Graduate Support Hub

For more information on postgraduate research opportunities at the University of Pretoria, contact the Graduate Support Hub in the Department of Research and Innovation Support.

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All general enquiries can be directed to the Client Service Centre

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Postgraduate Research Opportunities

published by the Graduate Support Hub

2015
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Message from the Vice-Principal: Research and Postgraduate Education

Greetings to all postgraduate and prospective postgraduates who may read this booklet to gain insight into the University of Pretoria as a place to study. I congratulate any student who considers studying for a higher degree – it is a real investment in yourself and your future career, and I encourage you to read further.

As a leading University in South Africa and the largest research-intensive university in the country, the University of Pretoria (UP) offers a world of opportunity for postgraduate study. Through our guiding strategic plan, UP 2025, we are committed to developing our research profile and our international stature, and postgraduate education is at the heart of these key objectives.

The University hosts and supports postgraduate study and research in a very broad and comprehensive range of fields, and all our postgraduate students have the opportunity to be mentored by international leaders in their specific disciplines. Our research focus areas are positioned according to our strategic goals, our existing and developing expertise, and the national and international roles of our research leaders.

We actively encourage multidisciplinary collaboration. Within the University, certain research areas are clustered into Institutional and Faculty Research Themes – areas of unique research strengths that are designed to foster strong multidisciplinary research. Opportunities for master’s and doctoral study exist within, as well as
alongside, these research themes in all of our nine faculties and more than 100 research institutes, centres and units. This booklet will provide some insight into these research focus areas and opportunities.

We are also proud to be able to provide an attractive and enabling environment for our postgraduate students, with excellent research facilities, very well-equipped laboratories, unique medical and veterinary clinical facilities, state-of-the-art libraries, Research Commons areas, postgraduate residences and a dedicated Graduate Support Hub. This environment is conducive to research excellence, which in turn impacts very positively on the postgraduate training we can offer. The Graduate Support Hub provides dedicated advisory support and offers customised skills development training related to postgraduate studies and research.

The University of Pretoria has many international collaborative networks and agreements in place with Universities abroad, providing opportunities for our postgraduates to be exposed to international expertise, theories and debates. Working with internationally recognised academics, UP postgraduates emerge highly skilled and capable of contributing to their individual countries’ needs in a variety of contexts.

The University aims to increase its contribution in terms of the number of postgraduates who achieve higher degrees in research and professional fields, becoming a part of our national and regional cohort of highly qualified and skilled experts.

I invite all interested students to consider pursuing postgraduate studies at the University of Pretoria. We particularly encourage international students to consider joining the University.

Prospective postgraduate students are encouraged to visit the University’s website, www.up.ac.za, to learn more about postgraduate opportunities at the University of Pretoria.

Prof Stephanie Burton
Vice-Principal: Research and Postgraduate Education
UP at a glance

The University of Pretoria celebrated its centenary in 2008 and has seen its academic tradition and stature mature over the century. In 107 years, the University of Pretoria has delivered close to 230 000 alumni. The University currently has more than 63 000 registered students. Just over 13 000 of these are postgraduate students. Of these postgraduate students, more than 4 000 are international students, 67% of whom are from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. The strong postgraduate student presence places UP at the forefront of academic training in southern Africa and the rest of the continent. In 2013, UP awarded 242 PhD degrees, contributing to the pool of highly skilled human capital.

The University has nine faculties and a business school, namely Economic and Management Sciences, Education, Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Theology, Veterinary Science (presently the only faculty in this discipline in South Africa) and the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GiBS). The academic programmes are offered in 141 academic departments and 100 research centres, institutes, units and bureaux.

The following researchers hold an A-rating from the NRF based on the fact that they are unequivocally recognised by their peers as leading international scholars in their field for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.

- Prof Andries Engelbrecht (Computer Science)
- Prof Yves van de Peer (Genetics)
- Prof Nigel Bennett (Zoology and Entomology)
- Prof Drucilla Cornell (Jurisprudence)
- Prof Don Cowan (Genetics)
- Prof Robert Millar (Zoology and Entomology)
- Prof Brian Rand (Institute of Applied Materials)
- Prof Johan van der Vyver (Private Law)
- Prof Charles van Onselen (Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship)
- Prof Johannes van Oort (Church History and Church Polity)
- Prof Brenda Wingfield (Genetics)
- Prof Mike Wingfield (Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute)
- Prof Xiaohua Xia (Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering)
Interested in postgraduate studies at UP?

For postgraduate studies based on research, it is recommended that students first identify their area of interest. Once an area of interest has been identified, prospective students should visit the University’s website, relevant faculty and department. The departmental websites contain profiles of their staff members and areas of expertise. The academic staff members are the discipline experts, and provide the research supervision for postgraduate students. Apart from academic departments, many opportunities for aligning students’ interests with existing research expertise at UP reside in the Institutional Research Themes (IRTs), Faculty Research Themes (FRTs), and many centres, institutes and units. The prestigious South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) also provides excellent opportunities for students to work in their areas of research interest and to be mentored by academics at the forefront of their research areas. The University of Pretoria hosts several SARChI and other industry-sponsored chairs.

