



NWU®

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT
YUNIBESITHI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA



PROFILE 2021/2022



THE BIGGER PICTURE



Public higher education institutions in SA

26

Comprehensive universities

6

Conventional universities

14

Universities of technology

6

North-West University (NWU)

One of the conventional universities in SA



Universities South Africa

Governing body for SA's higher education institutions

Front page image:

The image on the front page symbolises our theme, namely to adapt to the new circumstances brought about by factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic, and to **explore, expand** and **evolve**. We started this journey in 2020 to keep up with changing circumstances and to be constantly one step ahead.

In our front page image, the background (left), resembling a computer motherboard, symbolises our commitment to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). Already steadily on our way towards finalising a digital strategy to keep pace with technological developments, we accelerated our digital journey as a result of the lockdown and resulting shift to online learning.

The brain pictured on the front page (centre) symbolises how we had to reimagine the way we think and act, and see the future. The colours bursting forth (right) portray our innovative and creative discovery of new pathways that **expand** our thinking and allow us to **evolve** to fully embrace the exciting opportunities the future may bring.

CONTENTS

Unlocking the future	02
Making dreams come true	03
Where it happens...	04
Who's making it happen?	05
Towards excellence: here we go!	08
An academic medley	09
Critical skills for the country	10
The world is our stage	16
Making a difference to our neighbours	18
Innovating for the future	21
Heartbeat of the NWU: our faculties	22
Knowledge knows no boundaries	34
Producing well-rounded students	35
Building imagination and muscle	38

Please note that all 2021 figures used are provisional as final auditing was still in progress at the time of writing.



Throughout this publication, you will find links to related information – they will look like this: [link](#).



UNLOCKING THE FUTURE

The spirit of the university: explore, expand and evolve

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed more than just our day-to-day life. It has also had a profound impact on education.

In making sure that the NWU's core business of teaching and learning, research and community engagement could continue, we have had to **adapt** to the new normal, **explore** new ways of doing things, **expand** our horizons and **evolve** to become even more than we were before.

Adapt, explore, expand and **evolve**: this is the theme running through our activities and through our story as told in this corporate profile.

The spirit of **exploring, expanding** and **evolving** characterised everything from our academic offerings and research to our student body, community engagement and sports achievements:

- Our focus on internationalisation (p16 - 17)
- Our academic faculties (p22 - 33)
- Our exceptional programmes (p22 - 33)
- Our entrepreneurial learning (p22 - 33)
- Our distance learning capability (p34)
- Our sporting excellence (p38 - 40)

NWU logo

The interlocking links of our logo symbolise the unity of our university.



Pay-off line



Our digital transformation

Covid-19 accelerated the NWU's digital journey – we have developed a digital business strategy, focusing on digital transformation for the future and embracing the 4IR. Our digital transformation will touch business models, culture, clients,

operating models and technology. In the end, this is all about harnessing emerging technology in meaningful ways to expand the learning experience and academic success of the NWU student of the future.

Our Covid-19 response

Experts from various faculties joined the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Their contributions ranged from developing an award-winning pre-screening app for schools to validating a new Covid-19 test and predicting the course of the virus in the North West Province.

Determined to continue the academic year while keeping our staff and students safe, we embarked on remote learning, which includes online and distance learning. We provided qualifying students with laptops and data packages so that no-one would be left behind.

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE



A united institution

The NWU is committed to functioning as a unitary, integrated, multi-campus university that enables equity, redress and globally competitive teaching and learning and research across all campuses. Together, we can **expand, explore** and **evolve** to meet whatever opportunities and challenges may arise.



Our strategy statement

To transform and position the NWU as a unitary institution of superior academic excellence, with a commitment to social justice.



Our dream

To be an internationally recognised university in Africa, distinguished for engaged scholarship, social responsiveness and an ethic of care.



Our purpose

To excel in innovative teaching and learning and cutting-edge research, thereby benefiting society through knowledge.

WHERE IT HAPPENS...

Our core activities of teaching and learning and research are intertwined with community engagement and innovation in our eight faculties, most of which serve both distance and contact students.



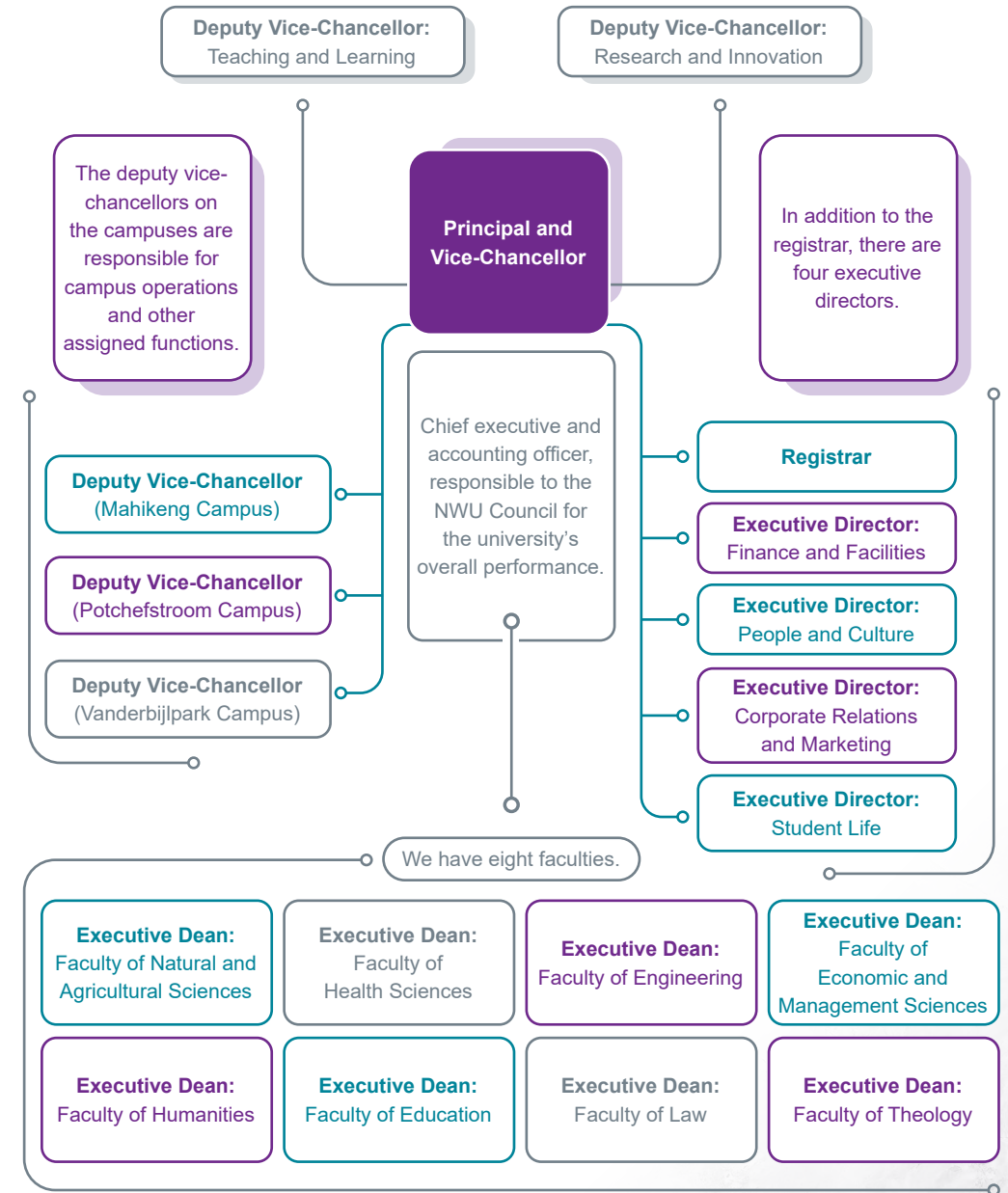
...keeping this in mind

The NWU will foster engaged and caring staff and students and embed the following foundational values, based on the constitutional principles of human dignity, equality and freedom:

