

FACULTY FACT SHEET



For more videos about the Faculty of Law visit [here](#) or [here](#).



ON GOOD AUTHORITY

Message from the executive dean, Prof Neo Morei

The Faculty of Law wishes to welcome every law student to each of our three sites of delivery at the Mahikeng, Potchefstroom and Vanderbijlpark campuses. We are proud of all the people involved at 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, relevant and forward-looking research, and meaningful community engagement that takes into account the need for social justice. We are committed to making a positive contribution to every student, the law, and our society.

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 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 Law Clinics in Mahikeng and 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 that includes 65 different nationalities and bears 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 value 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 at the faculty hold doctoral degrees and their fields of expertise cover a wide spectrum of legal disciplines.
- The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services recently appointed Prof Christa Rautenbach and Prof Anél du Plessis 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.
- In 2022 /2023, Prof Brews Soyapi and Prof Oliver Fuo were awarded the prestigious Alexander Von Humboldt Georg Forster Fellowship.
- LLD candidate Biandri Joubert received a research fellowship from the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.
- The faculty collaborates with the Free University 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.

Our faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 3 April 2023)



Undergraduate students:
2 571



Postgraduate students:
259



International students:
69



Academic staff:
100



Support staff:
53



NRF-rated researchers:
11

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.

Mahikeng Law Clinic

The Community Law Centre provides 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.

Potchefstroom Law Clinic

The Law Clinic is committed to legal education and access to justice and operates in the North-West and Mpumalanga Provinces. It is involved in a number of projects, including the provision of free legal services to poor and marginalised people who qualify for such services in terms of our means test policy, legal education including practical legal training to students, community outreach activities, capacity-building programmes, and advisory services.

Within these activities, the law clinic cooperates with a number of organisations such as Legal Aid South Africa, government departments, provincial community-based paralegal organisations, and different NGOs and CBOs. It receives funding from international and national donors to conduct these activities.

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 requirements and standards set by the court-annexed mediation rules as the requirements for registration as a mediator. We gladly offer any of these as in-house training programmes adapted to your particular needs.

The Potchefstroom Law Clinic offers a variety of short courses and short learning programmes, primarily to community-based paralegals, but also to social workers, candidate legal practitioners, and legal practitioners.

[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

Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability

The Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability addresses developmental and legal challenges in South Africa. The various projects in the unit deal with cutting-edge issues that cut across both the public and private sectors. Examples are trade and development, land issues, poverty alleviation, environmental governance, the realisation of socio-economic rights, religion, and culture.

South Africa operates within the context of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union, and international law, and several of the projects investigate these relationships. The research unit is unique, as its research projects all relate to government's priority service-delivery areas.



This is us

Programmes and
legal assistance

Research

Applications

All full-time academic staff members at the Faculty of Law work in one of the following sub-themes under the Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability: Environmental Change; Finance, Trade and Innovation; Justice in Practice; and Vulnerable Societies. The faculty is also proud to have a number of distinguished international scholars associated with our research projects.

The faculty is proud to have a number of distinguished international scholars associated with our research projects, and we boast 11 researchers with NRF ratings (one B1 rating, one B2 rating, one B3 rating, five C2 ratings and three Y ratings).

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

Research chair

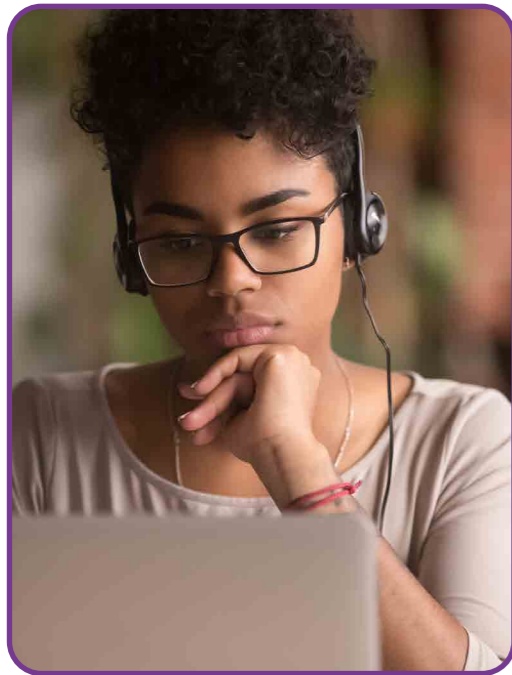
NRF South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (CLES)

The South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (CLES) forms part of the Research Unit on Law, Justice and Sustainability of the Faculty of Law, North-West University. The Chair is situated in Potchefstroom, South Africa, and is one of the SARCHI chairs of the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF).

As an academic institution, CLES is devoted to legal scholarship and research skills development for sustainable urban development in South Africa, the broader African region and beyond. To this end, the Chair is host to many fulltime postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate students furthering their studies in the intersecting fields of law, governance, urban development and environmental sustainability. The CLES aims to a) produce and publish relevant research of an excellent standard through postgraduate dissertations and theses, scholarly journal articles, book chapters, books, reports and policy papers; and b) actively participate in science engagement with policy makers, government officials, NGOs, and any institution devoted to urban development and sustainable governance to ensure impact and to be of relevance.

Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal

The Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal is the flagship of the NWU's Faculty of Law and has taken its place among a range of renowned internationally accredited journals. The journal has had 53,175 downloads to date.



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](#).

