

# University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

## MA in Research Psychology (Coursework) (01250218)

**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. Bachelor of Social Sciences Honours in Psychology  
or

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology

or

Relevant honours degree

2. A 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) - Credits: 40.00

Project management 802 (PSY 802) - Credits: 15.00

Psychological theory 803 (PSY 803) - Credits: 25.00

Psychometrics 804 (PSY 804) - Credits: 10.00

## Curriculum: Final year

### Core modules

Internship 805 (PSY 805) - Credits: 0.00

Mini-dissertation: Research psychology 895 (PSY 895) - Credits: 90.00

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### 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.