



Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

FACULTY FACT SHEET



ON GOOD AUTHORITY



A message from the executive dean, Prof. Mabutho Sibanda

At the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (FEMS) at the NWU we are guided by a clear mandate: to generate rigorous, relevant, and responsive knowledge. As a multi-campus faculty operating across Potchefstroom, Mahikeng and Vanderbijlpark, we position ourselves at the intersection of research excellence, industry engagement and global scholarship – ensuring that our work contributes meaningfully to economic development, institutional advancement and societal progress.

Our academic portfolio spans more than 30 accredited programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels, underpinned by a strong research platform that drives impact. Through interdisciplinary scholarship, we produce evidence-based insights that inform policy, strengthen governance and enhance organisational performance.

We recognise that scholarship must translate into tangible value. We therefore cultivate strategic partnerships with industry, government, research councils and international collaborators to bridge theory and practice. Our work in management cybernetics, applied economic sciences, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies reflects our commitment to addressing contemporary challenges with analytical depth and forward-thinking solutions.

As a future-oriented faculty in the broader research ecosystem of the NWU we embrace innovation, technological advancement and entrepreneurial thinking. By nurturing critical inquiry, ethical leadership and systems thinking, we prepare scholars and professionals equipped to navigate complexity and contribute with integrity.

At FEMS, knowledge is pursued not merely for academic distinction, but to shape industries, inform discourse and create measurable impact locally, across the continent and globally.

THIS IS US

Faculty facts

- Faculty members serve on national accreditation councils, regulatory boards and professional bodies, ensuring alignment with industry standards and governance frameworks.
- The School of Accounting Sciences is recognised as one of South Africa's leading professional accounting schools. Its qualifications are accredited by SAICA, SAIPA, CIMA, ACCA and the ICFP. All undergraduate accounting degrees hold ACCA Gold Approved status with maximum exemptions, and our SAICA Initial Assessment of Competence pass rates consistently exceed 90%. Distinctive strengths include management accountancy, forensic accountancy and Africa's only Master of Commerce in Accountancy embedded with the ACCA strategic-level curriculum.
- The School of Economic Sciences is



one of the faculty's most research-active and internationally engaged schools, advancing Africa's development priorities through programmes and research in international trade, risk management, operations research, statistics, econometrics and information systems. Its Centre for Applied Risk Management offers South Africa's only dedicated two-year, part-time master's degree in applied risk management.

- The School of Management Sciences holds distinctive expertise in marketing, sport management and safety management, combining strategic insight with applied industry engagement to address specialised sector needs in governance, event management, regulatory compliance and organisational leadership.
- The faculty offers specialist expertise in forensic accountancy, applied risk management and management cybernetics, addressing complex financial and systemic challenges in modern economies.
- Active research entities drive impact in trade, tourism, workforce optimisation, talent management, technology-enhanced learning and systems thinking.
- Industry-embedded research and professional partnerships across corporate,

public and international sectors provide a strong postgraduate and doctoral research platform contributing to policy development, organisational performance and economic advancement.

- 32 NRF-rated researchers publishing in reputable national and international journals.
- Home to the hive Enterprise Development Centre, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable enterprise development.

Internationally known

The NWU continues to strengthen its global academic footprint, reflecting the research momentum of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.

In the 2023/24 Global 2000 rankings by the Centre for World University Rankings, the NWU ranked in the top 4,2% of universities worldwide, placing it 10th in Africa and 7th in South Africa. Among 20 966 institutions evaluated globally, the university improved its academic performance and research rankings, underscoring sustained growth in scholarly output, citation impact and institutional visibility.

FEMS contributes meaningfully to this upward trajectory through interdisciplinary research clusters, policy-relevant scholarship and industry-aligned innovation. Faculty research informs national policy frameworks, supports organisational strategy and advances socioeconomic development across sectors.

Our faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 1 April 2026)



Undergraduate students:
11 246



Postgraduate students:
1 496



International students:
330



NRF-rated researchers:
28



Academic staff:
401



Support staff:
378





SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMMES

The faculty offers a wide array of learning opportunities through our six schools:

- School of Accounting Sciences
- School of Economic Sciences
- School of Industrial Psychology and Human Resource Management
- School of Management Sciences
- School of Tourism Management
- Business School

[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 chairs

The faculty hosts a chair under the World Trade Organisation Chairs Programme – a prestigious international initiative that strengthens research, curriculum development and outreach on multilateral trade systems.

Through this platform, FEMS enhances understanding of global trade governance, supports evidence-based trade policy and contributes to informed public discourse at national, regional and international levels.

Research entities

At FEMS, our research entities operate at the forefront of innovation, addressing complex economic, organisational and societal challenges. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and industry engagement, these entities contribute directly to policy development, institutional performance and sustainable economic growth.

- **Tourism Research in Economic Environments and Society (TREES)** – Conducts high-impact, multidisciplinary research that strengthens tourism economies, supports community development and advances sustainable destination management.
- **WorkWell Research Unit** – Focuses on organisational optimisation and workforce innovation, developing evidence-based policies, measurement tools and methodologies to enhance performance across information systems, human capital, finance, marketing and management functions.
- **Trade and Development (TRADE)** – specialises in development and applied

economics, financial markets, international trade, and supply chain and transport economics across all three campuses. As host of the WTO Chair, TRADE advances research on global trade systems and contributes to evidence-based trade policy and economic strategy at national and international levels.

- **Technology-Enhanced Learning and Innovative Education and Training South Africa (TELIT-SA)** – bridges theory and practice in technology-enhanced learning, driving interdisciplinary research that advances innovative teaching practices and integrates digital technologies into higher education and organisational training environments.
- **Applied Research in Management Cybernetics** – Integrates management and engineering sciences to strengthen academia-industry collaboration, applying systems thinking and analytical modelling to prepare organisations for the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions.

Together, these entities position FEMS as a catalyst for innovation, policy relevance and measurable societal impact – locally, nationally and globally.



APPLICATIONS

Application requirements

For details of application requirements, please refer to our [website](#).

How do I apply?

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

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 018 285 2127 (undergraduate administration) or 018 285 2792 (postgraduate administration). You can also email Rebecca Mheta (undergraduate administration) or Louise Jansen van Rensburg (postgraduate administration), or visit our [website](#).