- Ethics in all endeavours
- Academic integrity
- Academic freedom and freedom of scientific research
- Responsibility, accountability, fairness and transparency
- Embracing diversity

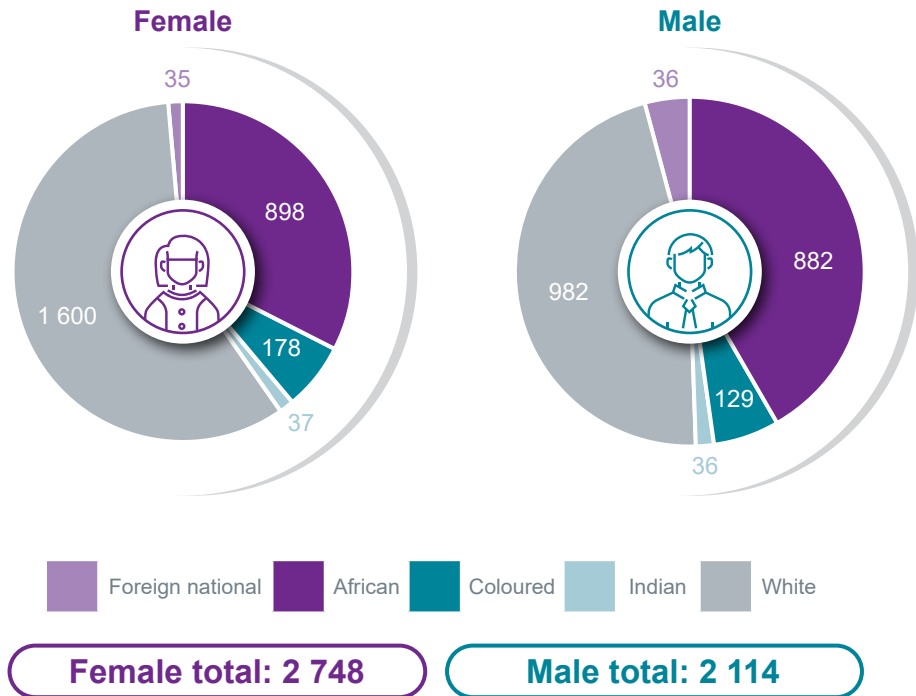
WHO'S MAKING IT HAPPEN?

A trusted leadership



A WINNING TEAM

Gender and racial composition of permanent staff in *2021



*(2021 figures are not final)

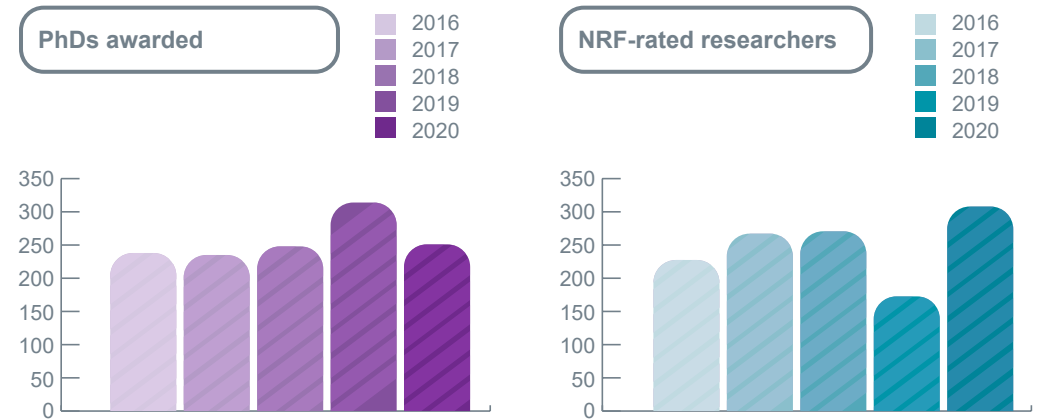
How we empower people

Black executive directors (as % of total executive directors)	50%
Female executive directors (as % of total executive directors)	50%
Black staff (as % of total staff)	36,61%
Female staff (as % of total staff)	56,52%
Black University Management Committee members (% of total UMC)	45,45%
Female University Management Committee members (% of total UMC)	45,45%

PATHFINDERS AND KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS

Research scorecard

- 3 058 weighted research output units in 2019
- 1 541,15 article equivalents published in 2019
- 231 postdoctoral fellows in 2019



Between 2016 and 2020, the number of PhDs awarded increased by 5,46%.

The number of NRF-rated researchers increased by 35,4% between 2016 and 2020.

Expand research capacity

When our academics successfully apply for ratings and raise their research output, they **expand** their capabilities to **explore** solutions to societal problems and enable the university to **evolve** its knowledge base. The NWU contributes by providing training on preparing abstracts and conference papers, article writing and best practices in preparing research questionnaires.

Recruit postgraduate students

We are also expanding our pool of research skills by actively recruiting more master's and doctoral students. In 2020 we had 311 international postgraduate students on our campuses (honours and postgraduate diplomas included).

TOWARDS EXCELLENCE: HERE WE GO!

Our language policy is unique

We have a multilingual language policy that seeks to promote the academic status of the predominant African languages of the regions where our campuses are situated, namely Setswana and Sesotho, as mediums of instruction and for academic discourse. This is in addition to maintaining English and Afrikaans as our other current languages of instruction.

Hence, we have an “additive” multilingual policy – one that **expands** instead of reducing our language offering, enabling our staff and students to **explore** new academic horizons and **evolve** their communication abilities.

To achieve our multilingual goals, we use all linguistic resources at the disposal of our staff and students, who have widely varying linguistic repertoires. Our ultimate purpose is to improve teaching and learning.

This we accomplish by enhancing the student experience, which includes welcoming all languages that students bring to the university as important assets and strengths.

We have several modes of multilingual instruction: single medium, parallel medium, dual medium and educational interpreting – all involving one or more of the four NWU official languages, namely English, Afrikaans, Sesotho and Setswana.

In addition, we utilise what is known as translanguaging. This allows for multilingual pedagogies (teaching and learning approaches), where all languages spoken by students are used. This approach is still in its infancy but is being actively developed.

Ultimately, we want our students to be better able to master and apply subject content – and to do so in more than just one or two languages.



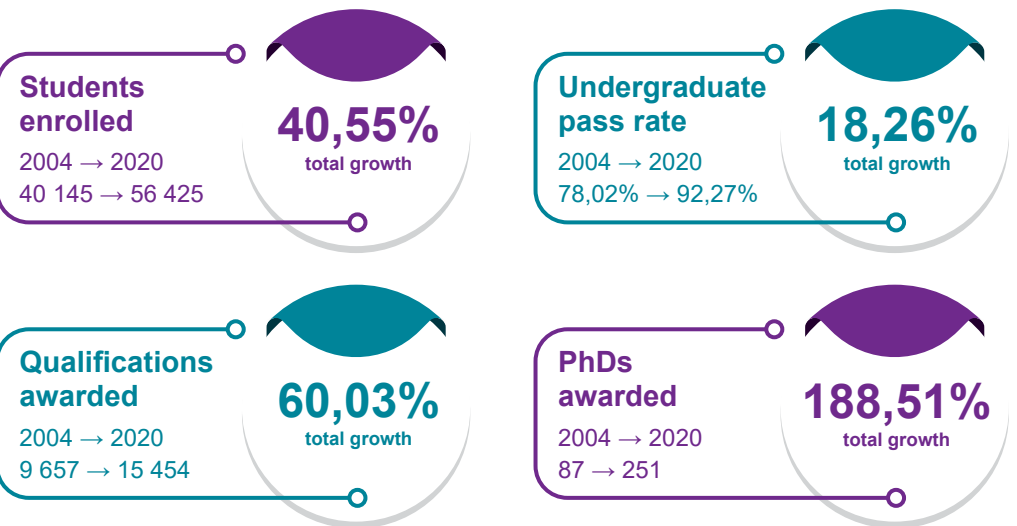
Our dream is to create a university where everybody will feel welcome in their languages and be able to use these to teach, learn and interact freely.

