

BScHons in Plant Biotechnology

Programme Code

53287 – 788 (120)

Specific Admission Requirements

- A BSc degree approved by the Departmental Postgraduate and Academic Committees with an average final mark of at least 60% in the appropriate modules at third-year level. Suitable modules include Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology.
- You are, however, strongly encouraged to take Genetics 314, 315, 344 and 345 for admission to the honours in Plant Biotechnology.
- Additional work may be prescribed depending on your background.

Closing Date for Applications

Apply in writing to the departmental chair or Registrar. The number of students admitted to this programme is determined by available research laboratory space.

Duration of Programme

The duration of the programme is one academic year and begins at the start of the general academic year.

Programme Content

The programme introduces students to advanced concepts and skills in Plant Biotechnology needed for a career as a plant biotechnologist or a researcher. Emphasis is placed 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 and independent consultation of the broader biological literature. As an honours student you are expected to attend departmental seminars and to act as an undergraduate demonstrator.

The theory modules consist of a series of contact sessions where information is exchanged by means of discussion groups, seminars, assignments and reading assignments. The module leaders will serve as facilitators, guiding the students rather than teaching them.

Subject to departmental approval, you can substitute two of the 8-credit theory modules with equivalent 8-credit modules from the BScHons in Genetics programme. All substitutions must be approved by the Department.

Compulsory Modules

10481 : Genetics: Molecular Techniques	715(16): Genetics: Molecular Techniques
13594 : Genomics	716(8): Genomics

13538 : Scientific and Proposal Writing	721(8): Scientific and Proposal Writing
13537 : Plant Genetics and Crop Improvement	722(8): Plant Genetics and Crop Improvement
12582 : Research Module in Plant Biotechnology	790(64): Research Module in Plant Biotechnology

plus

Elective modules

Choose two of the following modules

17523 : Plant Physiology	712(8): Plant Physiology
10475 : Integrated Plant Metabolism	713(8): Integrated Plant Metabolism
12555 : Biometrical Applications and Data Analysis R	721(8): Biometrical Applications and Data Analysis R

Assessment and Examination

- The programme is assessed by means of flexible assessment.
- To complete the honours programme successfully, you must complete the compulsory molecular techniques module, all prescribed theory modules and a research project successfully.