Once a student has identified a potential supervisor, he or she is encouraged to contact the academic to establish whether the necessary research capacity is available and whether the Faculty can accommodate the student in its research programmes. In the event that a student cannot identify a potential supervisor, the Graduate Support Hub will gladly assist in making contact with the relevant department and in identifying a supervisor before an application is even submitted.
Research at the University of Pretoria encompasses a very broad range of disciplines across its nine faculties and one business school, and more than 60 research institutes, centres and units. The University of Pretoria’s major and best-recognised research strengths are in the following areas:

- Agricultural and biological sciences
- Medicine
- Engineering
- Biochemistry
- Genetics
- Molecular biology
- Plant and animal sciences
- Environmental science
- Earth and planetary sciences
- Computer sciences

Recognising these strengths and in keeping with international research trends, the University has established Institutional and Faculty Research Themes. These seek to foster multidisciplinarity in addressing global research challenges while capitalising on the areas of excellence in the University.
Institutional Research Themes:

Check the theme websites regularly for exciting new research developments and updates.
Animal and Zoonotic Diseases

This theme is a collaborative network of researchers from multiple disciplines who conduct research to achieve optimal health for people, animals and the environment, through 21st-century science and technology. It is based on the University's current strengths and leading research capacity in the faculties of Health Sciences, Veterinary Science and Natural and Agricultural Sciences. As the only university with a faculty of veterinary science, this theme presents a unique opportunity for further research growth in the field.

The domain of animal health has undergone an almost unprecedented increase in importance in the last century. Today, it is inextricably linked to our local and global economy, as well as societal issues such as public health, food and food security. Animal pathogens also affect humans and as much as 60% of human pathogens are zoonotic, indicating that diseases can be transmitted from animals to humans.

This overlap in veterinary, human and ecological health sciences requires what is known as the ‘One Health’ concept, a collaborative local, national and global effort with a multidisciplinary focus on aspects of the research and management of zoonoses and animal diseases.

The best and most relevant tools are also needed to address the disease-related research questions. In this respect, modern molecular technologies have radically changed the way in which problems in diagnostics, epidemiology, vaccine development and ecology are approached. These technologies will be used to increase the University’s research capacity and establish a highly regarded research focus area in the field of animal health and zoonoses that will gain high local and international standing through its leading role in South Africa and the rest of the world.

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Capital Cities Project

The Capital Cities Project (CCP) is an exciting cross-faculty research project initiated by the Faculty of Humanities and involves several other faculties within the University, such as the faculties of Law, Health Sciences, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, Theology, and Economic and Management Sciences.

For the first time in human history, the majority of the world’s population now lives in cities. This dynamic, coupled with the resurgence of the importance of capital cities in the wake of the global economic crisis, makes the city in which this University is located an important site for research. This dynamic presents researchers with an opportunity to overcome the challenges that face our city, society and the world.

This research theme recognises capital cities as seats of power: living symbols of a government in action. Monuments, government buildings, cultural landmarks, public spaces, schools, universities and the recreational facilities in a capital city tell countless stories about countries. A capital city is also an abstract space, a symbol, a place studied by historians and ethnographers, narrated by novelists, analysed by sociologists and psychologists, interpreted and appropriated by artists, and contemplated by philosophers. All these aspects are the focus of the CCP.

Visit the website at www.up.ac.za/capitalcities.

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Energy

After evaluating relevant government policies and strategies pertaining to the wider energy theme in South Africa, the University concluded that a focused and concerted effort was necessary to ensure that the country is successful in bringing the goals of government’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to fruition. In order to address these challenges effectively, while contributing to the aims of the IRP, a number of subthemes in the wider electrical energy theme were identified that needed to be addressed.

The IRT on Energy was therefore established in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology with the express purpose to set the University on the road towards national relevancy in its quest for solutions to South Africa’s energy problems. Achieving research excellence in this area allows the University to enhance the international recognition it enjoys in the field of energy research.

This research theme provides an optimal link between the University’s current research activities and the energy focus areas that are prioritised by the national government, through multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary research conducted in the faculties of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Economic and Management Sciences.

The IRT focuses the University’s research efforts on a number of carefully selected subthemes relevant to South Africa’s future energy security, such as energy generation, distribution, transmission and optimisation, advanced materials, energy and the environment, and policy, economics and society. These selected research areas all enjoy international interest.

Initially, six new high-impact research projects will be undertaken and will serve as a benchmark for the initiative’s future project portfolio development. This will also allow the IRT to become relevant to the wider industrial energy sector from the outset. Contact with the energy sector and the multidisciplinary nature of the research projects within the realm of the IRT will furthermore facilitate efforts to obtain funding from outside sources.

Visit the website at http://web.up.ac.za/energy.

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Food, Nutrition and Well-being

The IRT on Food, Nutrition and Well-being seeks to address the emerging societal challenges related to food insecurity, nutrition deficiencies and hunger, especially in Africa. Through this theme, research conducted in the faculties of Health Sciences, Veterinary Science, and Natural and Agricultural Sciences is coordinated to support an intensive network of researchers, and develop policy and solutions for Africa and the world.

It has been a vehicle to create an Institute of Food, Nutrition and Well-being that intends to become a leading international centre for transdisciplinary research and postgraduate training. Its objective is to find innovative and comprehensive ways of addressing current constraints to attain the Millennium Development Goals with regard to food, nutrition and well-being in sub-Saharan Africa by the year 2020. In the process, it plans to strategically position the University of Pretoria as an internationally recognised Centre of Excellence.

The focus of research conducted by the Institute is to promote the long-term health and wellness of people, support sound policy-making with regard to food, nutrition and well-being, and (together with strategic national, regional and international partners) significantly scale up capacity in this area through the development of leading professionals and upcoming researchers. As such, the Institute explores current and complex research questions through transdisciplinary enquiry that generates new knowledge and insights to help reduce hunger and poverty in Africa. It brings together over 100 academic staff across faculties in the various related areas, providing the largest pool of food security-related expertise in one institution globally.

