General Information for Prospective Students:

Thank you for your interest in our postgraduate programme.

It is trusted that you will find all the information you need in this document.

Application for Studying at IGS: Honours, Master's and PhD Students

All students **(and also a student who previously discontinued her/his studies for at least one academic year)** applications must be submitted and completed online through the University of the Free State's online application process. This also applies students who have applied the previous year and have been accepted, but for some or other reason they did not register. Please consult the University of the Free State's website for more information and apply at https://apply.ufs.ac.za/Application/Start

Applications must be submitted before or on 30 September, the year before intended registration.

All applicants must send their full academic records, a short CV and proof of application to igs-info@ufs.ac.za before 30 September 2026. If you are doing your MSc or PhD-degree, we also need your proposal.

Please take note that the completion of the application for admission does not in any way guarantee admission to the Geohydrology programmes.

Incomplete online applications will not be processed, and this could delay/prevent the applicant's admission to selection programmes, as well as placement in a residence (where applicable). It is your responsibility to ensure that the application form is completed in full.

The following officials at Student Academic Services and at IGS will be able to answer most of your questions regarding applications, registration and other information regarding the courses:

Application Helpdesk

Call Centre	studentadmin@ufs.ac.za	T: +27 51 401 9666
Online Registrations		T: +27 51 401 9111

Institute for Groundwater Studies

Programme Director:

Dr Paul Lourens	lourenspjh@ufs.ac.za	T: +27 51 401 2840

Officer: Professional Services:

Anneke Rossouw	rossab@ufs.ac.za	T: +27 51 401 2175

Selection Process:

The Institute for Groundwater Studies (IGS) can only accommodate a limited number of students per year A selection process by the Academic Selection Committee takes place by the end of October. The Academic Selection Committee consists out of all the Academic Staff Members of IGS. The panel critically reviews all the applications based on minimum admission requirements (this is subject to all other UFS rules, selection processes and availability of space) academic performance and work experience.

Students whose final marks are not available by that time, will be put on a waiting list. A maximum number of 38 students can be admitted to the honours programme. After the successful 38 students have been selected, a waiting list of students is also compiled. The waiting list consists of students whose marks are outstanding; all the documents are not received or due to space availability.

BSc Honours (Geohydrology)

Admission for the post-graduate degrees in Geohydrology is subjected to the condition that the prospective student complies with the admission requirements.

Preconditions:

Apart from the general regulations the following is applicable:

A BSc, BSc (Agric), BEng or BTech (with Geology) degree. An average of 60% in the final year of a BSc degree calculated from the major subjects, as well as Geology, Chemistry, and Mathematics or Statistics on first-year level is required for admission to the degree.

Prerequisite modules:

- GLG114 (Introduction to Geology); GLG124 (General Geology)
- CEM114 (Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry); CEM124/CEM144 (Physical and Organic Chemistry) and
- WTW114 (Calculus); WTW124 (Algebra and Differential Equations) or
- STK114 (Introduction to Statistics I); STK124 (Introduction to Statistics II)

Equivalent modules from other universities at the same NQF level (7) are also accepted.

Note: The University is very strict about students meeting the prerequisites before enrolling for a particular module/degree. If it is found that a student was accepted without the required academic background, the university may decide not to award the degree.

The curriculum shall consist of seven semester modules.

2026 Calendar for BSc Hons. & additional modules for MSc and PhD Students		
Year Module		
GEHR6808	Research Report in Geohydrology	January – November
First Semester		
GEOH6815	Groundwater Hydraulics	January - February (3 weeks)
GEOH6835	Hydrochemistry and Pollution	March (2 weeks)
GEOH6855	Groundwater Geophysics	April (2 weeks)
Winter School (Field Trip): July 2026 – 1 week		
Second Semester		
GEOH6825	Groundwater Modelling	July (2 weeks)
GEOH6845	Mining Geohydrology & Hydrology	August - September (2 weeks)
GEOH6865	Groundwater Management	September - October (2 weeks)

Notes:

1. The compulsory **Winter Field School** will take place in July.
2. **GEOH6815** is a very important module which has to be completed before the others since it describes most of the fundamental concepts of geohydrology.
3. **GEOH6865** must be done when all the other modules are completed.

Bursaries and fees payable: BSc Hons (Geohydrology)

For information regarding bursaries, please consult the Centre for Graduate Support at https://www.ufs.ac.za/centreforgraduatesupport

Tuition and residence fees are calculated per semester. All fees must be paid as follows, regardless of whether or not an account was received. (It is the responsibility of the student to supply the university with his/her correct contact details and to make enquiries should he/she not receive an account.)

Payment dates for South African students:
First semester: all fees for the first semester are payable on/before 31 March.
Second semester: all fees for the second semester are payable on/before 31 August.

Payment dates for international students:
First semester: all fees for the first semester are payable on/before 31 March.

