

Why choose Plant Pathology

The Department of Plant Pathology has a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to research and training, and make use of the latest technologies in order to reduce the impact of pathogens on plants, and to increase resistance in plants. Conventional and molecular techniques are used to identify plant pathogens that are a threat to local crops and export markets.

Students are trained in the detection, characterisation and epidemiology of plant pathogens, and in the use of integrated disease control strategies to control these pathogens. Research programs on diseases of grapes and deciduous fruit, are solidly established in the department, while research projects on diseases of citrus, vegetables and cereal crops are more recently introduced in the department.

Introduction to Plant Pathology

Introduction to the disciplines of plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, nematology and weed science. Case studies of plant pests, diseases and weeds that have shaped the history of the world and influenced food security. The basic principles of plant improvement for pest and disease management.

Work Opportunities

Possible employers could include agricultural enterprises, fruit or vegetable producers; agrochemical companies and Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development as a researcher or as private consultant providing expertise on how to best control plant diseases.

Programme Options

BSc(Agric) Plant and Soil Science:

- Crop Production systems
- Crop Protection
- Soil and Water Management

Admission Requirements

In addition to general requirements of Stellenbosch University:

- Average performance level of 60% in the NSC / IEB's school-leaving certificate (excluding Life Orientation)
- English or Afrikaans (Home Language or First Additional Language) – 4 (50%)
- Mathematics – 5 (60%); and
- Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry) – 4 (50%)

Career opportunities

Researcher | Academic | Consultant |
Technician | Agri-businesses |
Agri-chemical companies |
Plant Diagnostic Clinics



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Plant Pathology

Research, training, and technology for sustainable, economical crop protection and a healthy agricultural future.