The following key research programmes have already been identified:
- Sustainable animal- and plant-based food production in a resource-constrained environment
- Food safety, biosecurity, public health and regulatory control
- Functional biomolecules and functional foods
- Facilitating behaviour change for health and well-being
- The food security and nutritional impacts of policies and programmes

Visit the website at http://web.up.ac.za/ifnuw.

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Postgraduate Research Opportunities
Genomics

The IRT on Genomics was established with a strong core capacity for genomics, bioinformatics and computational biology research. As the newest revolution in the biological sciences, genomics studies the total genetic complement of any organism. Genome studies therefore have the potential to stimulate enormous advances in fields as diverse as plant breeding, human health and the use of indigenous bioresources.

The well-established Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Unit currently has some of the most advanced genomics and transcriptomics analysis capacity in South Africa. Individual research groups at the University have embarked on and completed many significant research projects on the vast amount of information that can be derived from viral, bacterial, fungal and plant genomes. Scientists in the health sciences, veterinary science and other life sciences at the University can therefore make an important contribution in South Africa and internationally.

DNA sequencing, which is the core technology that links all genomics, is the heart of the genomics technology revolution. The challenge facing genomic scientists is to take advantage of the enormous power and scope of the new genome sequencing technology to learn new skills, embrace new approaches and define new questions.

The Genomics Research Institute (GRI) is active in three major sectors: environmental genomics, human and health genomics, and plant and animal genomics. It actively promotes the development of genomics applications across the faculties of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary Science and Health Sciences by providing seed-fund grants, and supporting genomics researchers with bioinformatics training and data analysis in order to develop new, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research projects.

Visit the website at www.up.ac.za/genomics-IRT.

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Faculty Research Themes
Cellular and Molecular Medicine

The Institute for Cellular and Molecular Medicine (ICMM) has a solid research base in human health sciences, and is entering a phase of rapid growth as it responds to the heavy national and regional burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Institute's activities include several cross-cutting areas such as genetics/genomics, cell-based therapy, the neurosciences, bioentrepreneurship and the regulatory (legislative) environment.

The ICMM aims to promote cutting-edge high-impact research in human health. It is a virtual institute with a core component in the Department of Immunology. The Institute comprises 20 research groups in seven of the nine faculties at the University and promotes collaborative research that is multidisciplinary and interdepartmental in nature. Strong links also exist between groups within the ICMM, as well as national and international partners and collaborators.

The Institute is built around themes that include infectious diseases, cancer and the neurosciences, with cell therapy (stem cells) and genomics as cross-cutting disciplines. It is also involved in projects on human tissue legislation, since many of the areas in which research is being conducted have complex ethical, legal and social components. Two of the major focus areas are stem cells and the human genome.

Stem cells are the building blocks of the body, and in recent years, their potential to treat and cure a number of life-threatening diseases has been recognised. The Institute has developed a world-class stem cell facility that is involved in the isolation, characterisation and manipulation of stem cells for therapeutic purposes.

Work on the human genome is aligned with the priorities of the Southern African Human Genome Programme (SAHGP). Given the well-recognised genetic diversity of our population, South Africa is well positioned to make major contributions to understanding the origin and mechanisms of globally important communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Visit the website at http://web.up.ac.za/ICMM.

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Sustainable Malaria Control

The University of Pretoria Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control (UP CSMC) was established to promote collaborative research in the Faculty of Health Sciences on safer and more sustainable control and management of malaria. Research is focused on combating malaria effectively without risks to human health. The Faculty Research Theme is a multidisciplinary, interdepartmental and interfaculty platform that consolidates existing research expertise in terms of malaria control. The University enjoys wide support for this initiative, and is strategically aligned with the national Department of Health and other partners regarding the control and elimination of malaria.

The UP CSMC has three active research clusters: health, vector control and parasite control, with several cross-cutting fields. Environmentally friendly ways of delivering chemicals for malaria control are among the novel ideas being explored. A transdisciplinary approach is followed, with experts from the faculties of Health Sciences, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, Economic and Management Sciences, Veterinary Science, and Education collaborating on research projects. Community involvement, education and health promotion are important components of the Centre’s activities.

As a result, the Centre is making a substantial contribution towards the creation of a malaria-free Africa by employing sustainable and environmentally safe malaria control technologies, establishing integrated vector management strategies, ensuring effective malaria case management, and promoting health education among affected populations.

The South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair on Sustainable Malaria Control, which was established in 2013, plays a key role in facilitating and supporting research expertise in sustainable malaria control, contributing to the National Malaria Programme’s aim to eliminate malaria by 2018.

Visit the website at www.malaria.up.ac.za.

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Enhancing the well-being of vulnerable children

As a research theme, Enhancing the well-being of vulnerable children focuses on vulnerable children, from birth to 18 years old, in various resource-constrained environments in South Africa. A vulnerable child is a child whose survival, care, protection and/or development may be compromised by any condition, situation or circumstance that may deprive the child of his or her rights and development to the fullest extent of his or her capacity. In this programme, the focus is on children who are vulnerable for various reasons. In 10 to 20 years, these children will become the backbone of South African society and could be contributing substantially in all sectors. It would be short-sighted to neglect the majority of children growing up in South Africa.

This project aims to demonstrate that the humanities can contribute substantially to progress in South Africa by facilitating the healthy development of children. Inputs to support research methodology, as well as scientific support, are therefore provided to serve the two main objectives of the project.

