



University of Pretoria Yearbook 2026

MSc specialising in Computer Science (12253074)

Department Computer Science

Minimum duration of study 1 year

Total credits 180

NQF level 09

Programme information

The MSc degree is conferred on grounds of a dissertation and such additional postgraduate coursework as may be prescribed. A student is required to demonstrate, by means of a dissertation, the ability to plan, institute and execute a scientific investigation.

A student works under the guidance of a supervisor and is expected to identify and complete a research project. The research results are to be fully reported in an MSc dissertation.

Also refer to G30-G41.

Admission requirements

General Admission Regulations:

Refer to the UP Institutional Admissions Policy as well as the General Academic Regulations and Student Rules (Go to <https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home> and click on *General Rules and Regulations*, then on *General Academic Regulations and Student Rules*)

- All applications must be accompanied by the following documents:
 - Certified full academic transcripts from undergraduate to current level;
 - Certified copy of ID or passport;
 - A research concept note (not applicable to honours or coursework master's degrees): A description of the proposed research field indicating a research topic and the broad scope of the proposed study, not exceeding 500 words.
- All applicants with international qualifications must submit the following documents, subject to provision number 9:
 - A SAQA evaluation of the completed qualification or a comprehensive Foreign Qualification Report
 - *TOEFL or IELTS or Pearson Test of English or Oxford Test of English test results (if applicable)
 - Certified copy of passport.
- All postgraduate applications are subject to departmental admissions processes.
- Admissions is based on the content of and performance in the prior degree, bridging arrangements (where required), academic merit and prior work experience (if applicable).
- Admission to all qualifications is subject to supervisory capacity and/or research projects in the field



of specialisation in a department, therefore the relevant department has the right to limit the number of students per year.

6. Complying with the minimum admissions requirements, does not automatically guarantee admission to the degree.
7. Proposed research studies for masters and doctoral applicants should align with the research focus of the relevant department.
8. *If a qualifying candidate has expressed an interest in a field of study that the relevant department cannot accommodate, the applicant may be considered for an alternative project.*
9. All postgraduate applicants must be proficient in English as English is the official language of tuition, communication and correspondence at the University of Pretoria. Candidates who cannot provide evidence that previous studies were completed in English, must submit TOEFL or IELTS or Pearson Test of English or Oxford Test of English test results with their application.
10. All applicants must be computer literate.
11. All students need to have access to an internet enabled device, as well as consistent email and internet access.
12. Allowance will be made for the diversity profile of students in accordance with the University strategy.

Minimum admissions requirements:

1. Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Computer Science (or equivalent)
2. A weighted average of at least 65% for the honours degree

Examinations and pass requirements

The stipulations of the relevant Faculty regulations are applicable.

The Dean may, on recommendation of the relevant head of department, exempt a student from the examination on the dissertation.

The average mark awarded by all the examiners is the final mark, with the pass mark being at least 50%.

Promotion to next study year

If the supervisor affirms that a candidate has progressed satisfactorily, registration may be renewed for the second year (full-time) or for the second to fourth year (part-time). Re-registration thereafter will only take place if a written motivation from the candidate, supported by the relevant head of department is submitted to the student administration offices.

Research information

Refer also to G40.

With the exception of an honorary degree, a degree will be conferred on a student only if the student has complied with all the requirements for the particular degree and has reached the level of competence prescribed for the degree, and on condition that no one is entitled to any privileges pertaining to a degree before the degree has been conferred on him or her at a graduation ceremony.



Pass with distinction

The MSc degree is conferred with distinction on candidates who obtain a final average mark of at least 75%.



Curriculum: Final year

Core modules

Dissertation: Computer science 890 (RKW 890)

Module credits	180.00
NQF Level	09
Prerequisites	No prerequisites.
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Period of presentation	Year

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.