



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



ORGANISATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



- HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND INSTITUTIONS?
- WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE STATE?
- WHAT DRIVES CHANGE OR STABILITY IN STRUCTURES OF POWER?

2021

HONOURS, MASTERS AND PHD LEVELS

HONOURS PROGRAMME

WHAT IS ORGANISATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STUDIES?

Organisational and Institutional Studies (OIS) is a new programme in the School of Social Sciences coordinated by the Public Affairs Research Institute. The programme offers ways to understand organisations and institutions of government and a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the state and civil society.

The study of institutions can unlock many of the central political challenges facing nations across the globe.

In South Africa, where the various approaches to studying institutions have developed unevenly, this programme brings together insights from the fields of Political Science, Sociology, Economics and Anthropology to provide in-depth observation and analysis of how institutions shape power dynamics and impact major political outcomes.

POSSIBLE CAREERS FOR OIS GRADUATES

- Academic researcher
- Lecturer
- Public policy researcher
- Policy analyst
- Project coordinator
- Project manager
- Public service consulting

The Organisation and Institutional Studies (OIS) Honours Programme is intended for students interested in basic theoretical debates on institutions. The programme focuses on foundational texts as well as the elements of how to do research and write an essay.

The Honours Programme is made up of one theory core course—Basic Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies, one 10 000 words Research Essay Course—as well as electives. All students must complete 122 credits, comprising of the course in Basic Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies (23 credits), the Research Essay (30 credit points) and 3 electives for a total of 69 credits. Courses from which to choose are the following:¹

CORE	SOSS4052A	Basic Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies
	SOCL4014A	Economic Sociology: Institutions, Capitalism and Markets
	HIST4013A	The Making of Urban South Africa
	HIST4001A	Capitalism and the South African Countryside
	INTR4044A	The International Political Economy of Development
	SOCL4016A	Global Institutions and Economic Restructuring
ELECTIVES	POLS4033A	The State in Africa: Democratisation and Crisis
	POLS4042A	Politics of Public Policy
	ECON4052A	Economic Change and Comparative Development
	ECON4053A	Trade and Finance in Economic Development
	SOCL4040A/7043A	Sociology of Land and Agrarian Reform in Southern Africa
	ARPL4024A	Urban Politics and Governance
PLUS	SOSS4062A	Research Essay in Organisational and Institutional Studies

Admission requirements: A bachelor's degree or equivalent with a 68% or higher course mark aggregate in a third-year major.

1. Please note: Not all electives are offered every year.

MASTERS PROGRAMME

The Organisation and Institutional Studies (OIS) Masters Programme is intended for students who have either attended the OIS Honours Programme or come from other, related academic programmes and are interested in the study of institutions. This programme focuses on mastery of broader theoretical debates as well as the process of developing a research design and conducting their own research.

The Programme is made up of one advanced theory core course—Advanced Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies—and one methods and thesis development course, as well as electives. Students are required to submit a 20 000 to 25 000-word research essay.

All students must complete 180 credits, comprising of the course in Advanced Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies (30 credits), the Advanced Research Methods in Organisational and Institutional Studies, one elective course of 30 credit and a research report (90 credits). Courses from which to choose are the following:²

CORE	SOSS7085A	Advanced Concepts in Organisational and Institutional Studies
	SOSS7095A	Advanced Research Methods in Organisational and Institutional Studies
ELECTIVES	ANTH7017A	Political and Legal Anthropology
	ANTH7025A	Economic Anthropology
	ECON7025A	Advanced Institutional Economics
	HIST7007A	Capitalism and the Countryside
	HIST7025A	The Making of Urban South Africa
	POLS7036A	The State in Africa: Democratisation and Crisis
	SOCL7012A	Global Institutions and Economic Restructuring
	SOCL4040A/7043A	Sociology of Land and Agrarian Reform in Southern Africa
	SOSS7044A	Economics and Sociology of Development
RESEARCH COMPONENT	SOSS7010A	MA Research Report
	OR	
	SOSS7089A	MA Research Report Part I
	SOSS7090A	MA Research Report Part II

Admission requirements: An Honours degree from OIS programme or comparable department with a 70% or higher course mark aggregate in the Honours course and with a 68% or higher in the research report.

2. Please note: Not all electives are offered every year.

PHD PROGRAMME

The OIS PhD Programme is intended for students interested in contributing to the discipline through in-depth study and conducting independent and critical research.

We expect candidates to be theoretically driven and methodologically rigorous, and be able to conduct independent research of a high academic standard.

This is a 3 year programme and it is research only. However, we do encourage students to attend our research development seminars during the second semester.

Students will work closely with a supervisor to develop their proposals and to monitor their progress.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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shaping change

PARI has pioneered the field of organisational and institutional studies in South Africa. Employing ethnographic and historical methodologies it works inside government and civil society organisations to understand where power lies in these organisations and how it is exercised, in order to develop recommendations for improved governance, accountability and organisational performance. In recognition of the originality and importance of this work the University of the Witwatersrand has established a new field of study in Institutional Studies.

The Institute contributes to academic debate on the nature of the state and state-society relations through participating in and hosting local and international conferences, and publishing in peer-reviewed journals and books.

www.pari.org.za