AN ACADEMIC MEDLEY

The NWU offers more than just an education: we offer people a place in the world. Academically, students benefit from great choice and flexibility, enabling them to fulfil their potential and start **developing** their careers.

Teaching and learning scorecard

We have significantly increased our student enrolments, pass rates and qualifications awarded since 2004, when the NWU was established.



Pass rates and qualifications from 2015 to 2020

A year-to-year breakdown of our performance in the past five years gives a comprehensive perspective of our contribution.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Undergraduate pass rate	86,16%	85,08%	83,2%	83,8%	92,27%
Graduation rate	27,62%	25,6%	25,1%	23,5%	27,4%
Degrees and diplomas awarded	17 510	16 004	15 350	14 961	15 454
Master's degrees awarded	744	813	753	798	722
PhDs awarded	238	235	248	314	251

CRITICAL SKILLS FOR THE COUNTRY

The NWU has a range of qualifications and academic programmes that enable graduates to contribute scarce and strategic skills to the economy. We offer these using contact, remote online or distance education and appropriate teaching and learning technologies.

Teachers

The Faculty of Education makes a significant contribution towards meeting the critical need for qualified, professional teachers. The focus is on undergraduate and postgraduate education programmes with scarce skill specialisations, such as the sciences, special needs education, mathematics and a variety of South African languages.

By offering various qualifications via distance delivery, we give working educators nationally opportunities to upgrade their qualifications, thereby opening up different career paths in the education sector.

Technical skills in education are in short supply in South Africa. The faculty contributes by training educators in mechanical, civil and electrical technology and in engineering graphic design.



Accountants

We are the only university in South Africa to offer four professional accountancy degrees up to honours level. They are the BCom degrees in forensic accountancy, chartered accountancy, management accountancy and financial accountancy.

NWU students perform exceptionally well in the qualifying examinations of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

We also offer master's and doctoral degrees in much-needed specialisations such as accountancy, forensic accountancy, taxation and management accountancy.



Law experts

The Faculty of Law is known for its graduates in international trade law, environmental law and sustainable development, all fields that are important for a developing country.



Health and safety managers

We live in a changing world of diverse health and safety risks. Employers have many legal and moral obligations to ensure workplace health and safety and protect the environment, and the demand for specialised professionals in the field is increasing.

Our BCom degree in management sciences with safety management combines business management and safety management, focusing on safety auditing, health and safety systems, safety risk management, incident investigations and workplace safety.

The health and safety field is an exciting, challenging and specialised field, where safety professionals interact with other specialists such as health practitioners, occupational hygienists and environmental practitioners.

The degree offers the successful student access to honours, master's and doctoral degrees in business management.



Risk managers

Our risk management degree opens doors for students to enter scarce skill professions such as financial advisory services, investment analysis, portfolio management and financial risk management, which are on the 2021 critical skills list of the Department of Home Affairs.

A unique postgraduate opportunity is the applied risk management programme of the Centre for Applied Risk Management in the School of Economic Sciences. This has behavioural risk management as a specific focus, equips students to use behavioural risk tools in practice and is the only postgraduate programme in applied risk management in South Africa.



In 2020 the NWU delivered 15 454 graduates. Of these, 5 691 received education qualifications, while 3 540 received qualifications in business and management, 3 020 in science, engineering and technology, and 3 203 in humanities.



Mathematicians and data analysts



We offer undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in the critical fields of mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, business analytics and quantitative risk management. Mathematics underpins all scientific development and research, and provides methods for gathering, analysing and reporting data.

Government has declared the broad field of statistics a vulnerable critical science because of a severe shortage of statistical skills in the private sector and even in government agencies such as Statistics SA.

Actuaries

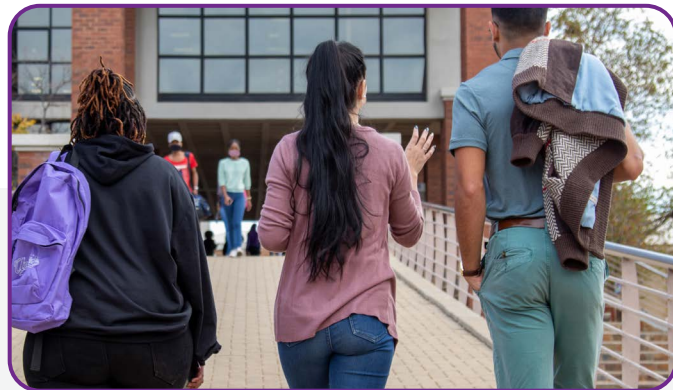


The NWU is known for the quality of our graduates in actuarial sciences, and the Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics has several other programmes that deliver professionals for the financial services industry, specifically insurance and banking.

Computer scientists and information systems specialists



In South Africa and globally, there is an urgent need for computer scientists and information technologists. Our programmes provide degree-level expertise and skills in computer science and information systems, and prepare graduates for the challenges of the 4IR.



When our students graduate, we want them to be ready to enter the labour market as highly qualified, skilled people who are able to contribute to the economy of South Africa.

Agricultural economists



Owing to a decline in the research focus at agricultural colleges and the Agricultural Research Council, the agricultural industry has lost a significant number of highly (and critically skilled) staff. In recent times, various agribusinesses have requested the NWU to address the critical need for training and research in agriculture, which the government has identified as a strategic priority.

There are also significant shortages of skills for the management and administration of agribusinesses, including financial management. Our School of Economic Sciences addresses these skills shortages with a BCom degree in agricultural economics.

Language practitioners



In multilingual and multicultural South Africa, there is a growing demand for qualified language practitioners with specialised skills for translation, text editing, interpreting, audiovisual translation and sign language.

Language technology and computational linguistics are also growth areas given advances in technology and the advent of the 4IR. These are all areas where we have focused undergraduate and postgraduate offerings.

Postgraduate students have opportunities to develop specialised research skills and explore advanced research methods, including corpus development and analysis, eye tracking and keystroke logging, software development and machine learning.

Natural and biological scientists



We deliver natural scientists such as physicists, chemists and microbiologists who are sought after in manufacturing, mining and pharmaceuticals, among others. Some graduates venture into applied physics research, where they investigate alternative and clean energy sources or make manufacturing processes more cost-effective.

Astrophysicists use their high-level problem-solving skills to deliver important technological infrastructure and terrestrial and celestial breakthroughs.

Engineers

Our specialisations range from chemical engineering (including minerals processing) and pure mechanical and electrical engineering to a hybrid of electromechanical engineering. In keeping with the 4IR, we offer degrees in computer and electronic engineering, mechatronic engineering and industrial engineering.

All undergraduate programmes have a strong link to industry and research collaboration, extending into focused postgraduate degrees.

Through our research entities, we equip engineers and researchers to investigate integrated energy solutions, including fossil fuels, biofuels and hydrogen energy.

Further boosting scarce skills, we develop medical devices and commercialisation platforms, and do research on multilingual speech technology, intelligent systems, dynamic modelling and control, telecommunications, airplane design and manufacturing.



Health professionals and related clinical scientists

The NWU is proud of its professional programmes in pharmacy, dietetics and nursing, providing quality graduates to the health sector where their skills are in high demand.

The World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Quality Assurance of Medicines is continuously developing new short courses to build and strengthen the regulatory capacity of international medicines regulators. (The WHO centre is hosted by our Research Institute for Industrial Pharmacy.)



Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) specialists

Only a few tertiary institutions in South Africa offer IKS as a formal education qualification. Our IKS offering is multidisciplinary in nature and integrates aspects of indigenous agriculture, health, science and technology.



We focus strongly on giving expression to graduate attributes such as self-directed and problem-based learning, which we as a university and prospective employers value.

In April, May and June 2021, no fewer than 13 119 graduates and diplomates “walked” the virtual stage during their online graduation ceremonies. Of these, 136 students received PhD degrees.

