

# University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

## MSc specialising in Biotechnology (02250537)

**Department** Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology

**Minimum duration of study** 1 year

**Total credits** 180

**NQF level** 09

### Admission requirements

1. Bachelor of Science Honours in Biotechnology degree  
or  
Relevant Bachelor of Science honours degree  
or  
Relevant 4-year Bachelor of Science degree where the research component must account for at least 25% of the total final year credits and any industrial attachment may not replace more than one of the eight semesters of theory
2. A weighted average of at least 60% at honours or final-year level

Note:

1. An admission examination may be required
2. A CV with contactable references may be required

### Additional requirements

Preference will be given to applicants with the highest final grade point averages for their preceding degree and qualifying applicants may be subjected to an entrance evaluation examination. Admission is furthermore contingent on the availability of supervisors and/or research projects within the participating departments.

### Promotion to next study year

The progress of all master's candidates is monitored biannually by the supervisor and the postgraduate coordinator. A candidate's study may be terminated if the progress is unsatisfactory or if the candidate is unable to finish his/her studies during the prescribed period.

Subject to exceptions approved by the Dean, on recommendation of the relevant head of department, and where applicable, a student may not enter for the master's examination in the same module more than twice.

## Curriculum: Final year

### Core modules

#### Dissertation: Agronomy 890 (AGR 890)

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Module credits</b>         | 180.00                                |
| <b>NQF Level</b>              | 09                                    |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>          | No prerequisites.                     |
| <b>Language of tuition</b>    | Module is presented in English        |
| <b>Department</b>             | Department of Plant and Soil Sciences |
| <b>Period of presentation</b> | Year                                  |

##### Module content

This module involves the development, presentation and approval of a research proposal, the execution of the research project, and the writing up and presentation of the research results. In addition to the dissertation, the student is also expected to compile a concept research paper for publication in a peer-reviewed UP accredited scientific journal.

#### Biochemistry: Dissertation 890 (BCM 890)

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Module credits</b>         | 180.00                                  |
| <b>NQF Level</b>              | 09                                      |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>          | No prerequisites.                       |
| <b>Language of tuition</b>    | Module is presented in English          |
| <b>Department</b>             | Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology |
| <b>Period of presentation</b> | Year                                    |

#### Dissertation: Plant science 890 (BOT 890)

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Module credits</b>         | 180.00                                |
| <b>NQF Level</b>              | 09                                    |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>          | No prerequisites.                     |
| <b>Language of tuition</b>    | Module is presented in English        |
| <b>Department</b>             | Department of Plant and Soil Sciences |
| <b>Period of presentation</b> | Year                                  |

#### Dissertation: Genetics 890 (GTK 890)

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Module credits</b> | 180.00            |
| <b>NQF Level</b>      | 09                |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>  | No prerequisites. |

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|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Language of tuition</b>    | Module is presented in English          |
| <b>Department</b>             | Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology |
| <b>Period of presentation</b> | Year                                    |

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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.