

4.10 Department of Soil Science

4.10.1 MScAgric in Soil Science

Programme Code

2731011

Specific Admission Requirements

- An applicable BScAgric degree.
- An average final mark of 60% for the major subject.

Duration of Programme

This programme extends over a minimum of one year but may take longer to complete.

Programme Content

You select a topic for the research project from one of the following specialisation fields:

- soil genesis and classification;
- weathering and clay mineral synthesis;
- plant nutrition and fertilisation;
- irrigation and soil-plant-water management including salinity control and management;
- resource (soil, land and water evaluation and management systems such as, amongst others, erosion control); or
- rhizosphere and pedosphere organisms and interactions.

The project may consist of either soil science only or soil science integrated with a crop (plant), climate and/or terrain study. You will be guided towards project planning for problem solving by research within general guidelines and an overall picture of sustainable resource use through environmentally friendly, economical soil, water and plant management. You must be able to show that you have the ability to deal analytically and systematically with problems relating to the soil, plant, water and atmosphere continuum, and to identify possible solutions and formulate guidelines for the environmentally friendly management of natural resources.

Compulsory Module

14176: Soil Science	818(180): Master's thesis
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Assessment and Examination

After completion of the research you must submit a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners and present a seminar. You will be expected to defend your thesis during this seminar.

Enquiries

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2. General information on the postgraduate programmes

2.1 Postgraduate diploma programmes

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least a year after obtaining an applicable bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification that Senate has approved for this purpose.
- b) Admission requirements are determined according to your specific programme.
- c) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information regarding the admission requirements and programme content of your specific postgraduate diploma.
- d) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for other regulations.

2.2 Honours programmes

- a) You follow a prescribed course for at least a year after obtaining an applicable bachelor's degree.
- b) You must follow the honours degree programme in one of the majors of your bachelor's degree.
- c) You will be admitted to the honours degree programme if –
 - you are in possession of a bachelor's degree that Senate has approved for this purpose;
 - the subject of your honours programme was passed as a major in the preceding bachelor's degree; and
 - you obtained an average final mark of at least 60 – 65% in the major.
- d) To pass the honours degree programme you must obtain a final mark of at least 50 (out of 100) for each

module.

- e) Consult the rest of this chapter for more information regarding the admission requirements and programme content of your specific honours degree programme.
- f) Consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook for other regulations.

2.3 Master's programmes

- a) Master's programmes are taken in a particular major of the preceding bachelor's or honours degree.
- b) The MSc, MSc (Agric), MScAgric, MScFor, MSc Food Sc, MScConsEcol or MAgric (Agri-business Management) can be awarded to you if you –
 - have an applicable bachelor's degree of this University or a bachelor's degree approved for this purpose by Senate, and on written application have been admitted by Senate to the particular programme with a minimum study period of one year, or hold an applicable honours degree of this University or a similar honours degree approved for this purpose by Senate, and on written application have been admitted by Senate to the particular programme with a minimum study period of one year;
 - have followed an approved curriculum of advanced study and/or research, which may include a period of study or research at some other place recognised by Senate;
 - have passed the prescribed examination(s);
 - have submitted a complete and well-written thesis or assignment which shows that you have performed independent scientific and technical investigations and interpreted the results satisfactorily;
 - included a statement in the thesis or assignment that the thesis or assignment has not been submitted to another university in order to obtain a degree and that it is your own work; and
 - have satisfactorily taken an oral examination. In certain instances supplementary study may be required of you.
- c) You must also satisfy all other regulations regarding theses or assignments for master's degrees. See Postgraduate qualifications in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook.

2.4 PhD or PhD (Agric) degree programmes

- a) The degree PhD or PhD (Agric) can be awarded to you if you –
 - have the degree MSc, MSc (Agric), MScAgric, MScConsEcol, MScFor, MSc Food Sc, MAgric (Agri-business Management) or MPhil of this University, or another university's degree approved by Senate for this purpose;
 - after Senate's approval of your proposed research project, have carried out and completed, to the satisfaction of the University, original research under supervision of a supervisor for at least two years after obtaining the said master's degree at Stellenbosch University or at another place approved by the University;
 - have completed any supplementary study as may be required by Senate to the satisfaction of the University;
 - have submitted a complete and well-written dissertation which shows that you have made a particular contribution to the enrichment of knowledge in the chosen field, with proof of independent critical judgement and accompanied by a declaration that the dissertation has not been submitted to another university in order to obtain a degree and that it is your own work; and
 - have taken an oral examination to the satisfaction of the University, provided that, subject to approval by Senate, exemption from this examination may be granted in special cases.
 - In addition, examiners may require a written examination.
- b) As a candidate for the PhD or PhD (Agric) degree you must be enrolled for at least two academic years before the degree can be awarded to you.
- c) Your application for admission must include particulars of qualifications (accompanied by certified copies of certificates if the qualifications were not awarded by Stellenbosch University), the location and extent of the research, and the subject of the dissertation.
- d) The supervisor will be appointed once your application has been approved.

Please note: As to the date of submission of the dissertation, the number of copies to be submitted, as well as other requirements which need to be satisfied before the degree can be awarded, the general rules and regulations as given in the section Postgraduate Qualifications in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook apply.

2.5 DSc degree programme

- a) The degree DSc can be awarded to you if you –
- have held, for at least five years, a PhD of this University or another qualification considered suitable in the opinion of Senate; or
 - have held, for at least seven years, the MAgric (Agri-business Management), MSc, MScAgric, MScConsEcol, MScFor, or MSc Food Sc degree of this University or another qualification considered suitable in the opinion of Senate;
 - have carried out advanced original research and/or creative work to the satisfaction of the University;
 - have submitted an original and high-quality published work(s)* that convinces Senate that you have made a real and influential contribution to the enrichment of knowledge in the field of agricultural or forestry sciences or food science; and
 - have taken an oral examination, if required by the examiners, to the satisfaction of the University.
- b) As a candidate for the DSc degree you must –
- have been enrolled for at least one academic year at this University before the degree can be awarded;
 - give the Registrar written notice of at least one year of your intention to present yourself as a candidate for the degree and include in the notification the title(s) and extent of the proposed work(s). If Senate accepts the application, a supervisor and examiners will be appointed.
- c) You must provide before 1 September, for graduation in December, or before 1 December of the previous year, for graduation in March, four copies of the work(s) which you want to submit to the University, accompanied by a declaration that it is your own work and that it has not been submitted to another university in order to obtain a degree. Where a considerable part of the work(s) submitted has not been published only in your name, you must provide satisfactory evidence that shows which part of the work is your own. Furthermore, you must state who conceived the work, under whose guidance it took place and who executed, processed and put it in writing. You must also indicate which part of the work, if any, you, or a co-author, have already submitted to this or any other university in order to obtain a degree.
- d) The general rules for doctoral degrees concerning the appointment of examiners, as given under Postgraduate Qualifications in Part 1 (General Rules) of the University's Yearbook, also apply to the DSc degree.

* The term 'published work' refers to work that has been published in a scientific journal, a magazine, pamphlet or book freely available to the public, either in libraries or from some retail outlet. The reason why publication is required is to ensure that the work submitted is available for criticism by experts in the subject concerned. Examiners have the discretion to disregard a submitted work if, in their opinion, it was not readily available for criticism because it was:

- hard to come by, or
- submitted for the degree too soon after publication.

You may also submit your other publications with little or no connection with the particular subject in which the main study has been performed in support of your application.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 AgriSciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **AgriSciences 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.***