Animal health technicians



We train animal health technicians who play a vital role considering the critical shortage of professionally qualified veterinarians in South Africa, and also produce technicians trained in research.

Interpreters of ancient languages



The NWU is unique in the number of ancient languages it offers. Knowledge of these languages has always been a scarce skill and although ancient languages is a small field, interpreters of ancient documentary evidence are in high demand.

Occupational hygienists



The BSc in occupational hygiene is the only four-year professional degree for occupational hygienists in South Africa. It is also of value to neighbouring countries, whose occupational hygiene frameworks rely on South African legislation and expertise.

Environmental managers



Government has listed environmental management as a “highest demand” occupation and rates it 35th out of the 100 scarcest skills in South Africa.

The master’s programme in environmental management, presented by the Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, provides world-class postgraduate training and research on the performance of different environmental management approaches and instruments.

THE WORLD IS OUR STAGE

Through collaboration with other universities and institutions internationally, we are part of the global higher education community, **expanding** our world view and offering a platform to **explore** partnerships and collaborations and **evolve** our knowledge base.

Our internationalisation activities include cooperation in academic, research, cultural and sports matters. These have been conducted online during the pandemic, which has limited our ability to engage in student and staff exchange programmes for the time being.

In 2020, we had 1 797 international students from over 60 countries. Among them were 896 postgraduates, including 444 doctoral candidates.

Cooperation at home and abroad

The NWU has relationships with many universities in South Africa and abroad (see world map). We also cooperate with numerous international bodies across the world. They are active in a range of disciplines, from medicine, health, theology and energy to economics, education, trade and sport.

In South Africa, we collaborate with players in industries such as pharmaceuticals, tourism, mining, banking and electricity supply, as well as local businesses.

Then there are our relationships with national professional entities and governing bodies in the fields of psychology, law, education, health, tourism, agriculture, accountancy, treasury, engineering and artificial intelligence.

We also liaise with several provincial and national government departments, and cooperate closely with local communities, traditional authorities, sports clubs (local, provincial and national), business chambers and local municipalities.

All of these activities assist in **expanding** our presence as a valued knowledge partner with the expertise to work with others in **exploring** new academic, research and community engagement possibilities and **evolving** our ability to find solutions to societal problems.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

Ensuring sustainable impact

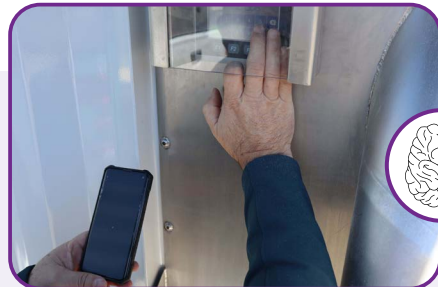
Sharing our expertise is intertwined with our core business (teaching and learning and research) and emphasises sustainability and community impact. Some of these activities generate third-stream income through short courses, consulting or technology transfer.

The university has been **exploring** new ways to approach community engagement so as to **expand** our impact and **evolve** our relationships with communities.

This rethinking process was put on hold in 2020 owing to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which severely impacted our engagement activities and necessitated that the NWU focus primarily on the delivery of key teaching and

learning services. That did not stop us from contributing, however. Various faculties offered innovative and practical solutions aimed at alleviating immediate distress encountered in communities, and we shared expertise and outreach wherever possible.

Our commitment to engaging with local communities is embedded in our vision (dream), which highlights engaged scholarship, social responsiveness and an ethic of care. Our primary communities are the three municipal areas where our campuses are based.



Prof LJ Grobler, director of the NWU spin-off company, CFAM Technologies, with the first food auto bank. This automated bulk-capacity food bank was developed to handle food shortages during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The food bank dispenses dry porridge which can be turned into nutritious meals by adding water or milk. Coupons bearing a pin number are sent to cellphones, and when keyed in on the auto bank's digital keypad a bag of dry porridge is delivered via the chute.

Click [here](#) to read more about this project.

Challenges we faced

Resources for community engagement were under pressure throughout 2020. Traditional community engagement interactions are often based on face-to-face relationships, which were not possible in pandemic conditions. Many of the rural communities where we work could not afford data or lacked access to smart phones, limiting their access to connectivity and, by extension, to expertise.

Owing to the national disaster regulations and the risk management strategies of the university, it was also not possible to conduct most engaged research activities.

Priorities also had to be reshuffled to address the basic needs of people in communities who had lost income, mobility and access to services. For example, the Student Representative Council and student volunteers distributed food they had collected before the national lockdown to students and communities in need.

How we responded

Health-related information and business and survival strategies were in demand and the NWU responded through radio interviews, newspaper articles and social media posts.

The NWU's innovators designed mobile screening apparatus and ventilators, as well as a food-dispensing bank that was sponsored by local businesses and operated using tokens.

Service-learning was limited, but continued where possible. Education students provided "bite size" lesson support to teachers at schools via WhatsApp.

We also turned our mobile science lab vehicles into Covid-19 testing facilities as part of our efforts to assist the provincial Department of Health.

Sustainability and community impact

Altogether, the NWU delivered 181 engaged activity outputs in 2022, compared to 335 outputs in the previous year. The type of activities also changed substantially: engaged

research decreased from 25% to 14% and teaching and learning from 25% to 18%, while outreach programmes increased from 50% to 68%.

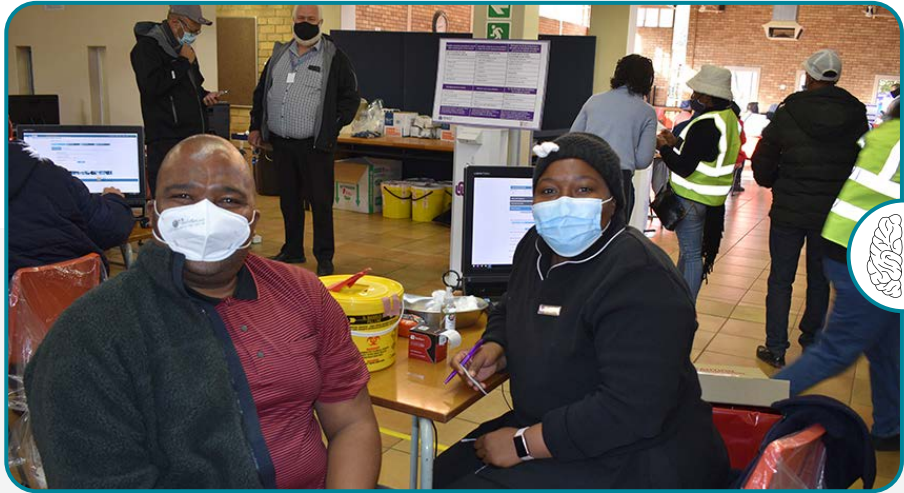
Moving forward

Community engagement will gain renewed momentum as we make progress in implementing the NWU's digital business strategy (DBS), which will enable us to **explore** new ways to reach stakeholders and **expand** and **evolve** our community engagement tools.

Increasingly, we are placing more emphasis on supporting life-long learning and entrepreneurial development, such as by sponsoring provincial innovation competitions and mentoring and assisting local innovators.

To enable training and community-based partnerships in community research, our Sustainability and Community Impact unit has partnered with the **Knowledge for Change Hubs (K4C)** and the University of the Free State.

The unit is also using **digital storytelling** training to share social innovations in communities. As a starting point, we are training the trainers in communities.



Thousands of Covid-19 vaccinations have been administered on the NWU campuses to safeguard the university and local communities against the disease.

Here our Council chairperson, Dr Bismark Tyobeka, prepares to be vaccinated by Gao Sibeko, a fourth-year nursing student. He visited the vaccination site on the Potchefstroom Campus on 24 July 2021.

INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

Innovation for impact

Technology innovation contributes to the nation's economy and taps into our capacity to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** our contribution to society. New inventions are patented to maximise their commercial and societal impact.

The NWU holds a large patent portfolio of 329 granted patents, covering 51 patent families and 47 countries. In recent years, software-related (copyright-protected) technologies have become more prominent. An example is our **TjopTjop Covid-19 screening app**.

