



# Postgraduate research programmes

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## Introduction

Our multidisciplinary Department allows us to conduct inter- and trans-disciplinary research which responds to disciplinary concerns as well as global challenges through investigations rooted in the local context. While we explore seven distinct research focus areas, these overlap and intertwine with both each other and with the curriculum. Our postgraduate programmes are open to candidates who wish to research a topic within the domains of architecture and urbanism, interior architecture, or landscape architecture.

We are committed to research that:

- is internationally recognized and locally relevant,
- bridges theory and practice, and
- addresses the challenges of the future in service of society and a healthy environment

Our flagship research units and projects have established strong local and international partnerships which opens many opportunities for students to be exposed to cutting edge international thinking and practices.

Proposed research studies for master’s and doctoral applicants should align with the research focus areas of the Department, as described at the end of this document. The specific research interests and programmes of individual staff members can be viewed on the Departmental website and prospective students are strongly urged to explore these.

## Before you apply

Prospective students are urged to visit the Department website and identify potential supervisors. Prospective supervisors would welcome a short introductory email outlining a proposed topic and motivation for why you would like to study with the proposed supervisor, referencing previous work by the supervisor and the candidate. They can advise a candidate regarding their availability, the relevance of a proposed topic to their own work, and the quality of a research proposal/concept note.

## Programmes offered

PhD programmes		
Minimum duration of study: 2 years	Total credits: 360	NQF level: 10
<p>A PhD student must submit a thesis which provides proof of advanced original research and/or creative work which makes a real and substantial contribution to the field of knowledge and/or practice of the disciplines of architecture, urbanism, interior architecture, or landscape architecture.</p> <p>Applications are open to candidates with a relevant master's degree (NQF level 9). Candidates in possession of a master's degree by coursework may, at the discretion of the Departmental Research Committee, be required to complete a research methodology course prior to commencing studies or in the first six months of registration.</p> <p>Refer to General Regulations G.42 to G.54</p>		<p>PhD Architecture Programme Code: 12262004</p> <p>PhD Interior Architecture Programme Code: 12262009</p> <p>PhD Landscape Architecture Programme Code: 12262005</p>
Master's programmes		
Minimum duration of study: 1 years	Total credits: 180	NQF level: 9
<p>A Master's degree requires a high level of theoretical engagement, intellectual and research independence, and in some cases, demonstration of the ability to relate knowledge to a range of contexts for professional practice.</p> <p>The Department offers a conventional research-based Master's pathway and a reflective practice-based pathway for senior practitioners (when applying, candidates should indicate which of these pathways they wish to follow), as well as an applied sciences coursework programme. The research Master's programme is a full research programme designed to develop research skills which amongst others, allows the graduate to progress seamlessly to the research demands of a PhD.</p> <p>The practice-based Master's programme is a structured programme which entails set outcomes and contact sessions and is open to candidates with at least 10 years of practice experience. Please see the Department website for more information on the practice-based master's programme.</p> <p>Candidates should hold an Honours degree (NQF level 8) in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Architecture, or an associated field with a weighted average of at least 60% at final-year level, or equivalent bachelor's degree with completed supplementary modules relevant to the study field at honours-level to the equivalent of 180 credits and weighted average of at least 60% at final-year level.</p> <p>The curriculum for the MSc (Applied Sciences) degree is compiled in consultation with the programme coordinator. The attendance of lectures is compulsory. The topic of the mini dissertation must be approved by the departmental Research Committee.</p> <p>Refer to General Regulations G.30 to G.40 and G. 50 to G.54.</p>		<p>MArch Programme Code: 12252025</p> <p>MIntArch Programme Code: 12252027</p> <p>MLArch Programme Code: 12252029</p> <p>MSc (Applied Science) Architecture (Coursework) Programme Code: 12252038</p>
BSc (Honours) Applied Science		
Minimum duration of study: 1 years	Minimum credits: 120	NQF level: 8
<p>This degree is for those students intending hereafter to pursue a master's degree by research and coursework in applied science in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture or interior architecture or generally in the built environment This degree does not give access to the professional master's degree programmes.</p> <p>Applicants must have a relevant BSc (or equivalent) degree, or relevant tertiary qualification at NQF level 7 (or NQF level 6 for qualifications obtained before 2009). Relevant practical experience and/or proof of an extended study excursion is also required.</p> <p>Students who follow modules presented by other schools or faculties must first obtain permission for such registration(s) from those schools or faculties and must familiarise themselves with the admission requirements of the specific module(s), and the examination rules and regulations pertaining to such a module(s). Proposed modules and research projects must be approved by the specific research field coordinator.</p> <p>The G Regulation G.39.12 applies</p>		<p>BScHons (Applied Science) Architecture Programme Code: 12242001</p>

