



Why a programme in Sustainable Agriculture?

This MSc is an interdisciplinary programme of the theory and practice of sustainable agriculture and is aimed at recent graduates, early and mid-career specialists and generalist professionals in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

The **purpose** of the program is to train students in understanding the wide-ranging contextual, conceptual, and thematic issues related to sustainable agriculture at local, regional and global scales. Increasing environmental, economic and social challenges facing global agriculture requires a new generation of interdisciplinary professionals with appropriate skills to provide practical solutions across all dimensions of challenges.

This programme challenges students to view agriculture as a system through modules such as Introduction to Systems Thinking and Systems Analysis and Simulation. Quantitative analysis of Land Use systems will help improve the students' quantitative and analytical skills.

In the final module of Year 1, Work-Integrated Learning, students apply all the newly acquired skills to assess an industry that is focused on agricultural sustainability and gain hands-on experience through real-life perspectives. Students conduct a research project under supervision in Year 2.

Modules

The programme is offered on a **full-time in-person basis over a minimum period of two years** with 11 modules taught in Year 1.

	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Systems thinking (6 credits) • Biodiversity and ecosystem services (6 credits) • Sustainable soil management (8 credits) • Sustainable plant production and protection (8 credits) • Sustainable animal production (8 credits) • <i>Start with the research proposal with a study leader/supervisor</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biometry (8 credits) • Sociology of sustainable agriculture (6 credits) • Economics of sustainable agriculture (8 credits) • Systems analysis and simulation (6 credits) • Quantitative analysis of land-use systems (8 credits) • Work-integrated learning (18 credits) • <i>Refine research proposal and apply for ethical clearance if necessary</i>
Year 2	Conducting research and writing research thesis (90 credits)	

Admission requirements

- Applicants should have an NQF exit-level 8 qualification such as a 4-year **BSc Agriculture** degree or **BSc Hons** degree (or **BSc** + postgraduate diploma) in any of the major disciplines related to Agriculture, with an aggregate pass mark of at least 60% for the preceding degree.
- Undergraduate Biometry/Statistics is a requirement. Applicants who completed their undergraduate studies at any institution other than SU must write an entrance test before enrolling in the postgraduate **Biometry module**. If entry requirements are not met (based on the entrance test results), then undergraduate Biometry modules must be taken in the first year of the programme.
- A motivation letter (max 500 words) explaining why you would like to do this programme and how you view sustainability in agriculture should be submitted with your application documents online. The motivation letter must **include your name and application number**. If it is not possible to attach the letter with your application documents online, you can send an [email](#) with "**application ID_motivation letter**" as the subject. AI-generated information will be viewed as plagiarism and result in your application being disqualified from further consideration.

Fees

The programme **does not offer bursaries**. Applicants are responsible for securing funding or scholarships for themselves, preferably before they enrol. Fees to be considered include tuition, accommodation, and living expenses. Visit the [fees website](#) for a provisional quote for this programme (0598_100_A104/MSc Sustainable Agriculture) and select all modules listed above. Students are also responsible for securing their own accommodation, which can be found [here](#).

How to apply

Applications open on 1 April and close on 14 September for international and 31 October for South African applicants. Email:

- [Academic enquiries](#)
- [Enrolment enquiries](#) or [Postgraduate matters](#)