Creating companies

The NWU has assisted in the establishment of 38 companies over the past 25 years. These include spin-out companies (which commercialise university intellectual property [IP]), commercial companies (conducting non-IP business) and community IP businesses (where community inventors create the IP and the NWU assists them in creating a business). The university still holds an interest in 25 of these companies.

Spin-out companies are formed where new NWU inventions are best commercialised by starting a business and spinning it out of the university when it is market ready.

Being money-wise counts

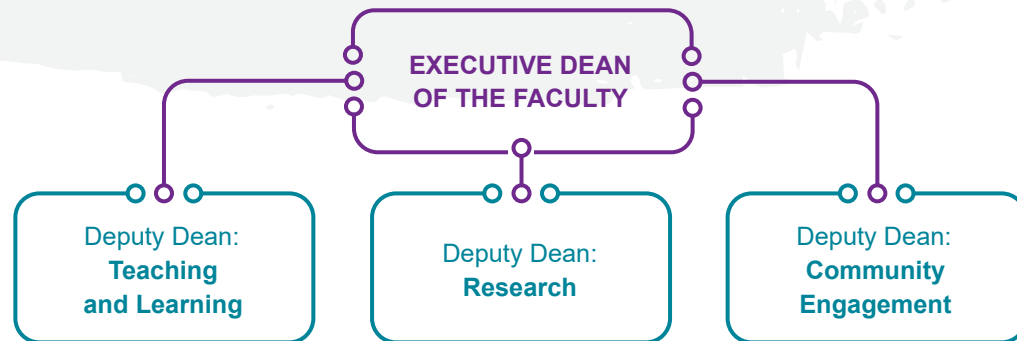
The NWU is a financially stable university that runs at a profit, despite the additional cost pressures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. We seek to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** our approach to financial sustainability.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total income	R3 838m	R4 193m	R4 901m	R5 242m	R5 146m
Surplus (recurrent items)	R229m	R500m	R860m	R906m	R1 108m
Staff cost/total cost	54,8%	55,9%	55,2%	56,3%	63,1%
Self-generated income	R990m	R1 038m	R1 166m	R1 190m	R1 112m
% of income from government	40,1%	41,4%	41,0%	41,0%	43,0%
% of income from tuition fees	32,4%	33,8%	35,1%	32,6%	34,3%
Capital expenditure on upgrading projects	R53m	R72m	R115m	R119m	R56m

HEARTBEAT OF THE NWU: OUR FACULTIES

8 faculties

Faculty structure



Here are the numbers of students in each faculty in *2021:

Faculty	Students	Faculty colour
Education	17 579	●
Economic and Management Sciences	11 956	●
Engineering	1 790	●
Health Sciences	6 443	●
Humanities	5 942	●
Law	2 956	●
Natural and Agricultural Sciences	6 891	●
Theology	672	●

*(2021 figures are not final)

EDUCATION

Entrepreneurial learning

As part of teacher education, the Faculty of Education's subject group, Economic and Management Sciences for Education, offers programme content with strong entrepreneurial foundations.

The subject group integrates entrepreneurship education into its programmes for pre-service teachers and works with other universities on online courses in green economy and sustainable entrepreneurship for in-service teachers.

It collaborates with the Department of Basic Education in their Entrepreneurship, Education and Employability (eCubed) project to encourage an entrepreneurial mindset among learners so that they can **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** to succeed in the future.

Research chairs

- UNESCO Chair on Multimodal Learning and Open Educational Resources (OER)
- ETDP SETA Early Childhood Development Research Chair

Community engagement

- We offer short learning programmes in leadership and management for school management teams, while postgraduate students in education psychology offer specialised support services at a public school.
- The research focus area COMBER has ongoing research partnerships with community organisations in early childhood education, youth development, special needs and environmental education. They also offer a short learning programme on community-based research.
- The Little African Scientists project assists with in-service training of foundation phase educators in a group of schools, and monitors and supports learners in mathematics and science.
- The faculty is raising funds to provide "green" sanitary pads to female students for the duration of their studies.
- At least three new service-learning projects across the three campuses will give students opportunities to learn while contributing to communities.

Exceptional programmes

The Faculty of Education is a one-stop teacher training facility, spanning the full spectrum of education phases and teacher needs for contact and distance learning.

- Our offerings address all levels of schooling and teacher development. The flagship offering, the BEd, traverses all phases, from the foundation phase (including childhood care and education) to the intermediate, senior and further education and training phases, as well as technology.
- Postgraduate programmes include the postgraduate certificate in education, an advanced programme taught through contact or distance learning, and BEdHons, MEd and PhD qualifications.
- We also offer continuing education programmes at certificate and diploma levels.
- The faculty has been selected to offer a new and unique advanced diploma in education (school leadership and management) to school leaders in the Northern Cape. This national school leadership development programme is planned as a professional and entry-level qualification for principals, as envisaged in the South African Standard for Principalship.

It is a blended learning programme that will run for two years (2021/22), empowering school leaders to effectively transform their schools through technology and research.

NWU research entities

- Education and Human Rights in Diversity (Edu-HRight)
- Research Unit: Self-Directed Learning (SDL)
- Community-Based Educational Research (COMBER)
- Educational Leadership (Edu-Lead)

ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Entrepreneurial learning

Entrepreneurship is known to be an engine for economic development and growth. Universities play an essential role by promoting a culture of entrepreneurship among students and local communities. As a faculty, we offer students many opportunities to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** their entrepreneurial talents.

- The NWU's bhive Enterprise Development Centre (bhive EDC) develops the entrepreneurial capacity of students, females and local entities. Initiatives include two student societies, YEBO and Enactus, the student business competitions Leopards' Lair and Entrepreneurship Intervarsity, the Enterprising Women Programme and incubation support services for local entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurship is also integrated into the academic programme for BCom Management Sciences students. This programme, as well as the BSc IT and BSc Consumer Sciences curriculum, has modules in managerial problem-solving.

Research chair

- World Trade Organisation Chair (WTO)

NWU research entities

- Tourism Research in Economic Environs and Society (TREES)
- WorkWell: Research Unit for Economic and Management Sciences
- Trade and Development (TRADE)
- Management Cybernetics
- Global Innovative Forefront Talent (GIFT)
- Technology-Enhanced Learning and Innovative Education and Training, South Africa (TELIT-SA)

Exceptional programmes

- Our faculty's programmes cover transport economics, logistics management, forensic accountancy, chartered accountancy, international trade, agricultural economics, tax, banking and financial risk management, applied risk management, management accountancy, financial accountancy and tourism management.
- The short learning programme in wildlife management attracts national and international participants and our Centre for Applied Risk Management offers an exceptional two-year part-time MCom in applied risk management.
- The programme for forensic accountancy has the single largest team of higher learning professionals within South Africa's commercial forensic fraternity. The degree offerings include an undergraduate BCom and honours, master's and PhD degrees in forensic accountancy. The programme also hosts the preparatory courses and board examination for full membership of the Institute of Commercial Forensic Practitioners.

Students in the chartered accountancy programme do exceptionally well in SAICA's qualification examination. For the past six years, the NWU has been in the top four out of 17 SAICA-accredited institutions countrywide. In two of those years, we held the top spot.



Community engagement

- Staff from the School of Accounting Sciences serve on the boards of General de la Rey and Thusong hospitals, offer financial training to Mahikeng local municipal officials and upskill accountancy teachers at local schools.
- Students give extra accounting and mathematics classes to learners at local schools and are involved in book collection and recycling projects.

Other School of Accounting Sciences projects:

- » Motivational videos and infographics on how to function in an online learning environment.
- » Tips via social media on managing personal finances and budgeting during COVID-19.

