

# University of Pretoria Yearbook 2023

## MSc (Veterinary Tropical Diseases) *Global One Health* (Coursework) (08251032)

**Department** Veterinary Tropical Diseases

**Minimum duration of study** 2 years

**Total credits** 180

**NQF level** 09

### Programme information

Also consult the General Academic Regulations G30–G41 and Faculty regulations.

This 2-year master's programme is offered by the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the University of Pretoria (South Africa) in collaboration with the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belgium.

This degree is offered as a combination of e-learning, face-to-face teaching and a compulsory collaborative induction/field-workshop. It has the following components:

- A two week compulsory induction/field-workshop
- Four compulsory core modules (AHE 805, OHB 810, EPL 801 and VRM 815). Three modules to be taken in the first semester of the first year and the fourth module to be taken during the second semester of the first year.
- Elective modules: Elect modules to the value of 35 credits from the list of elective modules below, and ensure that the following rules are adhered to:
  1. **Choose one module from the following skills-based modules:** ASR 813, AVB 820, AVH 815, AVV 820, EPL 803, EPL 804, TCK 815 and VMB 820.
  2. **Choose two modules from the following list of theory-based modules:** AHE 814, AHE 815, AHE 816, AHE 820, GVD 815, OHB 812, OHB 815, OHB 816 and TBD 815.
- Mini-dissertation (90 credits).

### Admission requirements

1. BVSc (or equivalent) degree **or** relevant four-year BScAgric degree **or** relevant BSc honours degree **or** relevant postgraduate diploma (on NQF level 8)
2. An admissions examination may be required
3. The candidate may be required to submit proof of two years' professional experience in their selected field of study

### Additional requirements

According to the Bologna Bachelor-Master structure, a master's degree is required to register at ITM. (Note: A four-year BSc degree in the South African context is equivalent to a master's degree in the Bologna system). Two

years of professional experience might be required in certain cases. It remains the prerogative of the head of department (UP) or course director (ITM) to require, in addition to the entrance requirements already mentioned, the successful completion of an admissions test before registration. A student may also be required to pass a proficiency test in English (TOEFL) at an acceptable level. The web-based/online nature of the modules requires basic computer skills in order to successfully participate in the degree programme.

Students are required to confirm whether a module will be presented in any particular year.

## Examinations and pass requirements

A minimum examination mark of 50% is required in each of the modules where a semester or year mark is not required. However, where a semester or year mark is required, the latter will contribute 50% to the final mark. A subminimum of 40% is required in the examination and a final mark of at least 50 % to pass the module. Instructions regarding requirements for semester, year or examination marks are published in the study guides, for the specific attention of candidates.

The MSc coursework degree is conferred by virtue of the successful completion of examinations on the coursework modules and a mini-dissertation.

If a student fails a module, the student will have to repeat the module the following year. A module cannot be repeated more than twice.

## Research information

Also consult the General Academic Regulation G39.

The coursework master's degree consists of coursework modules as well as a mini-dissertation which is divided equally between the research and coursework as 90 credits each. It should be emphasised that a mini-dissertation is not a complete research-based master's dissertation and is of limited scope and extent. The content should cover enough work for a case report or short communication. The basic requirements and Faculty expectations of a coursework master's degree mini-dissertation are:

1. The student should show the ability to undertake a research project and write up the project.
2. The student does not need to make an original contribution to science, but still show the ability to do research.
3. Please note that explicit hypothesis-testing, i.e. experimental work is not necessarily mandatory.

Candidates must submit a mini-dissertation which deals with an applied field of study. The topic is determined in consultation with the supervisor and the relevant head of department, and must be approved according to Faculty guidelines. The mini-dissertation is based on an applied research project or related research projects which need not be original), planned and reported by the candidate. Assistance with statistical processing, applied specialised procedures, etc. is allowed, but must be acknowledged.