## Application

Only students who have formally applied will be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission, so please ensure that all required supporting documents are submitted. Applications are done online at the link below

<https://www.up.ac.za/online-application>

All online applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Certified full academic transcripts from undergraduate to current level (including marks for all modules passed and failed).
- b) Certified copy of ID or passport.
- c) Proof of previous qualifications.
- d) A research concept note: a description of the proposed research field indicating a preliminary title, research topic and the broad scope of the proposed study, not exceeding 500 words.
- e) A short Curriculum Vitae. PhD candidates should submit an academic Curriculum Vitae with specific reference to academic record, research output and publications.
- f) Electronic copy of Masters' dissertation (if applying for doctoral degree).
- g) All documents needed by non-South African students, e.g., SAQA evaluation, language test, passport, medical documents, etcetera.
- h) An application letter that motivates why the candidate is suitable to undertake the research and how the proposed study contributes to a research focus area of the Department.

All candidates: please also submit a draft research proposal to the Department directly, either through your proposed supervisor (preferable), or to [arch@up.ac.za](mailto:arch@up.ac.za), with the following words in the subject line of the email:

*For the attention of the Postgraduate Research Coordinator.*

ADDENDUM B provides a short graphic summary of the application process, but candidates are urged to visit the EBIT Postgraduate Lifecycle which provides a comprehensive overview of the application process at

<https://www.ebitpostgraduatelifecycle.website/>

## Approval of applications and research proposals

Once all the required documentation has been received by the Department from the Faculty Post-graduate Office, the research proposal will be assessed by the Departmental Research Committee.

The results of an assessment can be:

- Rejection (not suited to the Department's Research Focus Areas, lack of supervisory capacity or poor proposal)
- Provisional acceptance (applicant will have to resubmit the proposal with the assistance of an appointed supervisor)
- Acceptance with instructions to register at a particular point in time (usually at the start of a year).

In case of provisional acceptance, a student is admitted on condition that a revised research proposal be submitted and approved by the Departmental Postgraduate Committee and/or supervisor. The student pays and registers for the non-examination module: ZZZ 777 (Master's degree), or ZZZ 888 (Doctoral degree). This also gives the student access to UP's facilities to prepare the research proposal. After acceptance of the research proposal the student is admitted to the degree.

If the Research Committee deems it necessary, it may ask that the applicant makes a Research Proposal Presentation, which will include a revised proposal and a 20-minute maximum presentation.

NOTE: The Department has limited supervisory capacity and only accepts candidates for whom it is able to provide supervision. Only candidates with excellent academic transcripts at master's level and a proven ability to write academically will be considered. Complying with the minimum admission requirements does not automatically guarantee admission to the degree

### Contents of research proposal

A research proposal should contain at a minimum:

- the research topic located in its specific field of enquiry (literature review) and those related to the Department
- the problem statement
- the main research questions and objectives
- the proposed research design & methodology
- in the case of a PhD, the expected contribution to knowledge
- a proposed supervisor
- the candidate's contact details and qualifications

## Key dates

Applications for the degrees BSc (Hons) (Applied Sciences) and all Master's degrees by research close on 30 October for the following year.

PhD candidates may apply for admission at any time during the academic year but are advised to register at the beginning of the year as tuition fees are charged for a full academic year (February to December). From the second year of enrolment, re-registrations close on 31 March annually.

## Research Committee meetings

Date	Main agenda
February	Review new PhD applications for current year
April	Review revised PhD and Master's proposals for current year
July	Review new Honours, Master's and PhD applications and proposals for following year
November	Review new Honours, Master's and PhD applications and proposals for following year

All documentation must be submitted two weeks before the date of a meeting. The annual dates of these meetings, and submission dates for applications and research proposals can be found on the Department website.

## International students

Applicants with international qualifications must also submit the following documents:

- A SAQA evaluation of the completed qualification
- TOEFL or IELTS test results (if applicable)
- Certified copy of passport

NOTE: Prospective students from outside South Africa need to have their highest university qualification certified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as this evaluation is used as a guideline in the final decision. All certificates issued in a foreign language must be translated into English by an accredited translator.

