



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

BSc/ BA Honours in Geography Entry Requirements, Application Procedure and Modules

Entry Requirements

The Rules and Regulations of the Faculty of Science state that the requirement for registration for the BSc/BA Honours in Geography is subject to an undergraduate degree with a major in Geography and, for UJ students, a major in Environmental Management. A minimum mark of at least 65% in each module of Geography, at third year level, is a prerequisite for admission.

Application Procedure

All applications are to be submitted **online** via the University of Johannesburg website at: <https://www.uj.ac.za/studyatUJ/sec/Pages/postgraduate.aspx>. Completed applications should reach us by 31 October prior to the year of study.

A departmental selection panel will consider your applications for the BSc/BA Honours programme. A minimum of 65% mark for each of your final year Geography modules is required. Students who apply from universities other than the University of Johannesburg will be required to send an example of their academic writing, such as an undergraduate assignment or research project, as well as a previous lecturer's name who may act as a referee and attest to your academic ability.

Upon application, an initial decision will be made on the application. A decision of *Conditional Acceptance* is **not** a guarantee of a place in the programme, but rather an indication that the application will be considered after 31 October, once all the applications and results have been received. A final decision will be sent by 30 November or later if results are not yet in. If you have received *Conditional Acceptance*, it is essential that all outstanding results of examinations be sent to us as soon as you have received them. If we do not receive these by the end of November (or a letter to say that the results have not yet been published by your university), we will assume that you are no longer interested in further study in the Department of Geography, Environmental Management and Energy Studies, at UJ.

The fees for the BSc/BA Hons programme must be obtained directly from UJ Faculty Administration. Please contact Mr Tinyiko Sithole at tinyikos@uj.ac.za for information on course fees.

Full-time

The Geography Honours programme is ONLY offered as a full-time degree. Only applicants who are not employed and are available to work on their studies full-time will be accepted. Lecture times are not scheduled to suit working students.

Full-time students are expected to allocate 40 hours per week to their studies. We expect our Honours students to work in the Honours room for a substantial time each week. Each Honours student has a computer they can work on in that room and there are many opportunities for Honours students to work in the GEMES department as Tutors and Practical Demonstrators ('Demmies')

For further enquiries, please contact:

Mrs Liz Block
Geography Honours course coordinator
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Tel: 074 1104050

OVERVIEW OF COURSE AND MODULES

BSc HONOURS and BA HONOURS IN GEOGRAPHY

The Honours programme consists of FIVE (5) modules. BSc Honours and BA Honours students attend the same lectures per module and research presentations.

For admission to the honours course, a Baccalaureus (Bachelors) degree with Geography as one major with a 3rd year pass mark of at least 65% is required. ***Students who did not get 65% for Geography in their 3rd year will not be considered for admission.*** Admission to the honours programme is approved by the Head of Department in consultation with all academic staff members. Please note that 65% for Geography is a minimum requirement, but that mark does not guarantee acceptance. Further screening may be done depending on the number of students who apply and departmental capacity.. (UJ Environmental Management students who obtained 65% for Environmental Management will also be considered for an honours degree in Geography.)

Five semester modules are required for the Honours degree of which GGR0037 (Philosophy & Research Methodology) and GGR0077 (Research Project) are compulsory. Each theory module counts 24 credits, and the Research module counts 30 credits. Each module will be examined at the end of the semester of presentation.

This programme is ONLY presented on a *full time* basis (one year of study). It is expected of all honours students to spend a considerable amount of time in the department during the week.

Semester modules to be presented in a particular year of study are determined annually. In exceptional instances one approved semester module from an Honours degree other than Geography, may also be followed in the Faculties of Science or Humanities.

COURSE OUTLINE

THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) MODULES ARE COMPULSORY:

Module GGR0037 GGR8X37	Philosophy and Research Methodology (COMPULSORY MODULE)
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	1 and 2
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject.
Purpose	This module is a key, compulsory module for Geography Honours which examines the history of the discipline, the perspectives that have dominated it at different points and takes cognisance of the philosophy and ideology which underlies each school of thought. It is a core module of Geography Honours because a student at this level of study needs to have a firm grasp of their discipline and the methodologies and perspectives associated with it, as well as an ability to critique the different approaches to research. In addition, it is vital that they are aware of various methodologies available to them and have a firm grasp of the process of objective scientific research and rational argument. Thus, this module will instruct the student, firstly, in the philosophy underlying the development of Geography as a science, allowing them to situate their own research in a theoretical framework, and secondly, in the research methodologies in Geography to prepare him/her to embark on his/her own spatial research process independently.

