

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2025

Master of Town and Regional Planning [MTRP] (Coursework) (12252036)

Department Town and Regional Planning

Minimum duration of study 2 years

Total credits 240

NQF level 09

Programme information

This master's degree is obtained by virtue of coursework and a mini-dissertation. The topic of the mini-dissertation must be approved by the relevant head of department.

Admission requirements

1. Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning degree of the University of Pretoria

or

equivalent degree in Town and Regional Planning in a course or programme accredited by (1) the professional council or organisation in the country in which it is offered - the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) in the case of South Africa - or (2) an international planning organisation or institute such as the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

or

relevant honours-level degree in a field relevant to, or related to planning (such as architecture, civil engineering, construction, economics, geography, sociology, public management, law or development studies), that is deemed acceptable by the departmental Postgraduate Committee

Note: Practical experience may be required

Additional requirements

Supplementary undergraduate modules for the MT&RP degree may be prescribed for students who have not obtained a BT&RP degree.

Examinations and pass requirements

A minimum semester/year mark of 40% is required in order to be admitted to the final examination in a specific module. In addition, all other examination admission requirements, applicable to the relevant module, must be met. A minimum pass mark of 40% is required in the examination, with a minimum final mark of 50% to pass.

Pass with distinction

The degree is conferred with distinction on a student who obtains a weighted average of at least 75% (not rounded) in the examinations of all the prescribed core modules as well as the mini-dissertation.

Curriculum: Year 1

Core modules

Integrated development planning 820 (TPD 820)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Introduction to development and development planning theories; the integrated development planning process; legal, institutional and policy frameworks in which integrated planning functions in South Africa; implementation of integrated development plans; case studies of integrated development planning; simulations of integrated development planning exercises.

Metropolitan and urban area-based interventions 811 (TPI 811)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Scope, nature and rationale of metropolitan and urban area-based interventions; unique problems in metropolitan areas, for example inner city decay, fringe development, housing, services backlog, the dysfunctional apartheid cityscape and dependency on private transport; types of intervention (inter alia institutional, spatial, economic and social) in order to accomplish restructuring and development in metropolitan areas in South Africa in a relevant, social and environmentally accountable way; policy and legislation regarding urban restructuring and development in South Africa; international and local case studies; impact of globalisation on South African metropolitan areas and major cities; simulated metropolitan and urban area-based intervention exercise.

Regional interventions 821 (TPI 821)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09

Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Scope, nature and rationale of regional interventions on both a supra-national and subnational scale; approaches to planning and development on continental, macro-regional, provincial and district scales; types of intervention (inter alia institutional, spatial, economic and social) in order to accomplish restructuring and development in regions in a relevant, social and environmentally accountable way, past and present examples of planning on each of these scales; planners' roles in planning exercises at these scales; critiques and improvements on current practice; rural urban linkages and their significance for regional interventions; debates around the way in which problems facing rural settlements (such as the absence of an economic base and necessary infrastructure, lack of access to land and conflicting demands on natural resources) in regions can be addressed; international and local case studies; simulated regional intervention exercise.

Sustainable settlement planning and design 810 (TPS 810)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Normative principles for sustainable settlement planning and design; design theory; planning and design processes; simulated urban and rural settlement planning and design exercise.

Introduction to urban design 820 (TPS 820)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Theory of urban design and its relation to town and regional planning; urban design principles for well-performing settlements; urban design process; urban design frameworks and precinct plans; simulated urban design exercise at neighbourhood level.

An overview of planning theory and practice 810 (TRP 810)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Research methodology 810 (TPE 810)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Defining research; research paradigms; research ethics; research problems/questions; literature reviews; research design; selected qualitative and quantitative methods for data collection, analysis and interpretation; reporting research; formulation of a research proposal.

Mini-dissertation 820 (TPE 820)

Module credits	60.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	TPE 810
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Contextualisation of a research problem/question; literature review; research design and methods; undertake empirical research in line with an approved research proposal; collection, analysis and interpretation of data; writing up of research findings.

Land use management and land development 810 (TPU 810)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

A brief history of land use management in South Africa; rationale for land use management; principles of good land use management in the context of transformation and development imperatives in post-apartheid South Africa, global environmental change, new economic geography, procedural, substantive and intergenerational justice and development economics; critique of land use management; ethics of land use management; the characteristics of an appropriate land use management system that advances transformation, sustainability, resilience, equity, inclusiveness and integration in South Africa; the link between land use management and strategic spatial planning; international and South African examples of land use management systems; the future of land use management. Generic components of land use and land development applications and procedures; practical exercises in the preparation, submission, processing and evaluation of land use management applications; policy preparation in terms of land use management systems that advance the principles of effective, efficient and sustainable land use management; appeals; introduction to Environmental Impact Studies (EIAs).

Institutional and legal structures for planning 810 (TPW 810)

Module credits	20.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Contact time	40 contact hours per semester
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Town and Regional Planning
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

Overview of South African institutional and legal structures for planning and development, on national and provincial scale. Relevant legislation and policies that influence planning. Specific reference to the legal frameworks guiding land development, the environment, municipal management and development, housing, transport, water, and Human Rights.

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.