

Useful Information

1. Travelling to Mafikeng:

Getting to NWU Mafikeng Campus ([Campus Map](#)) is far simpler than one may think. Firstly, Mafikeng is the capital of the North-West Province and the NWU Mafikeng Campus lies approximately to the west of the city itself ([City Map](#)).

1.1 From Johannesburg (via Potchefstroom):

If you are travelling to Mafikeng from the OR Tambo airport in Johannesburg you will most likely travel along the N12 via Potchefstroom, incidentally home to the Potchefstroom Campus of the NWU.

Drive through Potchefstroom, keeping on the N12 which automatically becomes the Nelson Mandela Drive and then follow the R53 from Potchefstroom to Ventersdorp. Then, follow the N14 from Ventersdorp to Coligny. Follow the R503 from Coligny to Lichtenburg. Then, follow the R503 from Lichtenburg to Mafikeng. You will automatically enter Mafikeng on a road also called the Nelson Mandela Drive (N18). Travel along this road for approximately seven kilometres until you see the Mmabatho Palms Hotel on your right-hand side. At the set of robots in front of the hotel turn left into Albert Luthuli Street. Drive straight on for about 2,5 kilometres, crossing over a railway line. Do not deviate and you will pass a water tower on your left-hand side. At the next set of robots, turn right into the entrance of the Mafikeng Campus.

1.2 From Johannesburg (via Krugersdorp):

From Johannesburg proceed to Krugersdorp, then take the N14 to Ventersdorp. Then, follow the N14 from Ventersdorp to Coligny. Follow the R503 from Coligny to Lichtenburg. Then, follow the R503 from Lichtenburg to Mafikeng. You will automatically enter Mafikeng on the Nelson Mandela Drive (N18). Travel along this road for approximately seven kilometres until you see the Mmabatho Palms Hotel on your right-hand side. At the set of robots in front of the hotel turn left into Albert Luthuli Street. Drive straight on for about 2,5 kilometres, crossing over a railway line. Do not deviate and you will pass a water tower on your left-hand side. At the next set of robots, turn right into the entrance of the Mafikeng Campus.

Mafikeng's Geographical Location:

GPS coordinates:

S25°49'44''

E25°36'32''

2. Travel Arrangements to Mafikeng:

If prior arrangements are made with the International Office, one may also be transported directly to the campus from the OR Tambo Airport.

3. Mafikeng Department of Home Affairs:

The local Department of Home Affairs is a twenty-minute walk or two-minute drive to the east side of the campus.

4. Internet Access:

If you are a registered NWU student, you will automatically be given Internet access and an E-mail address.

5. Opening a bank account:

Before you open a bank account, first come and see the international office. You will need the following documents to open an account: your Passport, residential address, your NWU student card and a letter from the International Office.

6. Entertainment in Mafikeng:

Mafikeng boasts a great mix of bars, pubs and clubs with different ranges of music, but whatever you prefer you'll find somewhere to feel comfortable. There are also a number of fun places around Mafikeng and the suburb of Mmabatho that are worth considering, including the following:

A short fifteen minute walk from the campus takes you to the Mmabatho Tusk and Casino Resort (Corner of Albert Lithuli Drive and Nelson Mandela Drive). Here you will find everything from pubs, coffee shops, restaurants, a massage parlour and ATMs.

Equally close by is the Mega City Shopping Mall (corner of University Drive and Sekame Road).

Here you will find up-market restaurants, banks, a post office, ATMs, and a wide range of shops including a supermarket.

On the corner of Nelson Mandela Drive and Sekame Road you will find up-market restaurants, banks, ATMs, a post office, DVD rental shops and a wide range of shops including a supermarket.

The Mafikeng Mall (Corner of Nelson Mandela and First Avenue) boasts banks, ATMs, fast-food restaurants and wide range of shops.

The CBE of Mafikeng, the Capital City of the North-West Province is situated approximately nine kilometres from the University. Here you will find shopping malls, banks, museums, taxi and bus ranks.

Mafikeng Campus boasts a soccer institute which all students are welcome to join. For more information, please telephone 018 389 2077.

7. Tourism:

South Africa is a beautiful country with friendly people, game reserves such as Pilanesburg and Sun City (Rustenburg), Hartdebeespoortdam, Tourism hot spots such as, Water Front, Table Mountain (Cape Town), Gold Reef City and Monte Casino (Johannesburg).

For backpacking travel in South Africa contact Coast to Coast (P.O. Box 564, Simon's Town, Tel: 021 786 1742, Fax: 021 786 2081, Email: info@coastingafrica.com).

8. Transport:

Public transport in Mafikeng is mostly limited to minibus taxis and buses. Fortunately, due to the close proximity of the university campus to town, it is also possible to walk to most destinations.

It is also possible to hire bicycles or cars:

- Avis Car rental, Delta Motors, the Crossing Shopping Mall, corner of Nelson Mandela Drive and Sekame Road (018 381 4010).
- Europe Car rental, the Superquick Building, corner of Nelson Mandela Drive (018 381 7447/ 072 278 0348).
- Budget Car rental, Protea Hotel, corner of Nelson Mandela Drive and First Avenue (082 308 5364 /018 381 4837).

9. SA Driver's Licence:

International students and academics from SADC countries can use their driver's licence in South

Africa.

Other international students and academics are entitled to use the driver's licences they obtained in their home countries as long as they are in English. If the original licence is not in English, a translation/certificate of authenticity must accompany it. However, it is strongly recommended that an international driver's licence be obtained in your own country.