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The idea of a human economy emerged out of a global social movement started at the World Social Forum over a decade ago. Much work has already been done to give substance to this idea. The Human Economy Programme attracts scholars with backgrounds in sociology, history, anthropology, development studies, economics and education. To date the programme has recruited a large number of doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows from around the world. The programme is interdisciplinary in nature, and its current participants have backgrounds in sociology, history, anthropology, political science, development studies and economics. Since July 2013, the programme has been housed in the Centre for the Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria.

Through case studies, this programme examines how people insert themselves into economic life, and ways in which people engage with the economy and respond to institutional forms that perpetuate structures of inequality (creating, challenging or even trying to ignore them). The human economy is perceived as being made and remade by people themselves, based on a holistic conception of human needs and with the interests of humanity as a whole in mind.

The aims of the programme are both academic and practical. It builds a body of research pertaining to the issue of nurturing and expanding economic democracy, particularly in Africa and the global south, and wishes to communicate these findings accessibly to a wider public in order to support popular movements aimed at achieving economic democracy.

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Institute for International and Comparative Law

The Institute for International and Comparative Law (ICLA) is unique to the continent. As a research institute, it was established to generate knowledge and develop research capacity at the highest level within African territorial, legal and language limits, as well as within the parameters of international and comparative law.

Through research and postgraduate guidance, the ICLA is positioning itself as a major contributor to advanced legal knowledge and capacity in the broader African and global community. Its objective is to become a first port of call for those who wish to engage in legal research and legal reform in Africa. As a continental focal point, it strives to develop a community of scholars from a wide range of countries and institutions who will promote the role and rule of law in Africa through advanced research.

Its activities are furthermore aimed at serving as the point of convergence and institutional memory for judicial and legislative reform across the continent, contributing towards theoretical and critical analyses of law in Africa, constituting a base from which the legal systems of African countries can be accessed by other regions and international organisations, and linking African legal scholars with those in the rest of the world at the cutting edge of contemporary research on international and comparative law.

Visit the website at www.up.ac.za/icla.

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Peace and conflict

Peace and conflict is an inescapable theme for scholars and students involved in the social sciences in South Africa. The African continent is faced with many challenges in making the transition from conflict to sustainable peace. These challenges affect states and societies at the political, economic and social levels, within national territories and across boundaries of race, class, gender and territory.

This research project can make a unique contribution to scholarship as it features a vital normative concern around peace and security in the region – in this case human security. It also explores how gradations of conflict influence the attainment of human security and peace in southern Africa. By moving away from the tendency (in research led by political science) to focus on powerful actors and groupings, such as states, institutions and elite groupings, it can focus predominantly on individuals and communities affected by conflict situations. As a multidisciplinary initiative, it strives to involve disciplines such as sociology, psychology, history and gender studies.

The research project provides a platform for collaboration between scholars and students, primarily – but not exclusively – in the disciplines of political sciences, sociology, social work, history, psychology and the multidisciplinary field of gender studies. Research and scholarship relating to peace and conflict is being conducted in each of these disciplines. This multidisciplinary research project gives participants the opportunity to transcend the empirical observations and theoretical insights of their respective disciplines and to explore new ways of seeing and approaching the research material. A number of master's degree students are already focusing their research on topics relevant to this research theme.

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Southern modernities

As a research theme, Southern modernities focuses on southern modes of modernity based on exchange and debate between thinkers in the southern hemisphere. Modernity is a largely self-referential term, which Europe uses to define itself, while it simply negates others. The concept of modernity is used by certain cultures to castigate others for their non-modernity in order to constitute themselves as the very model of modernity. It becomes paramount then, for those cultures to extricate themselves from the toils of a notion of modernity that will always marginalise them. Research conducted under this theme focuses on a counter-offensive against such hegemonic and homogenising tendencies.

This research theme attempts to achieve a critical perspective on modernity as a European concept. It was launched in 2012 by the Department of Afrikaans in the Faculty of Humanities with a one-day conference that posed some compelling questions on modernism and modernity in the global south.

Southern modernities critically engages with ‘alternative modernities’ in an attempt to link differing and variegated modernities across the southern hemisphere.

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Visual technologies: critical encounters

As a research theme, Visual technologies: critical encounters aims to provide a critical examination of the specific place and role of visual technologies in shaping cultures and identities, where the word ‘technology’ is not used in any typically mechanistic or utilitarian logic. In their digital, curatorial, archival, creative and theoretical dimensions, visual technologies have the potential to develop transdisciplinary discourses within academic disciplines in the humanities, as well as within the spatial, informational, medial and conceptual dimensions of society.

Work conducted under this research theme investigates vision, visuality and ocular centrism in its technological dimensions and will lead to both text-based and creative outputs.

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SARChI Chairs

**International Development Law and African Economic Relations**  
Prof Danny Bradlow  
Faculty of Law

This research chair focuses on the global economic governance, and international legal aspects of sustainable and equitable development. Prof Viljoen's current scholarship focuses on global economic governance and the international legal aspects of sustainable and equitable development.

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**Social Science Chair in Non-parametric, Robust Statistical Inference and Statistical Process Control**  
Prof S Chakraborti  
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Among Prof Chakraborti's research interests are non-parametric statistical inferential methods, including practical applications in a variety of areas, such as statistical process control (SPC). He is the co-author of a well-known book, Nonparametric statistical inference, fifth edition (2010), with Jean D Gibbons, published by Taylor and Francis. He has been cited for his contributions in mentoring and collaborative work with students and colleagues from around the world.

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Artificial Intelligence
Prof Andries Engelbrecht
Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Prof Engelbrecht’s main research focus is computational intelligence, with a particular emphasis on computational swarm intelligence, learning from zero knowledge using competitive coevolution and evolutionary algorithms. His research team developed an open-source library of computational intelligence algorithms, which is increasingly being used internationally. They were the first to provide convergence proofs of particle swarm optimisers (PSO) to develop PSO algorithms to find multiple solutions to optimisation problems and to use PSO for secondary RNA structure prediction.