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Email: [saqainfo@saqa.org.za](mailto:saqainfo@saqa.org.za)

Online: [www.saqa.org.za](http://www.saqa.org.za)

NOTE: All postgraduate applicants must be proficient in English as English is the official language of tuition, communication, and correspondence at the University of Pretoria. Candidates who cannot provide evidence that previous studies were completed in English, must submit TOEFL or IELTS test results with their application.

NOTE: Non-South African residents should note that a study permit is required. It is the candidate's responsibility to make the necessary arrangements in this regard. Candidates can contact the International Cooperation Division for more information on study permits and medical insurance at [www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division](http://www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division)

Also refer to General Regulations G.42 to G.54.

## Contact details

The Department of Architecture does not deal with the administrative aspects of student affairs, such as applications, tuition fees or bursaries. Such queries should be addressed to the Client Service Centre or the Faculty Admissions Office

Client Service Centre	Academic Admission Enquiries	General Academic Enquiries
Physical location: <i>Lynnwood Road entrance Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria</i>	EBIT Postgraduate Administration Office Physical location: <i>Eng 1, Level 6, Room 6-8.1</i>	Prof. Arthur Barker <i>Postgraduate Research Coordinator</i>
Tel: +27 12 420 3111 Email: <a href="mailto:ssc@up.ac.za">ssc@up.ac.za</a>	Tel: +27 (0)12 420 6735 Email: <a href="mailto:eng@up.ac.za">eng@up.ac.za</a> Postal address: <i>University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20 Hatfield 0028, South Africa</i>	Tel: +27 (0)12 420 4542 Email: <a href="mailto:arch@up.ac.za">arch@up.ac.za</a>



## Financial support

Bursary applications close at different times of the year and usually require that you be registered. Please contact the Client Service Centre or look for funding opportunities at [www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding](http://www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding) . From time to time the Department may be able to offer financial support through funded research programmes and will advertise such opportunities on its website. Otherwise, we are not able to provide any financial assistance to post-graduate students.

## General regulations

The General Regulations of the University of Pretoria are available at <http://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home> . The requirements set out in the General Regulations prevail should there be any discrepancies, anomalies, or contradictions.

## Special note

The research degree programmes on offer are completed by research on a full-time basis. These qualifications are not associated with the professional outcomes of each of the disciplines' professional or statutory bodies. Should you be interested in a professional postgraduate degree at the Department of Architecture, please consult the "Professional Postgraduate Programmes" brochure on the department's website: [www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture) .

## ADDENDUM A: Research focus areas

The Department of Architecture presents postgraduate research programmes in architecture, interior architecture, and landscape architecture in a number of inter-related fields of inquiry. Postgraduate students are expected to contribute to at least one of the following Research Programmes:

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### Urban Citizenship

*Participatory architectural research and design as instrument of urban citizenship*

Through participatory processes of research and design, the discourse of architecture is extended beyond the realm of architect-as-expert towards the dynamic collaboration of human-centred spatial agency. Immersive ways of engagement enable deepened understanding of user needs and contextual variables, to expand the empathic horizon of the designer to internalise different perspectives and worldviews. The dynamic expression of space, informed by ritual, inhabitation patterns, interpersonal networked relationships, and the appropriation of space, becomes the focus over static architectural proposals. Fluid and temporal conditions of living inform design interventions that are often small in scale, yet big in their impact on the lives of a variety of communities. The scale spectrum implies a concern beyond individual interest alone towards an intentional engagement with the public consciousness of the collective. In this way, co-design as a process is embraced as an instrument of urban citizenship, responsive to the complex emergence of African Urbanism.

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### Regenerative and Resilient Cities

*Future-proofing cities through climate change adaptation and systems transformation*

The future of cities will depend on our ability to adapt to changes brought about by the challenges of climate change, ecosystem degradation, new technology, rapid urbanisation and growing inequality. This research area focuses primarily on the retrofitting and transformation of Southern African cities through the interplay between the technological, systemic and spatial design decisions made when developing design solutions. As research context the focus is on scales ranging from the detailed architectural interior to the neighbourhood public realm. The theoretic locus within which the research field is framed considers the sustainability discourse from the position of complex, adaptive systems and eco-systemic thinking – going beyond sustainability to also consider resilience and regenerative design in the adaptation and transformation of cities as social-ecological systems. Current research projects range from the development of a spatial development framework for regenerative and resilient cities, to climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies for left-over urban spaces and affordable housing.

