



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES**  
**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCE AND CROP PROTECTION**

**ODL SCHEDULE – PSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES FOR 2016/2017 ACADEMIC YEAR INTAKE**

**General Schedule**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Task</b>
<b>First Semester</b>		
12 <sup>th</sup> September to 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	13 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course work</li> <li>• Identification of thesis research topics</li> <li>• Development of thesis research concept notes</li> </ul>
13 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2016	2 weeks	First semester examinations
24 December 2016 to 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	2 weeks	Christmas Break
<b>Second Semester</b>		
16 <sup>th</sup> January to 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	13 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second semester course work</li> <li>• Development of thesis research project proposals</li> <li>• Development of experimental designs</li> <li>• Identification of thesis research project study sites</li> </ul>
17 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	2 weeks	End of second semester examinations
1 <sup>st</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	2 weeks Break	Refinement of thesis research proposals
<b>Third Semester</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup> May to 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	13 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third semester course work</li> <li>• Presentation and approval of thesis research proposals</li> <li>• Allocation of thesis research supervisors</li> <li>• Initiation of thesis research – set up of experiments</li> </ul>
14 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	2 weeks	Third semester examinations
<b>Thesis Research</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	2 weeks	• Refinement of thesis research proposals
28 <sup>th</sup> August to 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	2 week	• Deadline for approval and submission of thesis research proposals to Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPS)
May 2017 to February 2018	9 months	• Carrying of research project studies/ experiments (2 seasons)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection, entry and analysis</li> <li>• Finalization of first 3 chapters (introduction, literature review, materials &amp; methods) of thesis</li> <li>• Data interpretation</li> </ul>
February to April 2018	3 moths	Compiling of the thesis and evaluation by supervisors
May 2018	2 months	Approval and submission of MSc thesis to BPS for examination
June to August 2018	2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis Examination</li> </ul>

### ODL Delivery Schedule

<b>First Semester ODL Schedule – 2016/2017</b>		
Timing	Duration	Task
12 <sup>nd</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	1 <sup>st</sup> week of semester one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ODL Registration – admitted ODL students register for the course at their convenience during this week</li> <li>• Start of classes for fulltime students</li> </ul>
Beginning of the semester face-to-face session 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept -1 <sup>st</sup> October & 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	2 weeks (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation in ODL delivery</li> <li>• Limited face-to-face sessions to provide overview of the course</li> <li>• Issue self-instructional study materials &amp; relevant literature</li> <li>• Issue of course assignments</li> <li>• Introduction to the course practicals</li> <li>• Introduction on development of thesis research proposals &amp; how to select thesis research projects topics</li> </ul>
Mid-semester face-to-face session 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	1 week (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up tutorials</li> <li>• Administration of CATs</li> <li>• Administration of practicals</li> <li>• Follow up on assignments</li> <li>• Follow up on development of thesis research proposals</li> </ul>
End of semester face-to-face session 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	1 week (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up tutorials</li> <li>• Complete practicals</li> <li>• Administration of CATs</li> <li>• Follow up on assignments</li> <li>• Follow up on development of thesis research proposals</li> </ul>
End of semester examinations 19 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	1 week (Wednesday to Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of semester examinations (To be done together with the full time students)</li> </ul>
<b>Second Semester ODL Schedule – 2016/2017</b>		
Timing	Duration	Task

