applied mathematics:** CMY 117, CMY 127, WTW 162, WTW 123, WTW 115, WTW 152 (64 credits)
- **Second major in chemistry or mathematical statistics:** CMY 117, CMY 127, WST 111, WST 121 (64 credits)
- **Second major in chemistry or geology:** CMY 117, CMY 127, GLY 155, GLY 163 (64 credits)
- **Second major in chemistry or meteorology:** CMY 117, CMY 127, WKD 155, WTW 123, WTW 162 (64 credits).
- **Second major in chemistry with interest in biophysics:** CMY 117, CMY 127, MLB 111, GTS 161, BOT 161 (64 credits)
- **Second major in chemistry with interest in astronomy:** CMY 117, CMY 127, WTW 162, WTW 123, SCI 154 (64 credits)
- **Second major in applied mathematics with an interest in astronomy:** WTW 115, WTW 152, WTW 162, WTW 123, SCI 154, COS 132 (64 credits) note: semesters unbalanced – Year credits: S1:80, S2: 48
- **Computational physics:** WTW 123, COS 132, COS 110, COS 122, COS 151 (64 credits note: semesters unbalanced – Year credits: S1:56, S2: 72)

Fundamental modules

Academic information management 102 (AIM 102) - Credits: 6.00
Academic information management 111 (AIM 111) - Credits: 4.00
Academic information management 121 (AIM 121) - Credits: 4.00
Language and study skills 110 (LST 110) - Credits: 6.00
Academic orientation 102 (UPO 102) - Credits: 0.00

Core modules

First course in physics 114 (PHY 114) - Credits: 16.00
First course in physics 124 (PHY 124) - Credits: 16.00
Calculus 114 (WTW 114) - Credits: 16.00
Mathematics 124 (WTW 124) - Credits: 16.00

Elective modules

Plant biology 161 (BOT 161) - Credits: 8.00
General chemistry 117 (CMY 117) - Credits: 16.00
General chemistry 127 (CMY 127) - Credits: 16.00
Program design: Introduction 110 (COS 110) - Credits: 16.00
Operating systems 122 (COS 122) - Credits: 16.00
Imperative programming 132 (COS 132) - Credits: 16.00
Introduction to computer science 151 (COS 151) - Credits: 8.00
Introduction to geology 155 (GLY 155) - Credits: 16.00
Earth history 163 (GLY 163) - Credits: 16.00
Introductory genetics 161 (GTS 161) - Credits: 8.00
Molecular and cell biology 111 (MLB 111) - Credits: 16.00
Exploring the universe 154 (SCI 154) - Credits: 16.00
Atmospheric structure and processes 155 (WKD 155) - Credits: 16.00
Mathematical statistics 111 (WST 111) - Credits: 16.00
Mathematical statistics 121 (WST 121) - Credits: 16.00
Discrete structures 115 (WTW 115) - Credits: 8.00
Numerical analysis 123 (WTW 123) - Credits: 8.00
Mathematical modelling 152 (WTW 152) - Credits: 8.00
Dynamical processes 162 (WTW 162) - Credits: 8.00

Curriculum: Year 2

Minimum credits: 144

Core = 96

Elective = 48

Additional information:

Students must select elective modules with a total number of at least 48 credits according to the following streams (deviations allowed with permission from the head of department):

- **Mathematics as second major:** Due to the modules prescribed for the BSc (Physics) module, taking mathematics as a second major in 3rd year is possible for all options.
- **Second major applied mathematics:** WTW 285, WTW 286, WTW 221 (36 credits – an additional 12 credits will have to be taken in 2nd or 3rd year. PHY 353, PHY 363 or additional 3rd year mathematics module recommended).
- **Second major statistics:** WST 211, WST 221 (48 credits)
- **Second major in chemistry:** CMY 282, CMY 283, CMY 284, CMY 285 (48 credits).
- **Second major in geology:** GLY 253, GLY 255, GLY 261, GLY 262 (48 credits).
- **Second major in meteorology:** WKD 261, WKD 263, WKD 254 (**permission from HOD Required**), WTW 286 (48 credits). (Q: **GMA 220 instead of WKD 254**)
- **Interest in astronomy:** PHY 210, WTW 221, WTW 286 (48 credits) **note**: semester unbalanced: Year credits S1: 60, S2: 84)
- **Interest in computational physics:** COS 210, COS 212, COS 226, COS 284 (56 credits) **note:** 24 + 32 = 56 credits = excess of 8 credits in second semester.