Research undertaken is conducted in accordance with the University's Code of ethics for scholarly activities. All research proposals must be submitted for ethics clearance/approval/exemption to the relevant faculty research and/or research ethics committee. Faculty research ethics committees have the authority to consider and approve or reject research proposals within the guidelines of the general policy.

### Examinations and pass requirements

The MSc coursework degree is conferred by virtue of the successful completion of examinations on the coursework modules and a mini-dissertation.

The Faculty does make provision for supplementary and special examinations as per General Academic

Regulations G37.4 and G37.5.

For the coursework, a minimum examination mark of 50% is required in each of the modules where a semester or year mark is not required. However, where a semester or year mark is required, the latter will contribute 50% to the final mark. A subminimum of 40% is required in the examination and a final mark of at least 50 % to pass the module. Instructions regarding requirements for semester, year or examination marks are published in the study guides, for the specific attention of candidates.

In addition to what is set out above, the following also applies to the coursework modules:

1. A student that fails two or more core modules (AHE 805, OHB 810, EPL 802 and VRM 815) during the first semester of year 1, will not be allowed to continue in the MSc programme.
2. If a student fails a coursework module, he/she will have to repeat the module the following year. A module cannot be repeated more than twice.

### **Examinations and pass requirements related to mini-dissertations**

Also consult the General Academic Regulation G39 for Preparation and submission of dissertation, Technical editing of the dissertation, Evaluation of the dissertation, Appointment of the examination panel, Criteria for evaluation, Examiners' reports, Finalisation of reports. A mini-dissertation is submitted to the Head: Student Administration, before the closing date for the relevant graduation ceremonies as announced annually (i.e. 30 October or 31 March to qualify for the Autumn or Spring graduation, respectively), after permission is granted by the supervisor and cosupervisor(s). (Also consult the General Academic Regulation G39 with regard to the submission and technical editing of the thesis).

If a mini-dissertation is submitted after the due date specified above, the student takes the risk that the examination of the dissertation may be delayed and the student will not be considered for the graduation concerned. A student will only be allowed to graduate if the student has successfully complied with all the requirements for the particular programme.

In addition to what is set out above, the mini-dissertation will include an oral examination conducted face to face or via video conference. The oral examining panel will include an examiner from each institute (excluding the supervisor). A mark constituting a maximum of 10% of the final mini-dissertation mark must be granted. The dissertation will be examined by one internal and one external examiner as stipulated by the UP regulations; this mark will constitute 90% of the final mini-dissertation mark.

The minimum pass mark is 50%. The Dean, on the recommendation of the relevant head of the department, may permit a candidate who has failed, to submit an amended mini dissertation for final adjudication.

### **Retention and preservation of research data**

Also consult the General Academic Regulations G39.

The data generated through the research conducted must be managed in accordance with the University of Pretoria's Research Data Management policy and the related Research Data Management procedure.

Non-disclosure of the contents of a study (Embargo): Where part or all of the contents of the master's study must remain confidential, the supervisor will be required to submit an application in writing to Faculty Postgraduate and Research committee setting out the grounds for such a request and indicating the duration of the period of confidentiality. This period would normally not exceed 2 (two) years. The committee considers the application and either approves it or refers it back to the supervisor. The faculty must keep record of the decisions and the embargo, and the information must be shared with the Department of Library Services.

### **Compliance with degree requirements and degree privileges**

Also consult the General Academic Regulations G40.

1. A coursework master's degree, will be conferred on a student only after the successful completion of every requirement of each component of the relevant degree programme, including the achievement of a pass mark for each of the prescribed coursework modules, the submission and successful evaluation of the mini-

dissertation or other research relevant output, and compliance with all the requirements for the particular programme.

2. A coursework master's degree is not deemed to be completed if the electronic version of the minidissertation has not been submitted to the relevant faculty administration prior to the date of closure of the graduation/finalist list for the forthcoming graduation ceremony.
3. No one is entitled to any privileges pertaining to a coursework master's degree before the qualification has been conferred on him or her at a graduation ceremony. In respect of professional registrations, faculties may issue confirmation letters to the relevant professional bodies prior to the graduation ceremonies.