Module GGR0077 GGR8X77	Research Project (COMPULSORY MODULE)
NQF Level	8
Credits	30
Term of Presentation	1, 2, 3 and 4
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject.
Purpose	To acquaint students with the principles of research, to guide them in the execution of a full-scale data collection and analysis as well as to develop their skills in writing and in the exposition of the conclusions of their research.

THREE (3) MODULES ARE CHOSEN FROM THE FOLLOWING LISTED MODULES:

Module GGR8X17	Ethics, Justice and the South African Environment
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	3 and 4
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject.
Purpose	This module aims to engage with Environmentalism and Environmental Management on a theoretical, ideological and ethical level, in the context of the South African environment. The aim of including this module in the Geography Honours programme is to increase the depth of understanding of the localized and situated nature of the environmental knowledge base and to interrogate the contesting perspectives and competing interests imbedded in the South African environment. Environmental ethics and values are debated with an aim to question and learn to justify ones individual environmental perspective, while expanding an awareness of the power relations and environmental justice issues surrounding the debates.

Module GGR8X47	Geomorphology
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	1 and 2
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject.
Purpose	To instruct the student on an advanced level in the physical processes and patterns of geomorphic systems which form an integral part of the Biosphere in which all life on Earth function, by means of detailed study of rock weathering, gravitational, fluvial, coastal, and Aeolian erosion and depositional processes.

Module GGR8X57 S2GISQ (cert)	Geo-Informatics I: Geographic Information Systems
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	1 and 2
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject, or related spatial field of specialisation.

Purpose	To enable the student to study the theory and practice of Geographical Information Systems (GISs), and to expose him / her to GIS, GIS-concepts and GIS-software.
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Module GGR8X67	Geo-Informatics II: Remote Sensing
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	3 and 4
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject, or related spatial field of specialisation. Average pass of not less than 65%.
Purpose	To instruct the student in the use of RS data as a source of spatial data for research purposes by emphasising the methods of obtaining the data, as well as image processing and classification techniques to acquire usable information.

Module GGR8X87	Strategic Environmental Planning
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	1 and 2
Prerequisites	A Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject.
Purpose	To familiarise students with the principles of strategic environmental planning within the context of sustainability assurance in development policy planning and programme developments in South Africa. Special attention is also provided to the concept of regional sustainability (or lack thereof) within some of the large-scale development plans and programmes in South Africa. As a result, numerous case studies are drawn for assessing development opportunities, contradictions and mismatches between spatial development policy and practice. The ultimate aim of the module is to provide knowledge competence about the strategic management of environmental resources in regions so that effective sustainable development can occur.

Module GGR8X97	Urban Geography (Sustainable Cities)
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	3 and 4
Prerequisites	A Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject.
Purpose	Purpose: An advanced study on selected issues of sustainability in cities of the global South with particular emphasis on Southern Africa. Themes that will be explored include: economic informality in the

	<p>city, greening of the built environment, climate change, food security and housing.</p> <p>Module Learning Outcomes: Understand and contextualize the broad international debates relating to sustainable urban development. Ability to apply these debates to the African and South African context.</p>
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Module ENS8X04	Energy Technology
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	1, 2, 3 and 4
Prerequisites	A Bachelor's degree in science or commerce, or any other appropriate Bachelor's degree and suitable experience in the energy industry.
Purpose	This advanced module deals with energy technology. It focuses on the fundamental natural laws governing the technical utilisation of energy sources, on the technologies used to provide energy to power the economy, on alternatives to currently used energy sources and on the environmental implications of energy technology options. The ultimate aim of the module is knowledge about energy technologies, their operation, alternatives and the impacts on the natural environment.

Module GGR8X27	Tourism Geography
NQF Level	8
Credits	24
Term of Presentation	3 and 4
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree with Geography as a major subject
Purpose	To instruct students into issues relating to tourism, economic development and poverty reduction with a particular focus upon the developing world... The course blends together both theoretical and policy issues around tourism development using international experience to provide the context for South African debates.