

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Entry Requirements

A student wishing to pursue a masters degree in the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences must satisfy the minimum Kenyatta University and School of Pure and Applied Sciences entry requirements.

A student to be admitted must satisfy ANY OF the following minimum requirements:

1. Must be a holder of Bachelor of Science or Education with at least Second Class Upper Division and has studied a relevant area of specialization to a degree level.
2. Holders of Second Class, Lower Division Degree in the above areas may be admitted provided the candidate can show proven evidence of research ability or have a minimum of two years work experience in a relevant field.

Duration and pattern

- (a) The Masters programme shall extend over a period of at least eighteen months from the date of registration and shall consist of coursework, examination and thesis involving full-time attendance at the university. Part time students should get more information from Dean of Graduate School.
- (b) During the first year of study each student will be required to follow a programme comprising a minimum of eight units and a maximum of ten units. The second year will be devoted entirely to a research project
- (c) At the end of coursework, a student is expected to write a research proposal and give a seminar in the department
- (d) Students should consult their supervisors for more information and guidance. On commencing research, a progress form should be filled every six months. The form can be obtained from Dean, Graduate School.
- (e) No candidate for the master's degree shall be registered as full-time student for more than three years, or as part-time students for more than four years without completing the programme of study, or submitting a thesis, as may be the case, without the permission of Senate.

Examination

- (a) For taught courses students are assessed on the basis of a combination of continuous assessment and a written examination.
- (b) Continuous assessment, in the form of class tests, laboratory work, assignments etc, contributes 30% of the total course assessment, and the examination contributes 70%.
- (c) The University examination for each course is held at the end of the semester in which the course is taught.
- (d) The written examination takes three hours for each unit.
- (e) Research projects are examined by assessing a thesis in which a candidate presents a full account of introduction, methods, results and conclusions of their research work. Two internal examiners and one external examiner assess the thesis. Candidates are also examined orally after the thesis has been assessed.

- (f) A student will have at least two research supervisors, and regular consultation with them is required.
- (g) Candidates are required to pass first year examinations in all courses for which they are registered before they can proceed to the second year. In case of a failed unit, they are required to take a supplementary examination in the unit.
- (h) The pass mark for the course examination is 50%. The grading scale is as indicated below:
 - A = 70% and over
 - B = 60 – 69%
 - C = 50 – 59%
- (i) A student who fails a unit is allowed to sit for a supplementary examination but the highest grade that can be obtained is C. A student who fails more than half the units taken is discontinued.
- (j) At least three months before the thesis is to be presented, a candidate shall give notice of submission by filling thesis submission forms that can be obtained from Dean, Graduate School.

Areas of specialization

M.Sc. (Microbiology)

M.Sc. (Plant Pathology)

M.Sc. (Genetics)

M.Sc. (Plant Physiology and Biochemistry)

M.Sc. (Plant Ecology)

MSc. (Plant Taxonomy)

MSc. (Ethnobotany)