## Pass with distinction

Qualification with distinction: A coursework master's degree is awarded with distinction if a student meets the following requirements:

- a. Obtained a weighted average of at least 75% (not rounded) in the coursework modules needed to comply with degree requirements, and
- b. Obtained a final mark of 75% or above for the mini-dissertation; and
- c. Completed the qualification within the maximum period allowed for master's study, but not in less than the prescribed minimum period of one academic year. Note: the maximum allowable time is twice that of the prescribed duration time period in relation to postgraduate students who study part-time (i.e. study while working full-time).
- d. In the case of a coursework master's degree, did not fail or repeat any module during an additional examination. The result of a discontinuation of a module(s) will not be considered when calculating a qualification with distinction.

## General information

### **University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project**

*The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.*

## Curriculum: Year 1

Induction: A two-week orientation at DVTD and Hans Hoheisen. Will include sessions on key computing, library, study and research skills. Aspects of the Research Methodology and Introduction to One Health (2 of the 4 ECTS) modules will also be presented (face-to-face) during this time.

Elective modules: Choose modules to the minimum value of 35 credits from the list of elective modules below ensuring that the following is adhered to:

Theory-based elective modules:

Choose two modules from the following list of theory-based modules: AHE 812, AHE 813, AHE 814, AHE 815, AHE 816, EPL 803, GVD 815, OHB 815, OHB 816 and TBD 815.

Skills-based elective modules:

In consultation with the HED and study leader, a maximum of two skills-based elective modules may be selected from the following: ASR 813, AVB 820, AVH 815, AVV 820, EPL 804, TCK 815 and VMB 820.

### Core modules

[Introduction to zoonosis 805](#) (AHE 805) - Credits: 15.00

[Basic epidemiology 801](#) (EPL 801) - Credits: 12.00

[Introduction to One Health 810](#) (OHB 810) - Credits: 18.00

[Research methodology 815](#) (VRM 815) - Credits: 10.00

### Elective modules

[Advanced One Health: policy 815](#) (AHE 815) - Credits: 12.00

[Laboratory diagnostics 820](#) (AHE 820) - Credits: 12.00

[Surveillance and survey methodology 822](#) (AHE 822) - Credits: 10.00

[Applied serology 813](#) (ASR 813) - Credits: 10.00

[Applied bacteriology 820](#) (AVB 820) - Credits: 10.00

[Applied helminthology 815](#) (AVH 815) - Credits: 12.00

[Applied virology 820](#) (AVV 820) - Credits: 10.00

[Advanced epidemiology 803](#) (EPL 803) - Credits: 12.00

[Applied epidemiology 804](#) (EPL 804) - Credits: 12.00

[General vector-borne diseases 815](#) (GVD 815) - Credits: 12.00

[Globalisation and health 812](#) (OHB 812) - Credits: 15.00

[Outbreak investigations and research 815](#) (OHB 815) - Credits: 15.00

[Molecular data for infectious diseases 816](#) (OHB 816) - Credits: 15.00

[Selected tick identification 815](#) (TCK 815) - Credits: 10.00

[Applied molecular biology 820](#) (VMB 820) - Credits: 10.00

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## Curriculum: Final year

### Core modules

Mini-dissertation 895 (AHE 895) - Credits: 90.00

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#### Regulations and rules

The regulations and rules for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information.

The [General Academic Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) and [General Student Rules](#) apply to all faculties and registered students of the University, as well as all prospective students who have accepted an offer of a place at the University of Pretoria. On registering for a programme, the student bears the responsibility of ensuring that they familiarise themselves with the General Academic Regulations applicable to their registration, as well as the relevant faculty-specific and programme-specific regulations and information as stipulated in the relevant yearbook. Ignorance concerning these regulations will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression, or basis for an exception to any of the aforementioned regulations.

#### University of Pretoria Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) verification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names, may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.