

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

BSocSciHons in Geography option Geography and Environmental Science (01243029)

Department Humanities Dean's Office

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 135

NQF level 08

Programme information

Closing date for applications: 30 September annually.

Admission requirements

1. Relevant bachelor's degree with specialisation in Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Geographical Sciences or Planning Sciences or a directly related major in the field of Social Sciences
2. A weighted average of at least 60% at final-year level

Curriculum: Final year

Minimum credits: 135

Fundamental credits: 15

Core credits: 90

Elective credits: 30

Additional information:

Students are advised to choose 30 elective credits from the following groups:

- **Applied geography:** GGY 701, GGY 718.
- **GIS and remote sensing:** GMA 705, GIS 707, GIS 708.
- **Communication and Information:** INY 713, INY 715, INY 716, INY 722, AGC 713.
- **Media:** IMY 771, IMY 773, IMY 779, VKK 756.
- **Development and Society:** SOC 756, SOC 757, SOC 762, TBE 715.

Fundamental modules

Environmental policy and communication 704 (ENV 704)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	ENV 301
Contact time	28 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The module introduces students to contemporary debates about the role of policy, discourse and communication in achieving environmental sustainability. The outcomes of development interventions and projects on different scales (global, national and community) are used to demonstrate and reflect on the contested nature of environmental policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. Ultimately, students are encouraged to critically engage with the politics of policy formulation and implementation; and the discursive tactics used to communicate policy-related objectives, outcomes and interventions.

Environmental assessments 785 (ENV 785)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Service modules	Faculty of Health Sciences
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	28 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

The aim of this module is to understand the principles and processes behind environmental assessments. The module will give an overview of the history of assessments, compare assessment processes internationally, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, provide an overview of the South African regulatory context and the environmental authorisation process.

Research project 704 (GGY 704)

Module credits 35.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

An approved individual research project on an environmental/geography topic within the social sciences. The project is carried out under the guidance of a lecturer. The project culminates in a research report in the format of a research paper and presentation. The student is expected to obtain the respective skills (theoretical and practical research techniques, data analysis, communication and computer skills) necessary for the research topic.

Geographical and environmental principles 710 (GGY 710)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

The module provides a critical review of the structures and paradigms in which the geographical and environmental sciences are practised. Particular reference is made to the development and impact of paradigms and the interdependence of systems within space and time.

Research methods and scientific communication 722 (GGY 722)

Module credits 10.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	14 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Quarter 1

Module content

Basic skills in philosophy of science; research planning; research design; scientific reading, writing and scientific presentations, as required for research in the social sciences.

Urban geography 780 (GGY 780)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	GGY 301 or equivalent.
Contact time	28 contact hours
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The main themes of the module include: overview of global urbanisation theories and processes; urban morphology and change; the administrative structure and functions of African cities and; the quality of urban life in the developing world.

Elective modules

Communication for sustainable rural development 713 (AGV 713)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 four-hour lecture in 5 block week sessions
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Agricultural Economics Extension and Rural Develo
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

Introduction to the Communication Process, its role and importance. Communication and perception - role of Extension in AKIS. Clarification of principles and definitions; theory of communication; Strategies for communication and Extension methods. Key elements and channels of communication; credibility; persuasion; public speaking; audio visual aids; mass media and their effect; new reporting; articles and newsletters. Designing communication interventions. Impact assessment approaches and tools. Appreciative Communication Inquiry: 5-D Approach.

Selected theme 701 (GGY 701)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 28 contact hours

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

A self-study module on an aspect or aspects of geographical or environmental science selected in consultation with the head of the department from: (a) themes not covered in existing options; or (b) educational subjects.

Applied geomorphology 718 (GGY 718)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites GGY 361 or GGY 363 or equivalent. Students who do not need this module as a core module are required to consult with the module coordinator prior to registration on the capacity in this module for extra attendees.

Contact time 28 contact hours

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology

Period of presentation Year

Module content

This module focuses on processes and applications of geomorphology. Topics that may be studied include: soil erosion and conservation, weathering, geomorphic response to environmental change, slope processes and geomorphological hazards. The module includes practical fieldwork and field assessments.

Special topics 707 (GIS 707)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	28 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

A special topic in Geoinformatics linked to research specialisation in the department and/or visiting lecturers. For example, research trends and advances in a specific topic or field of specialisation in Geoinformatics. The module is presented in the form of guided advanced readings, seminars and/or discussion sessions.

Advanced GIS 708 (GIS 708)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	GIS 310 or equivalent.
Contact time	2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

Advanced topics in GIS application, such as principal component analysis, multi-criteria evaluation and other geospatial analysis methods, and their application relating to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Advanced remote sensing 705 (GMA 705)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	GMA 320 or equivalent. Students who do not need this module as a core module are required to consult with the module coordinator prior to registration on the capacity in this module for extra attendees.
Contact time	28 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Geography Geoinformatics and Meteorology
Period of presentation	Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The aim of the module is to provide knowledge and understanding of image analysis and information extraction methods in remote sensing. The emphasis is on equipping students with knowledge and skills necessary to process imagery to extract diverse biophysical and geospatial information. The course gives insight into the possibilities and limitations of the application of modern remote sensing/image acquisition systems for Earth and atmosphere research purposes at different levels of detail.

