

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2024

MA Research Psychology (Coursework) (01250434)

Department Psychology

Minimum duration of study 2 years

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Programme information

The MA Research Psychology programme provides integrated professional and academic training equipping the candidate to function as a specialist researcher in psychology.

Closing date for applications: 31 May annually.

The programme is a two-year full-time programme and consists of an academic (50%) and a research (50%) component. Students need to pass both components as well as complete their internship to be awarded with the MA (Research Psychology) degree.

Once a student has successfully completed the coursework of the MA (Research Psychology) degree, such a student must apply for registration as an intern research psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology at the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) for a one-year full-time internship in Research Psychology. After successfully completing the internship and passing the board examination of the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA, an intern research psychologist can apply for registration as a research psychologist with the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA.

A. Coursework training

Consists of one-year academic training (year 1) during which a core curriculum will be followed.

B. Mini-dissertation (PSY 895)

The writing of the mini-dissertation coincides with the coursework training (year 1) and the internship training (year 2). Students are expected to successfully write a research proposal during their coursework training (year 1). Data collection and the writing of the mini-dissertation (PSY 895) takes place during year 2.

C. Internship (PSY 805)

Students are expected to successfully complete an internship at an accredited internship site according to the HPCSA regulations in order to register as research psychologists during year 2. Such registration is subject to the regulations of the Professional Board for Psychology at the time of registration.

Admission requirements

1. BSocSciHons in Psychology **or** BAHons in Psychology **or** relevant honours degree
2. A cumulative weighted average of at least 70% for the honours degree

Examinations and pass requirements

Assessments

- i. A mark of 50% is required for each sub-module. In order to pass the overall module, a final mark of at least 50% must be obtained.
- ii. Progress in modules is assessed through a variety of activities in a process of continuous assessment. Assessment is designed to ensure that all the outcomes of the modules have been evaluated by means of informative assessment.
- iii. The final results for all modules will only be published after confirmation of the results by the examination commission of the Faculty of Humanities. No results will be released beforehand.

Promotion to next study year

Requirements for progress to year 2 of the programme (PSY 895)

- i. In each programme all requirements for year 1 of the programme must be met before proceeding to year 2 of the programme.
- ii. Should all the requirements of year 1 not be met, year 1 may not be repeated and the student will have to leave the programme.
- iii. Should the student wish to continue, they will have to reapply for admission in accordance with the rules applicable to the selection process for all new applications.
- iv. No module may be carried over from year 1 to year 2.

Requirements for progress to internship (PSY 805)

- i. The rules and regulations as laid down by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and as amended from time to time, will apply.
- ii. All programme requirements of the degree must be successfully completed and the assessment thereof processed through the necessary committees of the University.
- iii. The master's degree must be completed in two years.

Pass with distinction

A student will pass a module with distinction if a final mark of at least 75% is achieved.

General information

Professional misconduct:

Enquiry with regards to possible professional misconduct within the programme: Should a student be considered in breach of any professional rule, regulation, code of conduct, or legislation as laid down by the Professional Board for Psychology or the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), or the legislation governing the conduct and training of Clinical Psychologists (as health professionals) the student may be required to present themselves before the executive management committee of the Department of Psychology and the Deanery of the Faculty of Humanities for an enquiry in order to ascertain whether or not the matter should be referred to the Professional Board for Psychology, the HPCSA, or the appropriate statutory authority, for a further investigation.

Discontinuation from Participation in the Programme:

The Dean may, on the recommendation of the Head of the Department of Psychology, conduct an enquiry into the alleged conduct and/or fitness of the student to practice. Possible outcomes of this process could include, but will not be limited to, the discontinuation of the student's participation in the programme during an academic year. This decision will be considered by the management committee of the Department and various aspects of the student's progress and conduct within the programme will be assessed. The student will have the opportunity to respond and make representations regarding the allegations brought against them.

Curriculum: Year 1

Core modules

Research methodology 801 (PSY 801)

Module credits	40.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	DS (Research Psychology)
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

This module exposes students to research methodology, including quantitative and qualitative methodology, as well as mixed methods. Specific research methodology themes covered include the theoretical underpinnings of methodology, research designs/approaches, market and media research, data collection and analysis, and research ethics. Students will also receive training in the use of software to analyse data. The module will enable students to conceptualise, plan and execute rigorous research in a psychological context and expose them to a broad range of research techniques. This will equip students with the skills necessary to be flexible and adapt to the ever-changing research workplace. Instruction will be delivered through workshops, contact sessions and online materials.

Project management 802 (PSY 802)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	DS (Research Psychology)
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

This module equips students with a diverse set of practical research skills to apply in various settings. Students are exposed to community research theory, programme monitoring and evaluation, and policy development. The research proposal sub-component of this module is included to assist students with completing their research proposals for approval by the Faculty.

Psychological theory 803 (PSY 803)

Module credits	25.00
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NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	DS (Research Psychology)
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The module introduces students to theories relevant to research in psychology. These theories deal with new developments related to Research Psychology, thus providing students opportunities to identify research problems and questions relevant to their own research. These theories include positive psychology, cognitive and behavioural neuroscience, environmental psychology, indigenous psychology and critical social psychology. In recognising the importance of curriculum transformation, emphasis will be placed on issues of diversity and inclusion and how this relates to research.

Psychometrics 804 (PSY 804)

Module credits	10.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	DS (Research Psychology)
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

This module will demonstrate the process of test development from the perspective of Classical Test Theory (CTT) and Item Response Theory (IRT). Students are introduced to measurement theory, which includes an overview of measurement philosophy, true score theory, reliability, validity, item selection and use of statistical software. The specific IRT model constitutes the Rasch model allowing inspection of item fit, multidimensionality, bias, and related topics. Students are introduced to Winsteps and related software to enable them to do item calibration and IRT analysis. A brief introduction to how multidimensionality of tests can be assessed with Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) will also be included.

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Internship 805 (PSY 805)

Module credits	0.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	Registration as a student psychologist at the HPCSA.
Contact time	Internship
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

According to the HPCSA regulations, a student needs to complete an accredited internship programme before registering as a professional psychologist. The internship includes a minimum period of one year (12 months) following a structured programme that includes practical competence-based activities in a specific registration category of psychology. This internship must be completed to formally register as a psychologist. The purpose of the internship is to enable student psychologists to integrate, apply and refine their skills and competencies essential for independent practice. The internship programme provides student psychologists with hands-on work experience and is a vital entry requirement for professional registration.

In order to register as an intern psychologist, students must have been registered as a student psychologist with the HPCSA for a period of nine months as outlined by the Professional Board for Psychology at the HPCSA.

Mini-dissertation: Research psychology 895 (PSY 895)

Module credits	90.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	DS (Research psychology)
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Psychology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

A research project under the guidance of a study leader is done. The mini-dissertation must be on a topic with a psychological perspective. It is expected from the student to conceptualise, plan, execute and document the research.

General Academic Regulations and Student Rules

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. The G Regulations are updated annually and may be amended after the publication of this information.

Regulations, degree requirements and information

The faculty regulations, information on and requirements for the degrees published here are subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this 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 (HEQSF) 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.