- » Mandela Day initiatives such as distributing food parcels for the needy and reaching out to the Samuel Broadbent home for the elderly.
- » Take-a-girl-and-boy-to-work initiative, where grade 10 learners from schools in historically disadvantaged suburbs in Potchefstroom visit the NWU for motivational sessions and mentoring by professional accountants.
- » Train-the-educator initiatives for accounting teachers in Sedibeng and Mahikeng, and supplying additional classroom material such as videos of tutorials on past grade 12 accountancy examinations.
- We organise entrepreneurial programmes for women and, through the Economic Literacy Centre, have also assisted 30 men from the community with financial management.



According to the Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings released on 13 October 2021, the NWU is fifth out of 10 local higher education institutions in the Business and Economics category. This ranking is two positions better than last year. Globally, the university also shines in business and economics, where it is ranked in the 501 to 600 band.

ENGINEERING

Entrepreneurial learning

Our academic approach is based on entrepreneurial thinking. Several final-year and postgraduate projects have become successful enterprises, examples being the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (CFAM) Technologies (Pty) Ltd, Jonker Sailplanes and Genio Intelligent Roasters.

For the business engineering module within industrial engineering, the students formulate a fundable business plan, while the engineering management module has a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approach that includes engineering economics and systems engineering.

In collaboration with industry and other universities, our students conduct research and development that is relevant to industry, nationally and internationally, and enables them to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** their understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the engineering profession.

Research chairs

- DSI/NRF Research Chair in Coal Research (South African Research Chairs Initiative – SARChI)
- DSI/NRF Research Chair in Biofuels and Other Clean Alternative Fuels (SARChI)
- DSI/NRF Research Chair in Nuclear Engineering (SARChI)
- Eskom Power Plant Engineering Initiative (EPPEI) Specialisation Centre for Emission Control

NWU research entities

- Centre of Excellence in Carbon-Based Fuels
- Unit for Energy and Technology Systems
- Multilingual Speech Technologies (MuST)

Exceptional programmes

All the BEng programmes are accredited by the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) in terms of the Washington Accord. This means they adhere to the highest international standard and are internationally recognised qualifications.

As from 2022, a new postgraduate diploma in industrial engineering will be presented in full online distance mode. Related short learning programmes will also be presented.

Continuous education opportunities in industrial automation are provided by the Siemens Training Centre.

Community engagement

The long-term goal of our community engagement strategy is to implement sustainable programmes and partnerships with impact on individuals, communities and companies.

It is important to involve all staff and students in community engagement, harnessing many talents and skills to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** their capacity to make an impact.

Special community engagement projects include:

Technical Support Team (TST) | Gardening project | Electric Car Design | Student RAG Community Service project design | Engenius Kids | Modiragatsi | Femmegineering | Short learning programme for teachers.

Hosted entities, platforms and institutes

- DSI/HySA Infrastructure Centre of Competence in hydrogen production, storage, reticulation and safety codes and standards
- DTI Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (CFAM)

HEALTH SCIENCES

Exceptional programmes

- We have a rich variety of programmes, from pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition and occupational hygiene to positive psychology and child protection and forensic practice. Our training in adoption in the child protection degree, as well as in forensic social work, is currently the only postgraduate offering in South Africa in these specialised fields.
- Our Master of Pharmacy in pharmacy practice programmes offer pharmacists specialised training in pharmacovigilance and pharmacoepidemiology, pharmaceutical and health economics and policy, and pharmaceutical public healthcare governance.

Other notable programmes are:

- » MScs and PhDs in the following: pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition, dietetics, consumer sciences, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology and pharmaceuticals.
- » MHSs and PhDs in health professions education, transdisciplinary health promotion, human movement sciences and recreation science
- » MHS in cardiovascular physiology
- » Master's and PhD in nursing science
- » BHSs in occupational hygiene and biokinetics
- » MA and PhD in positive psychology
- » Master's in clinical, counselling and research psychology
- » PhD in physiology
- » MSW in forensic practice and child protection

Research chairs

- DSI/NRF Research Chair in Early Detection and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in Africa (SARChI)
- DSI/NRF Albertina Sisulu Research Chair in Nursing Science (SARChI)

Community engagement

Through mutually beneficial collaborations and a commitment to constantly **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** ways to overcome health challenges in society, we strive to improve the health of all:

- The Cobuntu project (support in Covid-19 through Ubuntu), a social media campaign providing reliable health education, reached over 350 000 social media users.
- The community engagement monitoring and evaluation practices of the Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research (AUTHer) inform best practices for the whole NWU.
- The Wellness in North West project has given rise to nine wellness groups, seven stakeholder groups, 104 new stakeholders in the community engagement network, a health promotion summit and a health promotion network for the province.
- Women from Ikageng in Potchefstroom attend exercise classes and residents of homes for the elderly do therapeutic recreation.
- The Phelophepa Train deploys psychology, pharmacy and nursing students to serve communities.
- ImpENSA improves early nutrition and health by empowering health professionals and community health workers. The African Nutrition Leadership Programme develops leadership capacity in nutrition among professionals in Africa.
- The Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART) supports global and local hypertension awareness and screening campaigns.
- The Occupational Hygiene and Health Research Initiative (OHHRI) collaborates with the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene and the National Institute for Occupational Health in developing Covid-19 risk assessment guidelines for the national Department of Health and a personal protective equipment guideline for healthcare workers.
- Using a nursing website, YouTube channel and Facebook page, we create nationwide awareness of nursing by sharing resources, holding conversations and telling real-life stories about nursing and its healing effect.

Entrepreneurial learning

- Consumer Sciences is pro-entrepreneurial, giving students practical and theoretical exposure to food, fashion, business management and marketing.
- The Social Greenhouse® enables sustainable community-based technology implementation.
- The DSI/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform programmes are needs based and straddle academia, industry and government.

NWU research entities

- Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CEN)
- Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacen)
- Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART)
- Africa Unit for Transdisciplinary Health Research (AUTHeR)
- Community Psychosocial Research (Compres)
- Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation (PhASRec)
- Quality in Nursing and Midwifery (NuMiQ)
- Lifestyle Diseases
- Medicine Usage in South Africa (MUSA)
- Occupational Hygiene and Health Research Initiative (OHHRI)

Commercial research entity

- Centre for Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services

Hosted platforms, centres and institutes

- DSI/NWU Preclinical Drug Development Platform (PCDDP)
- Medical Research Council Extramural Unit for Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease
- Centre for Health and Human Performance (CHHP)
- Centre for Health Professions Education (CHPE)

On International Nurses Day on Wednesday, 12 May 2021, lecturers and students from the School of Nursing held a silent vigil on the Potchefstroom Campus to commemorate the selfless contributions that nurses make to society, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.



HUMANITIES

Exceptional programmes

- The Choir Academy offers a short course in choral conducting, vocal development and practical musicianship.
- The sought-after four-year BA degree in graphic design prepares the next generation of graphic designers and creative thinkers to excel in their craft.
- The BA degree in public governance with municipal management and leadership equips students with the best possible skill set for a career in local, provincial or national government.
- The Bachelor in Social Sciences with population and demography focuses on the knowledge and skills needed to implement population policies and integrated population-related programmes.
- The BA degree in language technology enables students to process language within technological programmes, giving them exposure to linguistics and computational linguistics, computer science, mathematics and statistics. This allows students to facilitate more accurate and intuitive human-computer interaction.
- The PhD in social science with ageing and development is a first in Africa. Students gain a comprehensive understanding of the causes, dynamics and implications of individual and societal ageing so that they can promote the wellbeing and quality of life of older people.
- The PhD in social science with relational dynamics and development advances the contextual understanding of relational dynamics across the spectrum of diversity.

Hosted platforms, centres and institutes

- South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR)

Community engagement

- The Musikhane Community Music Engagement Programme at the School of Music creates opportunities for learners and student teachers to have meaningful musical experiences. It **expands**, **explores** and **evolves** music education, staff development and community music participation.

The school also hosts drumming for learners with special needs and music appreciation through listening activities, and facilitates learning experiences at a rural daycare centre.

