



# Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

## FACULTY FACT SHEET



### ON GOOD AUTHORITY



#### A message from the executive dean, Prof. Francois van der Westhuizen

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the NWU offers diverse and interesting qualifications that are characterised by relevant and integrated training. Here, students develop life skills that enable them to handle challenges in the workplace.

Our academic staff are diligent and committed to students and research activities. Some of our staff also enjoy international recognition. The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences strives to equip undergraduate and postgraduate students with knowledge and life skills for successful careers. Our core business is education, research and the implementation of expertise in a socially engaged manner. We strive to demonstrate this excellence, nationally and internationally.

### THIS IS US

We offer quality training that includes the general moulding of students, personal attention, exposure to modern equipment and meaningful, outcome-based academic programmes.

#### Faculty facts

The NWU is rated among the top 4,2% of universities in the world (Center for World University Rankings).

- The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences excels in research and innovation and has 120 NRF-rated scientists.
- Our facilities include a state-of-the-art weather radar on the Lekwena Wildlife Estate in Potchefstroom, with an additional weather station at our Vanderbijlpark Campus.
- The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences hosts the Welgegund Atmospheric Measurement Station. This facility is an international collaboration with Finland.



This is us

Schools and programmes

Research

Applications



- We have two astronomy sites that feature top-of-the-range equipment: one at the Mahikeng Astronomical Observatory and the second at the Nooitgedacht farm near Potchefstroom. We also have a sun telescope on the Potchefstroom Campus that is used for research and recruitment activities.
- Staff from our Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management are world-leading researchers in their fields, with some 27 organisms named after them.
- Our Centre for Radiation Science and Technology works closely with nuclear industry bodies such as the National Nuclear Regulator and the International Atomic Energy Agency.
- We offer services to the public such as water quality testing, eco analytic tests, statistical consultation services, instrument making, screening for rare metabolic diseases, and genetic testing.

### Internationally known

The NWU proudly represents the African continent on the global stage as one of the largest and most respected universities in the world. Well known for its excellence in teaching-learning and research, the university boasts a student population that is representative of over 65 different nationalities, highlighting the global competitive advantage of the NWU.

Adding to the high-quality global footprint of the NWU are its strategic international collaborations with experts and other institutions of higher learning. The NWU takes great pride in the quality of its comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as its proven research track record. It is therefore no surprise that employers the world over hold NWU graduates in high regard.

### Our faculty in numbers

(Staff and student figures as on 1 April 2026)



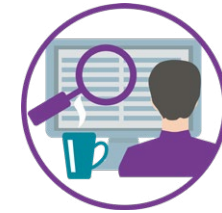
Undergraduate students:  
6 238



Postgraduate students:  
1 510



International students:  
306



NRF-rated researchers:  
112



Academic staff:  
632



Support staff:  
664



## SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMMES

### The faculty comprises six schools

- School of Physical and Chemical Sciences
- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Geo- and Spatial Sciences
- School of Agricultural Sciences
- School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
- School of Computer Science and Information Systems

### The faculty has three centres at undergraduate level

- The Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics (CBMI)
- The Indigenous Knowledge Systems Centre (IKS) on the Mahikeng Campus
- Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology (CARST) on the Mahikeng Campus

Click here to see which undergraduate programmes we offer

Click here for our honours-degree studies and postgraduate certificates/diplomas

Click here for our postgraduate programmes

## RESEARCH

### Research chairs

- NRF SARCHI Chair in Phytomicrobiome and Circular Agriculture (UESM)
- NRF SARCHI chair in indigenous knowledge-driven medicinal plants utilisation and conservation (IKS)

### Hosted platforms, centres and institutes

- Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology (CARST) on the Mahikeng Campus
- AgriHub
- Science Centre
- Centre for Water Sciences and Management

### NWU research entities

- Centre of Excellence for Space Research (CSR)
- Unit for Data Science and Computing (UDSC)
- Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management (UESM)
- Focus Area for Chemical Resource Beneficiation (CRB)
- Focus Area for Biomedical and Metabolism Research (BioMMet)
- Focus Area for Pure and Applied Analytics (PAA)
- Focus Area for Material Science Innovation and Modelling (MaSIM)
- Niche Area for Food Security and Safety (FSS)
- Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics (BMI)



## APPLICATIONS

### Application requirements

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences has 11 different application requirements for various diploma and degree courses. [Click here](#) for detailed information.

### 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

For more information email or phone [Ashleigh Pieterse](#) at 018 299 2711 or [Hein Fielies](#) at 018 299 2458, or visit our [website](#).