If you would like to study for a driver's licence in South Africa, please contact any driving school for more details and information. There is also a driving school on the Potchefstroom Campus (Building C14, Tel: 018 299 1985).

10. General Safety and Security:

Please take note of the following to avoid possible trouble and ensure that you stay safe at all times.

- Keep your bedroom / home locked at all times, particularly when you are away.
- Do not leave any documents or bags unattended.
- Beware of pickpockets and purse-snatchers.
- Lock your bicycle.
- Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.
- Do not display any money, jewellery or other valuable items.
- Do not walk in lonely places, particularly at night.
- Learn what parts of town you should avoid.
- Use caution with strangers that are too friendly, offer gifts or ask you to accompany them to unknown places.
- Avoid confrontations.
- Never hitchhike.
- Never drink and drive or allow yourself to be driven by someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not accept any drinks from strangers in a pub.
- Keep emergency numbers and the contact details of the International Office and your country's nearest embassy/consulate at hand.
- If a crime is committed, report it at the International Office. Your statement will be taken and the local authorities will be informed.

10.1 Shopping Malls

Although shopping malls are quite safe and have good security, you need to be aware that groups of pick pockets tend to target these kinds of places looking for opportunities to steal your money or cell-phone.

10.2 The South African Police Service:

- The SAPS (South African Police Service) are here to serve you.
- You are allowed to ask anyone claiming to be a member of the SAPS for their identification card:
 - In front the SAPS ID card displays a police star and a photograph of the SAPS member
 - At the back the SAPS ID card displays an appointment date, rank, service number and date of issue.
- Members of the SAPS are allowed to wear their firearms unconcealed.
- In any crime related matters you are welcome to report the crime at the International Office and we will inform the appropriate authorities.

10.3 Security tips

- Do not carelessly trust new girlfriends/boyfriends that you might meet in South Africa
- Never give your keys to anyone except the International Office personnel on request.
- If you are ever invited to visit places of interest or are asked to go on trips other than the ones officially organized by your faculty or the International Office, please, first consult with the International Office.
- Always have your keys with you, do not leave them lying around in your bedroom / home.
- Bank cards, cameras, credit cards, student cards and other personal belongings should be safely and securely stored away.
- Ensure that your doors (especially the main security door) are locked when you have visitors in your home and before you go out.
- Do not easily allow unknown persons or strange visitors into your home or bedroom.

11. For University Residences:

- You are responsible for the cleanliness of your own bedroom and your linen. No cleaners are allowed into your bedroom during your period of residency.
- Disposables or waste should be placed into the dustbin outside your place of residence.
- Don't put any expensive laptops, cell phones, or any other valuables items close to an open window.
- Take very careful note of your surroundings before you withdraw money from an ATM.
- If anyone offers to help you at an ATM ignore them and double check that you really have your bank card in your possession. Never put your bank card into an ATM if you are in any doubt about your safety.

- If your bankcard will not come out of the ATM do not leave the scene but immediately phone the toll free number on the ATM and call security to assist you.
- Never keep all your money in the same place. Rather split it up and store it in different secure places.
- When possible, students should try and move around in pairs/groups particularly at night, during the weekends, and when out partying (socializing).
- Always remember that real security begins and ends with your own actions. Do not blame the NWU or the International Office for the loss or theft of your belongings.

12. HEALTH

The North-West University (Mafikeng Campus) has a Health Service on campus (Tel: 018 389 2223).

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND SERVICES ON CAMPUS

Protection services (on campus)	018 389 2277
	018 389 2167 (emergencies)
Police	10111, 018 387 7500
Crime Stop	0800 11 12 13
Fire Brigade	018 392 3333 (enquiries)
	018 392 3333 (emergencies)
Ambulance	082 405 7131/016 976 7887/ 018 383 2005

Student Counselling is offered at the Health Centre on Campus and in worst case scenarios students are referred to Ipelegeng Counselling Centre (018 389 2334) which is also on Campus.

13. Churches in Mafikeng

The following churches are situated in or around the Mafikeng Campus: His People Church, SCM, Saint Anthony's Catholic Church, St John Evangelist, Christ Embassy, Methodist Church, ZCC, Seventh Day Adventist and Lutheran Church.

14. Mafikeng Police Services

There are two Police Stations situated near the Mafikeng Campus:

Mafikeng Police Station (situated two kilometres to the south-east of the campus); and

Mmabatho Police Station (situated eight kilometres to the east of the campus). ([Map of Mafikeng](#))

15. Services Offered by the NWU Mafikeng Campus International Office:

Providing a logistic support function in co-operation / consultation with the relevant faculty and/or research entity for visiting international staff and students for:

- Travel and accommodation arrangements;
- Visa, study and work permits;
- Foreign Language study;
- Access to campus, facilities and laboratories;
- Orientation on Campus as well as in the relevant neighbourhood;
- Participation in extra-curricular activities such as students' clubs and associations, cultural and sports events; and
- Academic support such as library access, access to ITC, including academic and other software recognition of prior learning.

16. In this context the International Office is there to assist you with the following services:

- Emergency contact point for parents and families of international students
- Providing information apropos accommodation
- Providing information and assisting with application for health insurance and visa issues.
- Assisting with problems regarding study permits (applications, renewals and extensions)
- Providing a database apropos international students as required by the Department of Home Affairs.
- Providing semester reports on the study progress of all international students as required by the Department of Home Affairs.
- Ensuring the well-being of all NWU international students.
- Providing assistance apropos travel and tourism within South Africa.
- Providing support in the case of serious illness, accidents or death.
- Providing updates on upcoming events, changes to registration procedures and news applicable to international students.