- Creative Writing's Byderhand initiative is an interdisciplinary digital literature project that provides interactive and multisensory reading experiences to visually impaired learners.
- The School of Languages is involved in academic literacy and language testing projects at higher education institutions, in collaboration with the Inter-institutional Centre for Language Development and Assessment (ICELDA) and the South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR).
- The CoLab Project is a collaboration between the NWU, the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa and the Mahikeng Digital Innovation Hub to provide eSkills to the women and youth of the North West Province.

NWU research entities

- Afrocentric Governance for Public Affairs (GPA)
- Enabling Optimal Expression of Individual, Social and Institutional Potential (OPTENTIA)
- Indigenous Language Media in Africa (ILMA)
- Musical Arts in South Africa: Resources and Applications (MASARA)
- Population and Health
- Social Transformation
- Understanding and Processing Language in Complex Settings (UPSET)
- Unit for Language and Literature in the South African Context
- Visual Narratives and Creative Outputs through Interdisciplinary and Practice-led Research (VINCO)

LAW

Exceptional programmes

Our Faculty of Law is an acknowledged leader in growing fields such as environmental law, governance law and international trade law, while maintaining an edge in more traditional fields such as mercantile law and criminal law.

We offer an extensive range of undergraduate options, spread over our three campuses, ensuring that all students have equitable opportunities to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** as future legal professionals:

- BA Law with a choice of five majors, over three years
- BCom Law with a choice of three majors, over three years
- LLB over four years
- LLB as a two-year qualification after a BA Law or BCom Law
- LLB extended programme over five years

Our postgraduate offerings include:

- Doctors of Laws in public law, criminal and procedural law, international trade and business law, environmental law and mercantile law, among others
- PhD in law in the field of law and development
- Two LLM streams (research and coursework) with 19 different programme specialisations in different fields of law
- MPhils in environmental law and governance law, and a professional LLM in criminal law and procedure

Faculty of Law academic and researcher Prof Anél du Plessis is the editor of the first and second editions of *Environmental Law and Local Government*. This book is the only comprehensive volume on South African environmental and local government law.



Community engagement

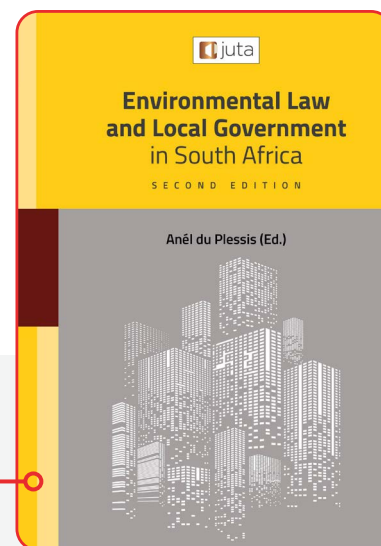
We share our legal expertise on community radio programmes and other media platforms. Our Law Clinics in Potchefstroom and Mahikeng provide free legal services to people who cannot afford legal counsel. The faculty also runs a variety of community outreach programmes throughout the year.

NWU research entity

Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability

Research chair

DSI/NRF Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (SARChI)



NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Exceptional programmes

In addition to an extensive array of undergraduate programmes, the faculty offers several master's and doctoral programmes so that postgraduate students can expand their knowledge, explore different specialisations and evolve their understanding of the possibilities open to them. The flagship programmes include:

- MSc in astrophysics and space science
- MSc in environmental sciences with specialisations in integrated pest management, disaster risk sciences and atmospheric chemistry
- Diploma, BSc, MSc and PhD in animal health
- Bachelor and master's degree in indigenous knowledge systems
- PhD in science with disaster risk science
- BScHons in environmental sciences

Community engagement

We run a number of projects aimed at addressing the needs of communities:

- Disaster risk reduction knowledge for local government contributes to improved service delivery for local communities.
- We are teaching a local community how to produce and market the climate change-resilient super food, amaranth grain, while our nano-water filtration plant provides safe drinking water to the village of Madibogo.
- Our two science centres promote science, technology, engineering, mathematics and information sciences to local schools and the public.
- The Nguni cattle project empowers emerging farmers to become commercially orientated, while another project is developing indigenous therapies for cattle feed industries.

Research chairs

- DSI/NRF Research Chair in Astrophysics and Space Physics (SARChI)
- DSI/NRF SA-NAM Bilateral Research Chair in Astronomy and Astrophysics (SARChI)

Entrepreneurial learning

Examples of qualifications that incorporate entrepreneurial learning are actuarial science, business mathematics and informatics, quantitative risk management and business analytics, as well as environmental management.

NWU research entities

- Centre for Space Research (CSR)
- Unit for Business Mathematics and Informatics (BMI)
- Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management (UESM)
- Chemical Resource Beneficiation (CRB)
- Human Metabolomics (HM)
- Material Science Innovation and Modelling (MaSIM)
- Pure and Applied Analytics (PAA)
- Food Security and Safety (FSS)

Hosted platforms, centres and institutes

- DSI/NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS)
- Centre for Human Metabolomics (CHM)
- Centre for Applied Radiation Science and Technology (CARST)

THEOLOGY

Exceptional programmes

- Our BA in ancient languages is one of the few programmes in Africa that offer specialisation in Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic and other languages used for deep analysis and study of ancient texts and the Bible. Our offering includes Latin and Arabic.
- We are also among the few universities that offer a traditional classics degree. In addition, we have a course in ancient cultures and specialist courses in Egyptian, Mesopotamian and other ancient cultures.
- The BA in pastoral psychology prepares students for careers as teachers, and in the Christian ministry, while the BTh in Christian ministry caters for students who wish to enter ordained ministry in the Apostolic Faith Mission, among other denominations. The latter is presented through contact studies on the Mahikeng Campus and via distance delivery.
- The BDiv qualification is available for students who wish to become ministers in the Reformed Churches in South Africa and is presented through contact studies on the Potchefstroom Campus and via distance delivery.
- The MDiv professional master's degree with coursework focuses on training for practical ministry in churches within the reformed tradition.
- We are also developing a postgraduate diploma that will enable students from study fields outside theology to enrol for a master's degree in theology.

This diverse range of programmes and qualifications ensure that our students have ample room to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** in their studies and beyond.

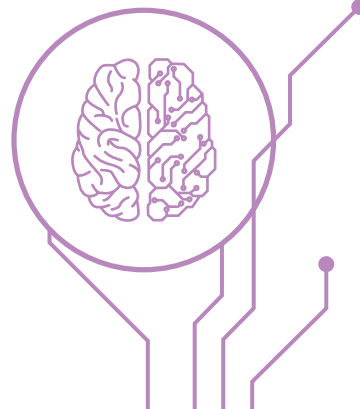
Community engagement

We work with farmworkers, inmates of correctional facilities and school learners on programmes that are both practical and spiritually nourishing.

- Our LIFEPLAN® Training and Equipping Programme offers farmworkers training in relationships, self-image, financial management and citizenship.
- Through the Fatherhood Training and Equipping Programme, we train inmates at the Potchefstroom Remand Detention Facility to be more effective fathers.
- We have several programmes at local schools to encourage good citizenship, offer guidance with study methods, focus on female hygiene and promote literacy and academic skills for learners.
- The School for Ancient Languages presents formal language classes for primary and secondary school learners in Potchefstroom, as well as a short learning programme in Latin for Botany.

NWU research entities

- Unit for Reformational Theology and the Development of the South African Society, which hosts the Research Chair in Pentecostalism and neo-Pentecostalism
- Ancient Texts: Text, Context and Reception



GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

NWU BUSINESS SCHOOL

The NWU Business School is an autonomous school within the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. We offer programmes that are relevant to our students and industry executives and provide opportunities to **expand**, **explore** and **evolve** in the world of business and entrepreneurship.

In keeping with our African-themed logo, our main aim is to shape executive minds in Africa. We want to contribute to solutions for African challenges through specialised executive education and education for sustainable economic growth.

Bon-Bons initiative

Through the African Bon-Bons initiative, our experts, researchers and academics keep their finger on the rapid pulse of African current affairs, and conduct and record five-minute interviews with relevant African role-players.