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Fluoro-materials Science and Process Integration
Prof Philip Crouse
Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Prof Crouse’s current research interests include the development of fluoro-polymer capability in South Africa, with a focus on polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF), fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP) and ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE). Other focus areas are the benchmarking processes against polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), the dry fluorination of inorganic materials for surface modification (inclusive of bulk metal silicides), the modelling of fluorine cells, the various Advanced Metal Initiative (AMI) projects relating to fluoro-chemical processing, and the development of alternative high-temperature processes for the production of hydrogen fluoride directly from fluorspar.

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### Carbon Technology and Materials

**Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology**

A new, highly active group has been established to research carbon materials. The research interests of the group are in the field of carbon and graphite materials and the processing of ceramic (refractory) materials, specifically nuclear graphite, carbon fibres and carbon-carbon composites, liquid crystalline precursors to carbon.

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### Chair in Complex Systems

**Prof Pavel Selyshchev**  
**Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences**

Prof Selyshchev's specialisation is in theoretical physics, specifically complex non-linear systems and their evolution. He focuses on kinetic non-linear processes in materials under irradiation and has developed a theoretical approach to the self-organisation phenomena in irradiated materials. His research focus areas are temporal and spatial self-organisation of defect density under irradiation, dimensional changes in irradiated materials as dissipative structures and different kinds of interactions as mechanisms of dissipative structure formation (such as force interaction between defects, thermo-concentration and thermo-elastic interdependence). Prof Selyshchev was also involved as a theorist in the development of post-Chernobyl strategies.

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Mathematical Models and Methods in Bioengineering and Biosciences (M3B2)  
(Vacant)  
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

This research focus is at the intersection of mathematical modelling of biological processes and a spectrum of mathematical specialisations. These include dynamical systems, partial differential equations and numerical analysis. The biological processes to be considered are highly relevant to the needs of the country. These include mathematical epidemiology, which covers infectious diseases of humans (such as vector-borne tropical diseases and communicable diseases such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic and tuberculosis), zoonotic diseases of wildlife areas and livestock diseases (such as foot-and-mouth disease), food security versus pests, and invasive plants and animals.

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Sustainable Malaria Control
Prof Lyn-Marie Birkholz
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

This research programme delivers biotechnological applications in infectious disease studies by combining expertise in biosciences and biotechnology. The specific focus will be on understanding the biology of gametocyte differentiation of malaria parasites, leading to transmission-blocking drugs that are anticipated to make a substantial contribution to the alleviation of the morbidity and mortality caused by malaria.

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Tax Policy and Governance
Prof Riël Franzsen
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

The research activities of the Chair are aligned with the research strategies of the South African government’s Department of Science and Technology. More specifically, National Treasury’s fiscal policy seeks to support structural reforms of the South African economy consistent with long-term growth, employment creation and an equitable distribution of income. It aims to promote investment and export expansion, while enabling government to finance public services, redistribution and development in an affordable and sustainable budget framework. The chair is aligned with these objectives.

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Mammalian Behavioural Ecology and Physiology
Prof Nigel Bennett
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

Prof Bennett’s research is focused on ecology, animal physiology and animal behaviour. His work is predominantly on the sociobiology of African rodent moles (Bathyergidae) and, in particular, the extrinsic and intrinsic factors that have led to the development of sociality in this remarkable endemic African family. His research group is fundamentally interested in elucidating the modes and mechanisms that are responsible for reproductive suppression in non-reproductive females of the various social species.

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Tel       +27 12 420 2538
Email     ncbennett@zoology.up.ac.za
Advanced Sensor Networks  
Prof Attahiru Alfa  
Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

The main focus of this programme is building research capacity in the area of advanced sensor networks, a modern and growing field, which is strategic to the economy. The first five years of the programme will target research on the mathematical aspects of wireless sensor networks (WSN), while the subsequent five-year programme will focus on hardware, test-beds and implementation aspects. The applications to be considered will have major national interest, especially in the wildlife monitoring, soil and in-situ soil moisture analysis (for the viticulture), home security, infrastructure health monitoring and human healthcare.