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### Designed Ecologies

This field is about how we design multifunctional green infrastructure (GI) to help combat challenges of biodiversity loss, climate adaptation and food security. The Designed Ecologies research programme aims to foster the human nature relationship through social and ecological pathways. Several research projects exist within the programme, with both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This includes design experiments that test novel planting schemes and technologies to enhance urban biodiversity and ecosystem services; the refugia abilities of planting palettes; cultural relationships with nature; the role of local biodiversity in place perception and place identity; environmental justice perspectives; the selection of species for climate change adaptation; and the food security potential of indigenous species in vertical planting systems.

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### Smart Cities and Neighbourhoods

*Stitching the city together through data explorations*

The 21st century is defined by the way we use digital technologies to collect, interpret and exploit data. There is a growing understanding that planning, designing and initiating successful developmental projects need to be grounded within the local context and its socio-spatial dynamics, which requires a much more fine-grained form of data collection and analysis than is currently found in statistical datasets. The objective of this research programme is firstly to develop a methodological framework and digital platform for the collection and sharing of meaningful and useful visual, place-based and human-based spatial, (quantitative and qualitative) data at a street- and precinct level, such as routinely collected by students in the spatial design disciplines; and secondly, to integrate and interpret such data within neighbourhood scale proxy models (e.g. digital twins) to assist stakeholders in a) identifying areas of development potential or problem hotspots where interventions would be most useful and sustainable, and b) providing time-line data for trend and network analysis. The flagship project in this field is the development of a digital twin for the Hatfield Development District

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## Memory, Legacy and Identity

*The recording and analysis of, and prospects for, architecture*

This research field positions architectural design in an historical continuum of international (and local) theory, practice and traditions. Researchers in this field are interested in the relationship between people, landscape and artefacts of cultural significance and heritage value. Researchers collect, record and analyse information about cultural artefacts and create prospects for architecture, informed by current best practice, as well as legal and heritage frameworks. Current research activities build on over 75 years of Departmental heritage and cultural research and publication. The Department's thriving Architectural Archive, which has generated several research outputs, presents prospective researchers with a wealth of unexploited artefacts and data on South African architectural heritage.

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## Inhabitation of Place

*Identity and meaning-making through space*

Human identity, place and context are integral to cultural production and meaning-making. This research area considers the role of spatial design in identity formation processes, in fostering belonging and in encouraging well-being. Cultural, economic, psychological, and social systems are triggers for research and design in the spatial domain. The interface/s between humans, objects and space enables multi-scalar interrogations into the nature of inhabitation. Processes of inhabitation include behaviour, identity expression, rituals, and taste-making as informants to design and research.

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## Architectural Education

*Challenging established and conventional praxis in architectural education*

Architecture, as a spatial and design discipline, in turn engages with those aspects of education, practice and research. This research focus area is situated in the context of Africa and the Global South and pertains to the scholarly enquiry about spatial design education using a wide lens that includes the explorations of the interrelationships between, and within, education, practice and research and how these relate to, draw on and critically respond to a multitude of informants, including multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary influences across a broad spectrum of interests, in the midst of a rapidly expanding production of knowledge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Researchers in this field should ideally – but not exclusively – consider, reflect on, and challenge established and conventional praxis and outcomes in spatial design pedagogy with its densely layered processes and diversity of outcomes.

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For more details on current research projects and possible supervisors, please visit the Department website

[www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture)

