

3.7.5 Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Programme codes

11466 – 879(180)

11466 – 887(260) (Two-year programme)

The programmes are presented by the Centre for Regional and Urban Innovation and Statistical Exploration (CRUISE) of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies.

Specific Admission Requirements

879:

- A four-year professional Bachelor's degree (NQF level 8) in Urban and Regional Planning or Development Planning.
- A pass mark of 60%.

887:

- A four-year professional Bachelor's degree (NQF level 8) in one of the following disciplines: Urban and Regional Planning or Development Planning,
or
- an Honours degree (NQF level 8) in one of the following disciplines: Geography or Sustainable Development, or another qualification equivalent to an Honours degree.
- You may be granted admission to the programme through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- A pass mark of 60%.

Closing Date for Applications

- South African students:
 - Apply by **31 October** of the preceding year.
- International students:
 - Apply by **31 August** of the preceding year.

Programme Structure

879:

The programme comprises a 180-credit research thesis plus possible further prerequisites. The thesis deals with a relevant urban and regional planning topic.

887:

This programme is accredited by the South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN). Graduates who have successfully completed this programme and have obtained the required post-qualification experience may register with SACPLAN in terms of the Planning Profession Act (No. 36 of 2002).

In accordance with the SACPLAN accreditation requirements, the programme comprises a coursework component of 130 credits in the first year of study and a 130-credit research thesis in the second year of study. The thesis deals with a relevant urban and regional planning problem.

Programme Content

879:

Compulsory Module

13151 : Thesis (Urban and Regional Planning)	871(180)
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Assessment and Examination

The thesis of 35 000 to 45 000 words, which demonstrates the ability to conduct independent scientific research on a relevant urban and regional planning topic, is assessed according to the regulations of Stellenbosch University in Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook.

887:

Compulsory Modules

13299 : Social Systems	812(10)
13300 : Spatial Economic Systems	812(10)
13302 : Urban Systems	812(10)
13301 : Urban Form and Function	871(20)
13306 : GIS Analysis	812(10)

13310 : Planning Practice	871(20)
11434 : Planning Legislation	871(15)
11435 : Planning Theory	871(15)
11433 : Planning Design	871(20)
13151 : Thesis (Urban and Regional Planning)	876(130)

Assessment and Examination

Assessment is done per module as explained in the framework of each individual module. The thesis in the structured option (programme code 11466-887) contributes 50% to the final mark. The thesis is assessed according to the University's regulations for Master's theses as found in Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook.

Enquiries

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Postgraduate Programmes

For more information on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' postgraduate programmes, consult the University's Postgraduate Prospectus or the various departmental websites.

1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Special admission to the postgraduate programmes in the Faculty is available to you if you:

- were denied opportunities to formal learning environments earlier because of systemic or other limitations, but you can demonstrate that you can now participate at a particular level in such learning opportunities; or
- can receive retrospective recognition for them.

If you do not have a Bachelor's degree, you must follow the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedure for admission to a postgraduate diploma, Honours, MPhil or MA programme. Not all departments have the possibility of admission by means of the RPL procedure. A Bachelor's degree awarded by a university of technology or a private provider of higher education will be recognised only if your degree is registered with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the same level as the required university qualification.

Please note: It remains the responsibility of a Department to establish if your existing qualification is up to standard.

More details of the Faculty's RPL procedure are available from the Faculty Administrator, Arts and Social Sciences, in the Admin A building.

2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes

2.1 Postgraduate diploma

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least one year after obtaining an appropriate Bachelor's degree.
- b) The following postgraduate diplomas are only offered on a part-time basis over a residential period of two years:
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Knowledge and Information Systems Management
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Public Mental Health
- c) Admission requirements are determined according to your specific programme.
- d) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information on the admission requirements and programme contents of the specific postgraduate diploma you wish to follow.
- e) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.2 Honours degree programme

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least one year after obtaining an appropriate Bachelor's degree.
- b) You must follow the Honours degree programme in one of the major subjects of your Bachelor's degree.
- c) You will be admitted to the Honours degree programme if you –
 - have a Bachelor's degree that has been approved by Senate for this purpose;
 - have passed the subject at third-year/fourth-year level in which you want to take the Honours discipline; and
 - have achieved a final mark of at least 60% or more in the major.
- d) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information on the admission requirements and programme contents of the specific Honours degree programme you wish to follow.
- e) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.3 MA degree programme

- a) You can be considered for admission to the MA degree if you –
 - have an appropriate Honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have an appropriate postgraduate diploma approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have achieved a standard of proficiency in your specific field of study in another manner that Senate considers as adequate for this purpose and, upon written application, were admitted by the Executive Committee to the Master's programme concerned.
- b) As a MA student you follow an approved curriculum of research and/or advanced study of at least one year (after obtaining an appropriate Honours degree or postgraduate diploma) at this University or another institution approved by Senate.
- c) You must follow the MA degree programme in the same field as the postgraduate diploma or Honours degree.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.4 MPhil degree programme

- a) You can be considered for admission to the MPhil degree if you –
 - have an appropriate postgraduate diploma or Honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;**OR**
 - have achieved a standard of proficiency in your specific field of study in another manner that Senate considers as adequate for this purpose and, upon written application, were admitted by the Executive Committee to the MPhil programme concerned.
- b) As MPhil student you follow an approved curriculum of research and/or advanced study of at least one year (after obtaining an appropriate Honours degree or postgraduate diploma) at this University or another institution approved by Senate.
- c) Admission requirements for the MPhil degree are determined according to the specific programme.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.5 PhD degree programme

- a) You must, after consulting the departmental chairperson concerned, apply in writing for admission to doctoral study. In your written application you must mention the proposed title of the dissertation and the supervisor.
- b) You can obtain the guidelines for a doctoral research proposal or registration without an approved research proposal from the Faculty Administrator.
- c) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for basic regulations.

2.6 DPhil degree programme

- a) The DPhil degree (an advanced doctorate) can be awarded to you if –
 - you have been registered at the University for at least one year, after obtaining the PhD degree in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University, or some other degree or qualification that Senate considers of adequate standard; and
 - a period of at least five years has elapsed since obtaining the PhD degree, or comparable qualification and the conferment of the DPhil degree.
- b) Enquiries regarding the DPhil degree can be addressed to the Faculty Administrator.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Arts and Social Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Arts and Social Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes**.