

FACULTY FACT SHEET



THIS IS US

Quality is key

The Faculty of Law provides quality legal education, undertakes focused research and is involved in the community. The faculty's goal is to equip law students with the knowledge, ethics and skills they will need in their professional lives, and also to expand the science of law through the research our staff and postgraduate students conduct in the service of justice and democracy.

We offer law programmes across our three campuses and have a Community Law Centre in Mahikeng and a Law Clinic in Potchefstroom. We therefore have a presence in, and understanding of, urban and rural environments.

In our undergraduate studies we incorporate public law, legal philosophy and sound exposure to private and mercantile law, underpinned by criminal and procedural law. The postgraduate offerings on master's and doctoral levels encompass diverse fields, including environmental law and governance, estate law, international child law, labour law, public law and legal philosophy, criminal law and procedure and international trade law.

NWU – an internationally renowned university

The NWU proudly represents the African continent on the global stage as one of the largest and most sought-after universities in the world. Known for its excellence in teaching and learning and research, the university boasts a student population representative of 65 different nationalities, bearing testimony to the NWU's global competitive advantage.

Through strategic international collaborations with experts and other institutions of higher learning, the NWU further ensures a global footprint of distinction and quality. Consequently, the NWU takes great pride in the worth of its comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as its proven research track record.

Faculty facts

- The Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) placed the NWU in the top 4,5% of universities in their 2022/23 edition of the Global 2000 list.
- 50% of academic staff members of the faculty hold doctoral degrees and their fields of expertise cover a wide spectrum of legal disciplines.
- Prof Christa Rautenbach and Prof Anél du Plessis have recently been appointed by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services as advisory committee members of the South African Law Reform Commission.
- Prof Louis Kotzé is the recipient of the prestigious European Commission Marie Curie fellowship grant.
- LLD candidate Biandri Joubert received a research fellowship from the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.
- The faculty partners with the Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany to conduct research on the globalisation of urban governance and its relationship with international and domestic legal systems.
- The faculty annually hosts the Juta Mock Trial competition and participates in numerous other moot court competitions.

ON GOOD AUTHORITY



Message from the executive dean, Dr Neo Morei

The Faculty of Law, which has three sites of delivery, namely at the Mahikeng, Potchefstroom and Vanderbijlpark campuses, wishes to welcome each and every law student. We are proud of the people involved in the faculty – staff, students and alumni alike.

We strive for excellence in our core business, namely teaching and learning, research and community engagement. At our faculty you can be assured of quality ethical legal training, forward-looking relevant research and meaningful community engagement, taking into account the need for social justice. We are committed to making a positive contribution to each and every student, the law and our society.

Our faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 31 May 2022)



Undergraduate students:
2 602



Postgraduate students:
278



International students:
75



Academic staff:
99



Support staff:
48



NRF-rated researchers:
12

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE



In our undergraduate programmes we are committed to academic excellence, have an innovative approach to the teaching of law and aim to offer high-quality instruction in law subjects.

Community Law Centre, Mahikeng Campus

At the Community Law Centre, we are committed to providing quality legal assistance to the community, primarily to indigent people who qualify for free legal assistance. This service is combined with practical legal training of students, who are empowered to apply their acquired legal skills.

The Centre serves the communities surrounding Mahikeng and offers professional and technical assistance to non-profit organisations and traditional councils in the Mahikeng area who share our commitment to social justice. The Centre also trains candidate attorneys for admission as attorneys.

Law Clinic, Potchefstroom Campus

The Law Clinic is involved in a number of projects concerning free legal services, community outreach and capacity building, as well as advisory services.

It operates in the North West and Mpumalanga provinces. The Law Clinic offers practical legal training to students, short courses for lawyers and paralegals, and training to members of the local communities.

Short learning programmes

Any member of the public may enrol for any of these courses, as long as they comply with the admission criteria. Our programmes comply with the prescribed 40-hour formal training and standards set by the court-annexed mediation rules as one of the requirements for registration as a mediator. We will gladly offer any of these as an in-house training programme adapted to your particular needs.

RESEARCH

Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability

The Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability addresses developmental and legal challenges in South Africa. All full-time academic staff members of the Faculty of Law and several international postdoctoral fellows participate in the work of the research unit, which has various active research projects.

These are about environmental change, vulnerable societies, cities, law and environmental sustainability, trade finance and investment and justice in practice. These projects deal with crosscutting issues pertaining to both the public and private sector.

Examples are trade, innovation and development, land issues, poverty alleviation, social security and labor rights matters, environmental governance, jurisprudence, the challenges of law in practice, the realisation of socioeconomic rights, religion and culture.

The faculty is proud to have a number of distinguished international scholars associated with our research projects, and also has 12 researchers with National Research Foundation (NRF) ratings (three B ratings, four C1 ratings, two C2 ratings and three Y ratings).

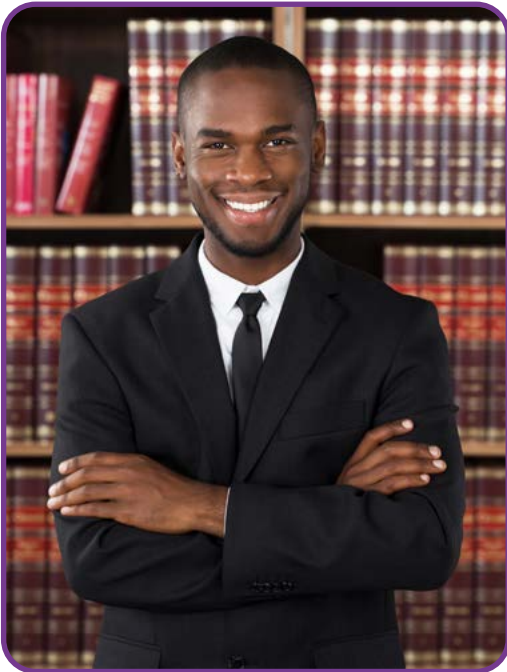
The research unit is closely linked with the accredited journal, *Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal*.

[Click here to see which undergraduate programmes we offer](#)

[Click here for our honours studies and postgraduate diplomas](#)

[Click here for our postgraduate programmes](#)





Research chair

DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (CLES)

Our research chair aims to develop a new theoretical framework for describing, analysing and developing urban law and governance in South Africa, with a focus on environmental sustainability.

It researches and analyses the legal foundations of urban development and the legally justifiable expectation that governments (including the South African government) should create communities that are safe, sustainable, resilient and inclusive.

The research chair also seeks to equip a new cohort of highly skilled and connected young legal scholars to spearhead this work in academia and legal practice.

APPLICATIONS

Admission requirements

The Faculty of Law has different admission requirements for various degree programmes. [Click here](#) for detailed information.

How do I apply?

Please refer to our [website](#) for online application.

Money matters

For a wide range of bursaries and financial support, please contact 018 299 2672 or visit our [website](#).

We want to hear from you

Phone 018 299 1921 (undergraduate) or 018 299 1952 (higher degrees). You can also send an [email](#) or visit our [website](#).