Contact details:  
Tel +27 12 420 4636  
Email attahiru.alfa@up.ac.za
## UP research and industry chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Name of chair</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Management Sciences</td>
<td>Chair in Logistics</td>
<td>Mr Wesley Niemann</td>
<td>012 420 4635 <a href="mailto:wesley.niemann@up.ac.za">wesley.niemann@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair in Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Prof J Van Vuuren</td>
<td>012 420 3401 <a href="mailto:jurie.vanvuuren@up.ac.za">jurie.vanvuuren@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South African Reserve Bank Chair in Monetary Economics</td>
<td>Prof Nicola Viegi</td>
<td>012 420 3820 <a href="mailto:nicola.viegi@up.ac.za">nicola.viegi@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SARChI Chair in Tax Policy and Governance</td>
<td>Prof Riel Franzsen</td>
<td>012 420 5538 <a href="mailto:riel.franzsen@up.ac.za">riel.franzsen@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering, Built Environment and</td>
<td>SARChI Chair in Carbon Technology and Materials</td>
<td>Prof Brian Rand</td>
<td>012 420 4173 <a href="mailto:b.ca.rand@btinternet.com">b.ca.rand@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>SARChI Chair in Fluoro-material Science and Process Integration</td>
<td>Prof Philip Crouse</td>
<td>012 420 2856 <a href="mailto:philip.crouse@up.ac.za">philip.crouse@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SARChI Chair in Artificial Intelligence</td>
<td>Prof Andries Engelbrecht</td>
<td>012 420 3578 <a href="mailto:engel@cs.up.ac.za">engel@cs.up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair in Railway Engineering</td>
<td>Prof Hannes Gräbe</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sentech Chair in Broadband Wireless Multimedia Communication</td>
<td>Prof Sunil Maharaj</td>
<td>012 420 4636 <a href="mailto:sunil.maharaj@up.ac.za">sunil.maharaj@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exxaro Chair in Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>Prof Xiaohua Xia</td>
<td>012 420 2165 <a href="mailto:xxia@up.ac.za">xxia@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair in Maintenance Engineering</td>
<td>Prof Stephan Heyns</td>
<td>012 420 2432 <a href="mailto:stephan.heyns@up.ac.za">stephan.heyns@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anglo-American Chair in Pyrometallurgy</td>
<td>Prof Andrie Garbers-Craig</td>
<td>012 420 3189 <a href="mailto:andrie.garbers-craig@up.ac.za">andrie.garbers-craig@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bateman Chair in Minerals Processing</td>
<td>Dr Natasia Naudé</td>
<td>012 420 4208 <a href="mailto:natasia.naude@up.ac.za">natasia.naude@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology</td>
<td>South African Institute of Welding (SAIW) Chair in Welding Engineering</td>
<td>Prof Madeleine du Toit</td>
<td>012 420 2187 <a href="mailto:madeleine.dutoit@up.ac.za">madeleine.dutoit@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Xstrata Chair in Modelling of Pyrometallurgical Processes</td>
<td>Dr Johan Zietsman</td>
<td>012 420 5919 <a href="mailto:johan.zietsman@up.ac.za">johan.zietsman@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sasol Chair in Safety, Health and the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gijima AST Chair in Informatics</td>
<td>Dr Johan van Loggerenberg</td>
<td>012 420 3013 <a href="mailto:johan.vl@up.ac.za">johan.vl@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair in Electronic Defence Research (CEDR)</td>
<td>Prof Warren du Plessis</td>
<td>012 420 2951 <a href="mailto:wduplessis@up.ac.za">wduplessis@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CBI Electric Low Voltage Chair in Power Electronics</td>
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<td>Rand Water Chair in Civil Engineering – Water Purification, Supply, Utilisation-related Science and Engineering</td>
<td>Prof Fanie van Vuuren</td>
<td>012 420 2438 <a href="mailto:fanie.vanvuuren@up.ac.za">fanie.vanvuuren@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rand Water Chair in Mechanical Engineering – Water Purification, Supply and Utilisation-related Science and Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Rand Water Chair in Water and Public Health</td>
<td>Prof Maureen Taylor</td>
<td>012 319 2358 <a href="mailto:maureen.taylor@up.ac.za">maureen.taylor@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Jean Monnet Chair in Regional Integration and Governance Studies</td>
<td>Prof Lorenzo Fioramonti</td>
<td>012 420 2696 <a href="mailto:lorenzo.fioramonti@up.ac.za">lorenzo.fioramonti@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>SARChI Chair in International Development Law and African Economic Relations</td>
<td>Prof Frans Viljoen (interim)</td>
<td>012 420 3228 <a href="mailto:frans.viljoen@up.ac.za">frans.viljoen@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td>Prof Lyn-Marie Birkholtz</td>
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<td>Prof Zander Myburg</td>
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<td>SAFCOL Chair in Forestry</td>
<td>Prof Paxie Chirwa</td>
<td>012 420 3213</td>
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<td>Exxaro Kumba Chair in Geodynamics</td>
<td>Prof Wlady Altermann</td>
<td>012 420 4137</td>
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<td>Prof Wlady Altermann</td>
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<td>Prof Andre Louw</td>
<td>012 420 5772</td>
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<td>Rand Water Chair in Water Microbiology</td>
<td>Prof Fanus Venter</td>
<td>012 420 4100</td>
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## UP research and industry chairs

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<tr>
<td>Veterinary Sciences</td>
<td>Chair in Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC)</td>
<td>Prof Rebone Moerane</td>
<td>012 529 8464 <a href="mailto:rebone.moerane@up.ac.za">rebone.moerane@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Chair in Poultry Health and Production</td>
<td>Prof Celia Abolnik</td>
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## Research entities at the University of Pretoria