16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	1 <sup>st</sup> week of semester two	Start of classes for fulltime students; Registration for ODL students admitted in to join in 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester - register for the programme at their convenience during this week
Beginning of the semester face-to- face session  26 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2017 & 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	2 weeks (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation in ODL delivery (for the new students joining at semester 2)</li> <li>• Limited face-to-face sessions to provide overview of the course</li> <li>• Issue self-instructional study materials &amp; relevant literature</li> <li>• Issue of course assignments</li> <li>• Introduction to the course practicals</li> <li>• Follow up on development of thesis proposals and plans for implementation of thesis research projects</li> <li>• Guidance on development of thesis research proposals for students joining in semester 2</li> </ul>
Mid-semester face-to-face session  9 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	1 week (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up tutorials</li> <li>• Administration of CATs</li> <li>• Administration of practicals</li> <li>• Follow up on assignments</li> <li>• Follow up on development of thesis proposals and plans for implementation of thesis research projects</li> </ul>
End of semester face-to-face session  13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	1 week (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up tutorials</li> <li>• Complete practicals</li> <li>• Administration of CATs</li> <li>• Follow up on assignments</li> <li>• Follow up on development of thesis proposals and plans for implementation of thesis research projects</li> </ul>
End of semester examinations 24 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	1 week (Wednesday to Wednesday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of semester examinations (To be done together with the full time students)</li> </ul>
<b>Third Semester ODL Schedule – 2016/2017</b>		
<b>Timing</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Task</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	1 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start of classes for fulltime students</li> </ul>
Beginning of semester ODL face-to-face session  25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	2 weeks (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orientation in ODL delivery (for the new students joining at semester 3)</li> <li>• Limited face-to-face sessions to provide overview of the courses</li> <li>• Issue self-instructional study materials &amp; relevant literature</li> <li>• Issue of course assignments</li> <li>• Introduction to the course practicals</li> <li>• Presentation of thesis research project proposals and</li> </ul>

& 25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2017		allocation of theses supervisors ( <i>student who joined in semester 1</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on development of thesis research proposals (<i>student who joined in semester 3</i>)</li> </ul>
Mid-semester face-to-face session  29 <sup>th</sup> June to 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2017	1 week (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up tutorials</li> <li>Administration of CATs</li> <li>Administration of practicals</li> <li>Follow up on assignments</li> <li>Follow up on implementation of thesis research projects</li> </ul>
End of semester face-to-face session  10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	1 week (Thursday to Saturday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up tutorials</li> <li>Complete practicals</li> <li>Administration of CATs</li> <li>Follow up on assignments</li> <li>Follow up on implementation of thesis research projects</li> </ul>
End of semester examinations 21 <sup>st</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	1 week (Monday to Friday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of semester examinations (To be done together with the full time students)</li> </ul>
<b>Thesis Research 2016/2017</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	2 weeks	Finalization of thesis research proposals
29 <sup>th</sup> May to 9 <sup>th</sup> 2017	One day within the 2 weeks	Presentation of thesis research project proposals and allocation of theses supervisors
28 <sup>th</sup> August to 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	2 week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deadline for submission of approved thesis research proposals to Board of Postgraduate Studies (BPS)</li> </ul>
May 2017 to February 2018	9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carrying of research project studies/ experiments (2 seasons)</li> <li>Data collection, entry and analysis</li> <li>Finalization of first 3 chapters (introduction, literature review, materials &amp; methods) of thesis</li> <li>Data interpretation</li> </ul>
February to April 2018	3 months	Compiling of the thesis and evaluation by supervisors
May 2018	2 months	Approval and submission of MSc thesis to BPS for examination
June to August 2018	2 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thesis Examination</li> </ul>

## Summary Time Lines for the Two Year MSc Programme – 2016/2017 Intake

Activity	2016				2017												2018											
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S			
Course work – Semester 1	█	█	█	█																								
Course work – Semester 2					█	█	█	█																				
Course work – Semester 3									█	█	█	█																
Development of thesis proposal		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																
Present research proposal at departmental seminar & allocation of supervisors									█																			
Initiate research – Set up of experiments					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																
Data collection, entry and analysis – Long rains 2015									█	█	█	█	█															
Submission of approved thesis research proposals to BPS													█	█	█													
Data collection, entry and analysis – Short rains 2015													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Compile first 3 chapters of thesis (introduction, literature review and methodology)				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Complete experiments													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Data interpretation – write results chapter													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Compile and complete thesis and thesis evaluation by supervisors													█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								
Thesis Progress report Seminars														█				█				█				█		
Thesis submission to BPS																			█	█	█	█						
Thesis examination																				█	█	█						
Thesis oral defense																					█	█	█					
Graduation																										█		