Interactive technology trends 771 (IMY 771)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Information Science
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

An investigation of current and future trends in the field of interactive technology. Students investigate and apply these trends in the creation of speculative design projects.

Applied interactive technology 773 (IMY 773)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Information Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

In this module students will research a current topic related to the creative use of interactive technologies. An understanding of current trends is required together with the knowledge of their usage. The students apply their topic in the creation of an interactive product.

Applied human-computer interaction 779 (IMY 779)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Information Science

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

In this module, students are exposed to research topics and methodologies within the Human Computer Interaction (HCI) discipline. Students then apply their understanding by investigating a topic of their choice to produce a research paper.

Information and knowledge management (I) 713 (INY 713)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Service modules Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Information Science

Period of presentation Semester 1

Module content

This module consists of two main sections. A theoretical framework of information and knowledge management will be addressed in section one. Section two covers the enablers of information and knowledge management. These include: leadership, corporate culture, organisational learning, strategy, laws and policies, measurement and information technology.

Information ethics 715 (INY 715)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites No prerequisites.

Contact time 8 meetings per semester

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Information Science

Period of presentation Semester 2

Module content

This module focuses on the main moral ethical issues pertaining to information and ICT, globalisation, privacy and knowledge flow. It covers amongst others the following topics: information and computer ethics; information security; privacy and the right to information; digital identity management; information legislation; e-waste; artificial intelligence; globalisation and the impact on society, etc.

Information and knowledge management (II) 716 (INY 716)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	INY 713
Contact time	8 meetings per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Information Science
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module offers students the opportunity to become conversant with various knowledge management programmes as well as the development, implementation and evaluation of knowledge management strategies. It introduces students to traditional and advanced knowledge management models and frameworks, a selection of knowledge management theories, the role of knowledge management for resiliency management, and trending issues in the field of knowledge management.

Fourth industrial revolution 722 (INY 722)

Module credits	15.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	8 meetings per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Information Science
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This module evaluates the evolution of previous industrial revolutions to the fourth industrial revolution. It compares and critiques the fourth industrial revolution in the light of concepts of the information and knowledge societies, and examines relevant themes in the literature. It also discusses the implications for knowledge workers.

Social theory 756 (SOC 756)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This module introduces students to key conceptual vocabularies, as well as selected theoretical paradigms and scholarly works in order to facilitate an understanding of some of the current debates, innovations and controversies in the field. A balance is struck between classic and contemporary social theory, and an emphasis is placed on questions of textuality, canonicity and interdisciplinarity in shaping conversations about social theory and its significance for research, thought and politics.

Environment, society, and development 757 (SOC 757)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module aims to provide students with comprehensive conceptual, theoretical and empirical skills to comprehend issues at the nexus of the environment, society and development. Etched in environmental and natural resource governance, extractivism and development, as well as sustainability, the module endeavours to unravel the roots of environmental degradation, natural resources conflicts, environmental injustice, and how different actors, in society and globally, contribute or respond to these challenges. The module unpacks these issues using theoretical aspects of political ecology, political economy, coloniality and sustainable development. While focusing on environmental issues in Africa, the module engages with broader global developments, in particular, relations between the Global North and Global South.

Identity, culture and society 762 (SOC 762)

Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Sociology
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

This module focuses on the relationship between the personal and social and how these two domains are intricately related, simultaneously implying sameness and difference in the process of identification. It considers how societal structures and institutions shape and construct identities historically, whilst being shaped by individual agency, in turn. Human experience reveals a range of cross-cutting affiliations, based on ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexuality and generation, amongst others, implying a multiplicity in belonging, suggesting a relational process, rather than an essence. The social, contingent and constructed nature of identities is highlighted against experiences of dislocation within a context of globalisation.

Responsible tourism management 715 (TBE 715)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	1 lecture per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Marketing Management
Period of presentation	Year

Module content

The module equips the learner with responsible tourism management values and requires the learner to develop a portfolio that demonstrates their ability to conduct research, compile and write different research and/or tourism documents/reports, present to audiences and solve tourism-related strategic problems. One of the projects in the module involves community engagement activities where community partners are assisted with tourism-related knowledge and/or activities.

Visual and digital scholarship 756 (VKK 756)

Module credits	40.00
NQF Level	08
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	Blended mode
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	School of the Arts
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

This module exposes students to the latest visual and digital humanities tools and scholarship. These may include photo diaries, interactive web documentaries, social media analysis, as well as the mapping and visualisation of data. A three-tiered analysis of images across media is followed, namely the site of production, the image itself and the meanings negotiated in specific social contexts.

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.