

BScHons in Biodiversity and Ecology

Programme Code

53953 – 778 (120)

Specific Admission Requirements

- A BSc degree approved by the Departmental Postgraduate and Academic Committees, with an average final mark of at least 60% for the appropriate modules at third-year level.
- Supplementary work may be prescribed by the Department depending on your background.

Closing Date for Applications

Apply online at <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/> by 31 October of the previous year and submit all supporting documents where applicable. Late applications can be submitted until 30 November. In exceptional cases, if there are any places available, applications will be considered until the beginning of the academic year.

If you are not an SU student, please note that your application may take longer to process due to the verification of qualifications. Therefore, apply early.

General Programme Information

The primary aim of the BScHons programme in Biodiversity and Ecology is to provide students with training and experience of the process of identifying research questions, making original discoveries in science and effectively communicating the findings. You will also receive practical training in relevant modern experimental techniques and be exposed to theoretical training in a number of biological sub-disciplines. The programme provides an effective bridging year if you are interested in pursuing advanced postgraduate degrees in various biological fields, but also provides you with key skills applicable to different market-orientated career choices. The programme places emphasis on three aspects in the educational process:

- The development of a satisfactory knowledge base;
- The development of a wide-ranging practical and theoretical capability; and
- The development of a professional scientific-methodological and ethical approach.

The programme includes theoretical work, seminars, practical tasks, independent research work and independent consultation of the broader biological literature. An honours student, it is required from you to attend departmental seminars and to serve as an undergraduate demonstrator.

Programme Structure

The programme consists of three components:

- A research project;
- A generic scientific skills module; and
- Theoretical topics in biodiversity science.

Duration of Programme

The normal duration of the programme is one year, but under exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the department, it is possible to repeat a module. The programme begins with the start of the academic year.

Programme Content

Compulsory Modules

Subject Number	Module Code	Credits	Module Name	Semester
66184	715	24	Generic Scientific Skills	2
55867	717	60	Research Project	Both
12249	796	36	Theoretical Topics in Biodiversity Sciences	Both

Assessment and Examination

- Assessment includes two oral examinations, written examinations, assignments, book reviews, seminars, a research project, and the production of a popular article.
- For successful completion of the honours programme, you must complete the generic scientific skills module, modules on theoretical topics in biodiversity science and a research project.
- You must pass each of the three components with a final mark of at least of 50%.

If you fail a theory-based module in the honours programme, you may apply to repeat this module in the following year. You may obtain a subminimum of 40% for only one of the theory-based modules, but the average of the skills modules and theory-based modules still needs to be above 50%. However, the research project cannot be repeated and if you fail it, you will not graduate with an honours degree.