Second semester: all fees for the second semester are payable on/before 30 June, regardless of any other date which may appear on account statements. All other fees are payable not later than the end of the

month, following the month in which the transaction took place, as indicated on the account statement, unless specifically stipulated otherwise in the regulations.

If payments are not made by the due dates:

- interest at the prime bank rate as charged by ABSA Bank +2% will be levied on all accounts in arrears;
- all academic records will be withheld; and
- International students with outstanding fees on 1 July will not be allowed to continue with their second-semester studies.

Honours programme prices for 2026

Tuition fees for the honours programme is ±R65 000.00 (subject to change) per year (this amount excludes accommodation cost, campus fees etc.). Errors and omission are excluded from abovementioned amount.

Contact details for tuition fees:
Postgraduate students: +27 51 401 9537
Email: tuitionfees@ufs.ac.za

Your student number must always be mentioned in all correspondence with the university.

MSc (Geohydrology) – GEHR8900

1. **Prerequisites**:

   An honours degree (or **a 480-credit professional bachelor's degree**) in relevant fields of the Natural Sciences, i.e. Geohydrology, Geology, Geophysics, Engineering Geology, Hydrology with an average of 65%. If a student does not entirely met die admission average of 65%, the Director and Programme Director, recommend that some concessions be made in respect of the required average. Appropriate work experience will be an added advantage.

   Additional honours modules may be prescribed where candidates do not have the required background in Geohydrology.

   For the additional modules students will have to attend the honours classes, successfully complete all assignments, practical's and semester test. If a student semester mark is above 45% but under 50%, he/she must write the exam(s). Students with a final mark below 50%, must repeat the module the following year. All MSc students who have been advised to take additional modules should regard these as minimum requirements to be passed prior to submitting the dissertation. These students do **NOT REGISTER** for the honours modules.

We have three compulsory contact/progress presentation sessions per year for our MSc and PhD-students. The contact sessions are in February, May and September. We require from our MSc and PhD students to submit regular progress reports, some of which will be in the form of oral presentations.

We recommend that before applying for the MSc or PhD degree, that you first contact an IGS supervisor to discuss your area of research interest. After consultation with a prospective supervisor a research proposal must be submitted. We do not offer research projects therefore students must find their own projects and funding.

2. The prospective Master's student must first obtain a research project for his/her dissertation which will allow him/her to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of supervised planning and execution of a research project in a natural science discipline (specifically geohydrology). This project includes hypothesis formulation, collecting appropriate experimental materials, optimising techniques and procedures, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation of results, and writing of a dissertation according to a structured format and related literature.

Take note: No student will be allowed to continue with his/her dissertation unless he/she has presented a research proposal after the first contact session.

The written proposal for the dissertation should cover the following:

- The proposed title.
- Introduction/background indicating the rationale and focus of the proposed study.
- Problem statement and problem questions.
- Aim and objectives.
- Theoretical framework and literature foundation.
- Proposed methods and materials to achieve the aims and objectives.
- Research schedule, including specific time frames.
- Proposed titles of the chapters.
- List of sources used in the proposal.

PhD (Geohydrology) – GEHR9100

1. The degree of Philosophiae Doctor in the field of Geohydrology is conferred at this Institution.
2. A Master's degree in Geohydrology with a 65% average for the Master's degree.
   If a student does not entirely met die admission average of 65%, the Director and Programme Director, recommend that some concessions be made in respect of the required average. Appropriate work experience will be an added advantage.

3. Additional honours modules may be prescribed where candidates do not have the required background in Geohydrology.

4. For the additional modules students will have to attend the honours classes, successfully complete all assignments, practical's and semester test. If a student semester mark is above 45% but under 50%, he/she must write the exam(s). Students with a final mark below 50%, must repeat the module the following year. All PhD students who have been advised to take additional modules should regard these as minimum requirements to be passed prior to submitting the dissertation. These students do **NOT REGISTER** for the honours modules.

   We have three compulsory contact / progress presentation sessions per year for our MSc and PhD-students. The contact sessions are in February, May and September. We require from our MSc and PhD students to submit regular progress reports, some of which will be in the form of oral presentations.

   We recommend that before applying for the MSc or PhD degree, that you first contact an IGS supervisor to discuss your area of research interest. After consultation with a prospective supervisor a research proposal must be submitted. We do not offer research projects therefore students must find their own projects and funding.

5. The candidate will have to do an initial presentation on the outline and structure of his/her thesis. This must be followed by two progress presentations as well as a final presentation before submission.

Take note: No student will be allowed to continue with his/her thesis unless he/she has presented a research proposal after the first contact session.

The written proposal for the thesis should cover the following:

- The proposed title.
- Introduction/background indicating the rationale and focus of the proposed study.
- Problem statement and problem questions.
- Aim and objectives.
- Theoretical framework and literature foundation.
- Proposed methods and materials to achieve the aims and objectives.
- Research schedule, including specific time frames.
- Proposed titles of the chapters.
- List of sources used in the proposal.