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<th>Centres, institutes and units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Management Sciences</td>
<td>Centre for Inclusive Banking in Africa</td>
<td>Prof Gerhard Coetzee</td>
<td>012 420 5836 <a href="mailto:gerhard.coetzee@up.ac.za">gerhard.coetzee@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centre for Communication Reputation Management</td>
<td>Prof Ronél Rensburg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership</td>
<td>Prof Derick de Jongh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>African Tax Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unit for Forensic Accounting</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Centre for Evaluation and Assessement</td>
<td>Prof Sarah Howie</td>
<td>012 420 4131 <a href="mailto:sarah.howie@up.ac.za">sarah.howie@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td>Interuniversity Centre for Education Law and Education Policy</td>
<td>Prof Rika Joubert</td>
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<td>Joint Centre for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education (JCMSTE) – joint with Natural and Agricultural Sciences</td>
<td>Prof Max Braun</td>
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<td>Unit for Education Research in AIDS (ERA)</td>
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<td>Unit for Distance Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology</td>
<td>African Centre of Excellence in Information Ethics</td>
<td>Prof Theo Bothma</td>
<td>012 420 2293 <a href="mailto:theo.bothma@up.ac.za">theo.bothma@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td>Centre for Advanced Sensor Networks</td>
<td>Prof Gerhard Hancke</td>
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<td>Centre for Electromagnetism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Centre for Telecommunications Engineering for the Information Society (CeTEIS)</td>
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<td>012 420 2028 <a href="mailto:jacques.vanwyk@up.ac.za">jacques.vanwyk@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Centre of Excellence in Pyrometallurgy</td>
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<td>Kumba Iron Ore Mine Design Centre</td>
<td>Prof Ronny Webber-Youngman</td>
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<td>Specialist Centre in Plant Asset Management</td>
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<td>South African Institute for Welding (SAIW) Centre for Welding Engineering</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Institute of Advanced Materials (jointly with Natural and Agricultural Sciences)</td>
<td>Prof Walter Focke</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Industrial Metals and Minerals Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Institute for Technological Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carl and Emily Fuchs Institute for Microelectronics (CEFIM)</td>
<td>Prof Sunil Maharaj</td>
<td>012 420 4636 <a href="mailto:sunil.maharaj@up.ac.za">sunil.maharaj@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Eskom Power Plant Engineering Institute (EPPEI)</td>
<td>Prof Stephan Heyns</td>
<td>012 420 2432 <a href="mailto:stephan.heyns@up.ac.za">stephan.heyns@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mining Resilience Research Institute (Anglo American, Sasol)</td>
<td>Prof Ronny Webber-Youngman</td>
<td>012 420 3763 <a href="mailto:ronny.webber@up.ac.za">ronny.webber@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>Applied Morphology Research Centre</td>
<td>Prof Resia Pretorius</td>
<td>012 319 2907 <a href="mailto:resia.pretorius@up.ac.za">resia.pretorius@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forensic Anthropology Research Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UP Centre for Sustainable Malaria Control</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Institute for Molecular and Cellular Biology</td>
<td>Prof Michael Pepper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Institute for Sport Research</td>
<td>Prof Ernst Kruger</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MRC Unit for Inflammation and Immunity</td>
<td>Prof Robert Pattinson</td>
<td>012 373 8041 <a href="mailto:robert.pattinson@up.ac.za">robert.pattinson@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>MRC Unit for Maternal and Infant Health Care Strategies</td>
<td>Prof Ron Anderson</td>
<td>012 319 2425 <a href="mailto:ronald.anderson@up.ac.za">ronald.anderson@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Environmental Chemical Pollution and Health Research Unit</td>
<td>Dr Natalie Aneck-Hahn</td>
<td>012 354 1676 <a href="mailto:natalie.aneck-hahn@up.ac.za">natalie.aneck-hahn@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
<td>Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC)</td>
<td>Prof Juan Bornman</td>
<td>012 420 2001 <a href="mailto:juan.bornman@up.ac.za">juan.bornman@up.ac.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centre for Mediation in Africa</td>
<td>Prof Laurie Nathan</td>
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<td>Centre for Research in Politics of Language (CentRePol)</td>
<td>Prof Vic Webb</td>
<td>012 420 2332 <a href="mailto:vic.webb@up.ac.za">vic.webb@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td>Centre for the Study of Governance Innovation</td>
<td>Prof Lorenzo Fioramonti</td>
<td>012 420 2696 <a href="mailto:lorenzo.fioramonti@up.ac.za">lorenzo.fioramonti@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs</td>
<td>Prof Sandy E Africa</td>
<td>012 420 5182/2034 <a href="mailto:sandy.africa@up.ac.za">sandy.africa@up.ac.za</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Centre for Sexuality, AIDS and Gender</td>
<td>Dr Pierre Brouard (Co-director) Dr Mary Crew (Co-director)</td>
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<td>Faculty</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Research entities at the University of Pretoria

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<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Centres, institutes and units</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>
Faculties
The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is the largest at the University of Pretoria in terms of student numbers. It comprises nine departments specialising in financial sciences, economic sciences, management sciences and public management, and offers 90 postgraduate programmes. The departments are as follows:

- Accounting
- Auditing
- Business Management (including the Communication Management Division)
- Economics
- Financial Management
- Human Resource Management
- Marketing Management (including the Tourism Management Division)
- School of Public Management and Administration
- Taxation

"My experience as a postgraduate researcher at UP has been awesome. As a first-time student at the University, I received excellent guidance from my supervisors. I also found the library staff really helpful in making my research easier through their excellent online resource system and by simply assisting me when needed. I'm looking forward to another good year of research."
Faculty of Education

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Visit the website at www.up.ac.za.

The Faculty of Education is one of the largest and most diverse facilities in South Africa for the initial and advanced training of education professionals from across the world. The faculty has five departments:

- Humanities Education  
- Science, Mathematics and Technology Education  
- Education Management and Policy Studies  
- Educational Psychology  
- Early Childhood Education

The University of Pretoria is the place of the leading scientists of the future. At UP, the main focus is on developing the students’ skills and helping them discover their weaknesses and turn them into strengths. Since I started at UP three years ago, my views for the future have changed and I am now empowered to be a person who’s willing to change the world. At the end, I just want to add that UP is a home away from home.
Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

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The Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology is divided into three schools. The faculty is also home to the Graduate School of Technology Management and has various institutes and research centres. All the research within the Faculty is aligned with the strategic imperatives and industry. The schools and departments are as follows:

- **School of Engineering**
  - Department of Chemical Engineering
  - Department of Civil and Biosystems Engineering
  - Department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering
  - Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
  - Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering
  - Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering
  - Department of Mining Engineering

- **School for the Built Environment**
  - Department of Architecture
  - Department of Construction Economics
  - Department of Town and Regional Planning

- **School of Information Technology**
  - Department of Computer Science
  - Department of Informatics
  - Department of Information Science
  - Graduate School of Technology Management
Faculty of Health Sciences

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The Faculty of Health Sciences strives towards merging clinical service delivery, health professions education and world-class research. The Faculty is divided into four schools, encompassing more than 40 academic departments.