Core modules

Waves, thermodynamics and modern physics 255 (PHY 255) - Credits: 24.00
General physics 263 (PHY 263) - Credits: 24.00
Linear algebra 211 (WTW 211) - Credits: 12.00
Calculus 218 (WTW 218) - Credits: 12.00
Analysis 220 (WTW 220) - Credits: 12.00
Vector analysis 248 (WTW 248) - Credits: 12.00

Elective modules

Physical chemistry 282 (CMY 282) - Credits: 12.00
Analytical chemistry 283 (CMY 283) - Credits: 12.00
Organic chemistry 284 (CMY 284) - Credits: 12.00
Inorganic chemistry 285 (CMY 285) - Credits: 12.00
Theoretical computer science 210 (COS 210) - Credits: 8.00
Data structures and algorithms 212 (COS 212) - Credits: 16.00
Concurrent systems 226 (COS 226) - Credits: 16.00
Computer organisation and architecture 284 (COS 284) - Credits: 16.00
Process geomorphology 252 (GGY 252) - Credits: 12.00
Geomorphology of the built environment 265 (GGY 265) - Credits: 12.00
Geographic data analysis 220 (GIS 220) - Credits: 14.00
Sedimentology 253 (GLY 253) - Credits: 12.00
Fundamental and applied mineralogy 255 (GLY 255) - Credits: 12.00

Igneous petrology 261 (GLY 261) - Credits: 12.00
Metamorphic petrology 262 (GLY 262) - Credits: 12.00
Remote sensing 220 (GMA 220) - Credits: 14.00
Astronomy for physicists 210 (PHY 210) - Credits: 24.00
Programming in meteorology 254 (WKD 254) - Credits: 12.00
Physical meteorology 261 (WKD 261) - Credits: 12.00
Introduction to dynamic meteorology 263 (WKD 263) - Credits: 12.00
Mathematical statistics 211 (WST 211) - Credits: 24.00
Mathematical statistics 221 (WST 221) - Credits: 24.00
Linear algebra 221 (WTW 221) - Credits: 12.00
Differential equations 256 (WTW 256) - Credits: 8.00
Discrete structures 285 (WTW 285) - Credits: 12.00
Differential equations 286 (WTW 286) - Credits: 12.00

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 144

Core = 72

Elective = 72

Additional information:

Students who want to register PHY 353 and PHY 363 must make sure, before registration, that a suitable project and supervisor has been confirmed with the head of department,

Students must select elective modules with a total number of at least 72 credits from the following streams (deviations allowed with permission from the head of department):

- **Mathematics as second major:** WTW 310, WTW 320, WTW 381 and WTW 389 (72 credits).
- **Applied Mathematics as second major:** WTW 310, WTW 382, WTW 383 and WTW 386 and WTW 387 (90 credits)*.
- **Mathematical statistics as second major:** WST 311, WST 312, WST 321, STK 353 (79 credits) Unbalanced: 36 + 43
- **Chemistry as second major:** CMY 382, CMY 383, CMY 384, CMY 385 (72 credits).
- **Geology as second major:** GLY 365, GLY 366 and GLY 367 (72 credits)
- **Meteorology as second major:** WKD 352, WKD 361, WKD 366 (72 credits) **note**: unbalanced semester: S1: 0, S2: 72
- **Interest in computational physics:** COS 314, COS 344, COS 333, COS 330 (72 credits).

*** All 5 modules are required if a student wishes to continue with BScHons Applied Mathematics, otherwise a selection of modules with a total number of 72 credits may be made.**

Core modules

Electronics, electromagnetism and quantum mechanics 356 (PHY 356) - Credits: 36.00
Statistical mechanics, solid state physics and modelling 364 (PHY 364) - Credits: 36.00

Elective modules

Physical chemistry 382 (CMY 382) - Credits: 18.00
Analytical chemistry 383 (CMY 383) - Credits: 18.00
Organic chemistry 384 (CMY 384) - Credits: 18.00
Inorganic chemistry 385 (CMY 385) - Credits: 18.00
Artificial intelligence 314 (COS 314) - Credits: 18.00
Computer security and ethics 330 (COS 330) - Credits: 18.00
Programming languages 333 (COS 333) - Credits: 18.00
Computer graphics 344 (COS 344) - Credits: 18.00
Structural geology 365 (GLY 365) - Credits: 18.00
Groundwater 366 (GLY 366) - Credits: 18.00
Economic geology 367 (GLY 367) - Credits: 36.00
Observational astronomy 300 (PHY 300) - Credits: 36.00
Particle and astroparticle physics 310 (PHY 310) - Credits: 18.00
Physics project 353 (PHY 353) - Credits: 12.00
Physics project 363 (PHY 363) - Credits: 12.00
The science of data analytics 353 (STK 353) - Credits: 25.00

Atmospheric vorticity and divergence 352 (WKD 352) - Credits: 18.00
Quasi-geostrophic analysis 361 (WKD 361) - Credits: 18.00
Fundamentals of weather forecasting 366 (WKD 366) - Credits: 36.00
Multivariate analysis 311 (WST 311) - Credits: 18.00
Stochastic processes 312 (WST 312) - Credits: 18.00
Time-series analysis 321 (WST 321) - Credits: 18.00
Analysis 310 (WTW 310) - Credits: 18.00
Complex analysis 320 (WTW 320) - Credits: 18.00
Algebra 381 (WTW 381) - Credits: 18.00
Dynamical systems 382 (WTW 382) - Credits: 18.00
Numerical analysis 383 (WTW 383) - Credits: 18.00
Partial differential equations 386 (WTW 386) - Credits: 18.00
Continuum mechanics 387 (WTW 387) - Credits: 18.00
Geometry 389 (WTW 389) - Credits: 18.00