## ADDENDUM B: Postgraduate lifecycle

See next page







APPLY	REGISTER	SUBMIT	GRADUATE
<p><b>PHASE 0</b> Pre-application</p> <p><b>STEP 1</b> Prospective candidate identifies research field and possible supervisor NOTE: Candidate can contact possible supervisors to determine availability and interest, and advise on proposed research direction, but the appointment of supervisors rests with the HoD</p> <p><b>STEP 2</b> Prospective candidate prepares necessary documentation as set out in EBIT PG Lifecycle and Departmental Postgraduate brochure</p> <p><b>STEP 3</b> Prospective candidate formally applies through UP Online Application system at <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/online-application">https://www.up.ac.za/online-application</a> NOTE: Only students who have formally applied will be considered</p> <p><b>Articles required:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master's: Proof of draft article based on the research submitted to supervisor for publication in peer-reviewed accredited journal</li> <li>• PhD: Proof of one article based on the research submitted to peer-reviewed accredited journal</li> </ul>	<p><b>PHASE 1</b> Application consideration</p> <p><b>STEP 4</b> Faculty PG Office forwards all application documentation to Departmental Research Committee Chair (DRCC)</p> <p><b>STEP 5</b> Departmental Research Committee considers application according to internal processes as set out in Departmental PG Brochure, and reach one of three decisions: <b>Decline:</b> not suited to the Department's Research Focus Areas/ lack of supervisory capacity/ poor proposal <b>Provisional acceptance:</b> applicant will have to resubmit proposal with the assistance of an appointed supervisor, and must register for non-examination module: ZZZ 777 (Masters), or ZZZ 888 (PhD) <b>Accept:</b> A supervisor is assigned, HoD signs off on application and submit to PG Office so that candidate can proceed with registration.</p> <p><b>STEP 6</b> DRCC informs candidate of outcome</p> <p><b>STEP 7</b> Candidate <b>registers</b> for selected programme and arrange meeting with supervisor NOTE: Candidates have to ensure that they complete the registration process after their application has been accepted</p>	<p><b>PHASE 2</b> Study period</p> <p><b>STEP 8</b> Candidate, supervisor and HoD signs MoA Supervisor submits to PG Office*: • Form 02-S-03 - Proposals for focus area / preliminary title and supervisor(s) for a Master's / Doctoral candidate • Form 02-S-04 Memorandum of Agreement <b>Original signed copy</b></p> <p><b>STEP 9</b> Candidate and supervisor update milestones on PeopleSoft after each appointment</p> <p><b>STEP 10</b> Candidate submits ethics application as outlined by Faculty Committee for Research Ethics and Integrity</p> <p><b>STEP 11</b> Supervisor submits yearly progress reports on PeopleSoft</p> <p><b>STEP 12</b> Candidate submits letter of intention to submit dissertation / thesis three months in advance Form: Notice of intended submission of dissertation / thesis for examination</p> <p><b>STEP 13</b> Candidate submit draft of dissertation / thesis to supervisor for internal evaluation together with the Turn-in report Form 02-S-21 - Turn-in report of dissertation / thesis for internal evaluation and for the submission of the examination copy for the examination</p> <p><b>STEP 15</b> Candidate submits electronic Examination Copy of dissertation/thesis to supervisor together with: • Final submission form with Section C completed • For PhD Candidates: a short CV (Citation) approved by the supervisor</p>	<p><b>PHASE 3</b> Examination</p> <p><b>STEP 14</b> Supervisor contacts possible examiners and collect their CVs and Acceptance Forms Supervisor submits to PG Office*: • Nomination of examiners form with CVs and Form: Acceptance as Potential Examiner</p> <p><b>STEP 16</b> Supervisor submits the following to the PG Office by email: • Electronic Examination Copy • Final submission form with Section C completed • For PhD Candidates: a short CV (Citation) approved by the supervisor Form 02-S-21 - Turn-in report of dissertation / thesis for internal evaluation and for the submission of the examination copy for the examination</p> <p><b>STEP 17</b> Supervisor and candidate work on articles as required</p> <p><b>STEP 18</b> PG Office informs HoD of examination results and HoD communicates these to the supervisor, who then discusses the results with the candidate</p> <p><b>STEP 19</b> Candidate completes changes as required by examiners</p> <p><b>STEP 20</b> Supervisor submits the following to PG Office: • Record of changes • Form: Declaration of Changes made • Final examination results form • Proof of article(s) submitted (G. 39.12 or G.51)</p> <p><b>STEP 21</b> Candidate receives permission to submit final copy of the thesis/ dissertation and submit electronic copy to UPSpace Form: UPSpace submission Form for Electronic Thesis/ Dissertation</p>

**Postgraduate Lifecycle**  
Guideline

Faculty of Engineering,  
Built Environment and  
Information Technology  
Fakulteit Ingenieurswese, Bouwomgewing en  
Inligtingsteunsel / Lefapha la Boetsenere,  
Tholoo ya Kago le Theknoloji ya Tshediso

School for the  
Built Environment

Also see: <https://www.ebitpostgraduatelifecycle.websitel/>

Dates for submission of examination copies: 31 March – Spring Graduation; 31 August – Autumn graduation