Schools:
• School of Medicine
• School of Dentistry
• School of Health Systems and Public Health
• School of Health Care Sciences

Through my research and the support I had from UP, I had access to state-of-the-art equipment. The mentorship I received has been invaluable. Through my research I’ve become part of the national, as well as international, teams working in our field.
Faculty of Humanities

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The Faculty of Humanities is one of the most comprehensive humanities faculties in the country, with 17 different academic departments and two teaching units:

- Department of African Languages
- Department of Afrikaans
- Department of Ancient Languages
- Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
- Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
- Department of Drama
- Department of English
- Department of Historical and Heritage Studies
- Department of Modern European Languages
- Department of Music
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Political Sciences
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Social Work and Criminology
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Sport and Leisure Studies
- Department of Visual Arts

I completed my MMus (Performance) at the University of Pretoria. The experience changed my life and enriched my practical work as voice lecturer and my research and presentation of Voice Method. I have received a bursary from UP to complete my postgraduate studies. During my research, I have established valuable contacts and networking channels with expert colleagues in Canada and the USA. This was made possible by the generosity of UP (upon recommendation of my Head of Department, Prof Wim Viljoen), which sponsored my trip to read a paper on my research in Vocal Pedagogy and presenting a lecture recital on South African indigenous art and folk music at an international singing symposium in Newfoundland in 2011. My gratitude and appreciation go to all persons at UP who assisted me with my postgraduate studies.
Faculty of Law

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The Faculty of Law at the University of Pretoria ranks among the top law faculties in South Africa and is often described as a global law faculty in Africa. Through their research and scholarly activities, the academic staff in the Faculty contribute significantly to various fields of law. Some participated in the drafting of the final South African Constitution, while some alumni of the Faculty serve as judges in high courts, the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court.

- Jurisprudence
- Mercantile Law
- Private Law
- Procedural Law
- Public Law
Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

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The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences prides itself in producing highly skilled graduates and generating new scientific knowledge through world-class research. Some 40% of all rated researchers, as well as A-rated researchers at the University of Pretoria, are members of this faculty, an indicator that the academic staff are at the forefront of their respective disciplines.

The departments within the Faculty are as follows:

- Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development
- Anatomy
- Animal and Wildlife Science
- Biochemistry
- Chemistry
- Consumer Science
- Food Science
- Genetics
- Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology
- Geology
- Insurance and Actuarial Science
- Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
- Microbiology and Plant Pathology
- Physiology
- Physics
- Plant Production and Soil Science
- Plant Science
- Statistics
- Zoology and Entomology
Faculty of Theology

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The Faculty of Theology is the largest of its kind in South Africa. It has a strong research culture with an inquiry-led and research-intensive approach. The Faculty is committed to nurturing transformative leaders, promoting peace and justice, and engaging with people on the margins of society.

The Departments in the Faculty are:
- Church History and Church Polity
- Dogmatics and Christian Ethics
- New Testament Studies
- Old Testament Studies
- Practical Theology
- Science of Religion and Missiology

My postgraduate experience at UP is an exciting journey of discovery and pushing the limits to the extreme. UP provides a support basis to pursue my dream and also opportunities to accumulate knowledge and skills in and beyond my field of study.

”
Faculty of Veterinary Science

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The Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort is the only one of its kind in South Africa and the second oldest of the 46 such faculties in Africa. An online-based MSc in Veterinary Tropical Diseases is offered by the Faculty and attracts a range of national and international postgraduate students.

The Faculty has five academic departments:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Companion Animal Clinical Studies
- Paraclinical Sciences
- Production Animal Studies
- Veterinary Tropical Diseases
Postgraduate Research Opportunities

University of Pretoria
The Graduate Support Hub @ UP

The Graduate Support Hub is a support-oriented virtual and physical space that serves as a central hub to facilitate and coordinate the functions and processes that impact on postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows of the University. The Graduate Support Hub is part of the Department of Research and Innovation Support and works in close cooperation with the Client Service Centre, faculty administration offices, Study Finance and the International Students Division. It coordinates postgraduate and postdoctoral processes, provides academic research support and is committed to the provision of broad-based skills developmental activities.

Postgraduate resources

The Research Commons is a dedicated advanced space for postgraduate students at master’s and doctoral level, as well as researchers and academic staff at the University of Pretoria. It combines research and social space that contributes to social dialogue, scholarly exchange and intellectual development. The space includes work stations, study carrels, seminar and group discussion rooms equipped with top-end PCs, WiFi connectivity, printers, scanners and copiers. A separate lounge area is available for relaxation.

Funding your postgraduate studies

Various bursaries, scholarships and fellowships are available through a number of agencies and within the University of Pretoria. The Client Service Centre (CSC) (www.up.ac.za) will assist with all the administrative processes linked to bursary applications. In addition, the Graduate Support Hub offers assistance with funding applications. A list of funding opportunities for which students can apply is regularly updated on the University website, www.up.ac.za/feesfunding, as well as the Graduate Support @ UP Facebook page.

“Unique experience, had a great opportunity to contribute to the science body of knowledge through unparalleled research at UP during my MSc study. This set me up for my current doctoral research on innovative anthrax vaccinology/immunological responses in selected species.”