Think Tank initiative

We have launched a virtual roundtable initiative where academics, political and business leaders, researchers and postgraduate students gather online to discuss important economic issues in South Africa, such as corruption, recessions, the state of local government and NSFAS funding.

A powerhouse for postgraduate studies

The business school is a powerhouse in interdisciplinary research in business administration. The rate of PhD graduates has shown a steady increase, from six in 2016 to 16 in 2020 and 10 for the first six months of 2021. On the MBA front, 82 candidates graduated at the June 2021 ceremony.

Internationalisation

We have a strategic partnership with the International Institute of Business Networking to advance institutional internationalisation and support our Brazil, Russia India, China and South Africa (BRICS) initiatives. The partnership is expected to facilitate activities such as MBA international visits, research collaborations and short learning programmes, among others.

Growing capacity in agriculture

The business school and AgriSETA have signed a memorandum of agreement on collaboration in research and learning to increase capacity building in agriculture. This partnership focuses on management development and training, and supports our research students to gain credible research experience.

AMBA accreditation

We are preparing to apply for combined accreditation for both our MBA and Postgraduate Diploma programmes. Only 2% of the world's business schools are accredited with the Association of MBAs (AMBA).



KNOWLEDGE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

Our Unit for Open Distance Learning (UODL) is the second largest provider of open distance learning programmes in South Africa. Although the majority of open distance learning (ODL) students are enrolled in education programmes, most of the university's faculties now have ODL offerings. The Faculty of Engineering will start running distance learning programmes in 2022.

In addition, the unit delivers the University Preparatory Programme (UnivPrep), which had approximately 449 participants in South Africa in 2020.

Over the years, more than 100 000 NWU qualifications have been awarded to ODL students seeking opportunities to **expand, explore** and **evolve** at their own pace and in their own place.

How do we do it?

Our 68 learning support centres across South Africa and Namibia are equipped with interactive whiteboards that students and lecturers use to type and draw, and to see and hear one another.

The UODL building on the Potchefstroom Campus houses modern studios for national and international broadcasts. When Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed, we recorded contact sessions and posted them on the web so that students can access them later.

The unit has 106 exam centres across South Africa and Namibia and handles tens of thousands of exam scripts during each examination session.

Our response to the pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the UODL made contingency plans to mitigate the effect of the lockdown on academic programme delivery. In collaboration with faculties, it developed and implemented alternative methods for assessing students and submitting assignments. The unit also implemented an online platform for uploading work-integrated learning portfolios.

Our footprint is growing

There has been a steady increase in requests from provincial education departments for bursary project agreements with the NWU, enabling unqualified and underqualified educators to enhance their qualifications and skills.

PRODUCING WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS

The NWU is a place where students can achieve academic excellence and at the same time **expand, explore** and **evolve** their talents in other directions, from arts and culture to sports and leadership. Campus life is geared to holistic growth and development, which includes providing services that promote students' health and wellbeing.

In response to the pandemic, we took our student support services online in 2020 and were only able to offer limited opportunities for on-campus activities. Where students had to be on campus for laboratory work or to use our computer laboratories to access their online classes, we introduced strict protocols to safeguard their health.

Understandably, many students missed the opportunity to play sport and participate in music, drama, debating and other cultural events. We assure them that the vibrant student life for which the NWU is so well known will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

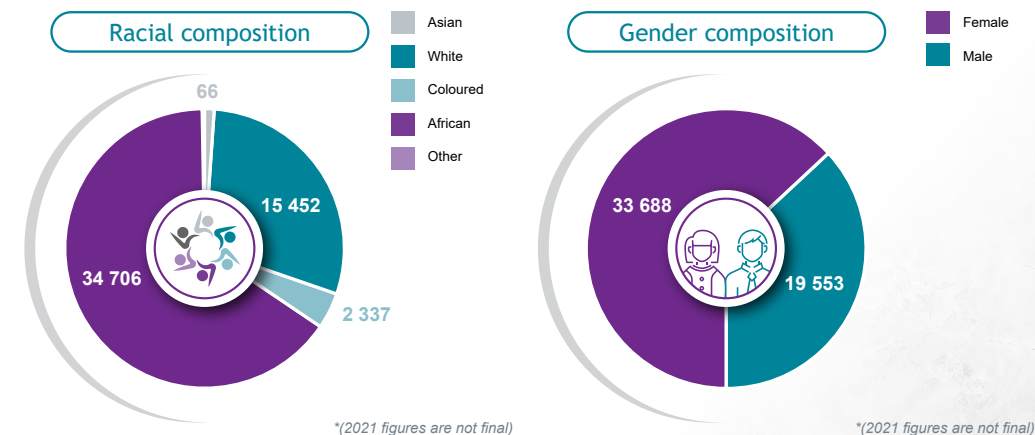
Student profile

Diversity is the defining characteristic of the NWU's student profile. This gives our students a competitive advantage as they grow in their ability to communicate and interact.

In ***2021, the NWU student profile looked like this (as on 30 April):**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total student enrolment	69 736	62 558	61 212	63 671	56 425	53 241
Contact	39 064	41 765	43 418	44 647	44 785	43 096
Distance	30 672	20 793	17 794	19 024	11 640	10 145

**(2021 figures are not final)*



Undergraduate vs postgraduate students

Although the majority of students were undergraduate students, the NWU also has significant numbers of postgraduate students in *2021. Among them are:



*(2021 figures are not final)

Study options

Here are some of the study choices of students in *2021:

Major field of study	Contact	Distance
Science, engineering and technology	11 567	205
Business and management	11 338	342
Education	7 856	9 105
Humanities and social sciences	12 114	390
Other	221	103

Promoting academic success

We offer several programmes to assist students academically and optimise their prospects of succeeding with their studies. Online academic support was available to all students throughout 2020 and 2021, with plans to resume face-to-face support as soon as possible.

Academic support, whether online or in person, is comprehensive:

- All first-year students do academic literacy and skills tests to determine whether they would benefit from the additional academic literacy modules offered.
- Other academic support includes peer mentoring, tutorials, reading laboratories and writing centres.

- We also offer Supplementary Instruction (SI), which is an internationally recognised student academic support system.
- Our University Preparatory programme (UnivPrep) is a bridging programme for students who would otherwise not qualify for admission to university.
- We offer refresher programmes in mathematics to first-year students registered for programmes that include modules in mathematics.
- Our various extended programmes enable students to complete their studies over an extended period of time.

Caring for our students

Our campus health centres and student counselling and development units offer free medical services and psychosocial support to students. As the need for psychosocial support was greater than ever in 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, this support was available online throughout the year and in 2021.

We follow a holistic and multidisciplinary approach towards caring for our students, offering various counselling and social welfare services and organising awareness campaigns on HIV and Aids, gender-based violence and LGBTQIA+ rights, among others.

Home sweet home

We provide 10 837 beds which are managed by Residence and Catering Services. These include beds owned by the NWU and others leased from private providers (operated as part of the formal residences of the university).

The number of students living in accredited housing facilities provided by private landlords is estimated at 25 000, while many more students live in private non-accredited facilities.

There are 38 NWU-owned residences on the three campuses, plus one off-campus residence in Vanderbijlpark, where we are also renting an additional four residences off campus.

An exciting new residence development has been approved by the NWU Council and will add 1 728 new beds on the Mahikeng Campus. Funding for this has been secured and final approval granted by the office of the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation.

Now housing campus management and the whole campus administration, the new Administration Building on the Vanderbijlpark Campus was opened in August 2021. "We want this building to be more than just a working space – it should be a place where everyone feels welcome and at home," says Prof Linda du Plessis, deputy vice-chancellor for planning and Vanderbijlpark Campus operations.



BUILDING IMAGINATION AND MUSCLE

Students have many opportunities to develop their talents by participating in sport, the arts and cultural and other extramural activities.

Despite the ongoing impact of Covid-19, opportunities to play sport were still available, adding value to our students, staff and the university.

Culture in the spotlight

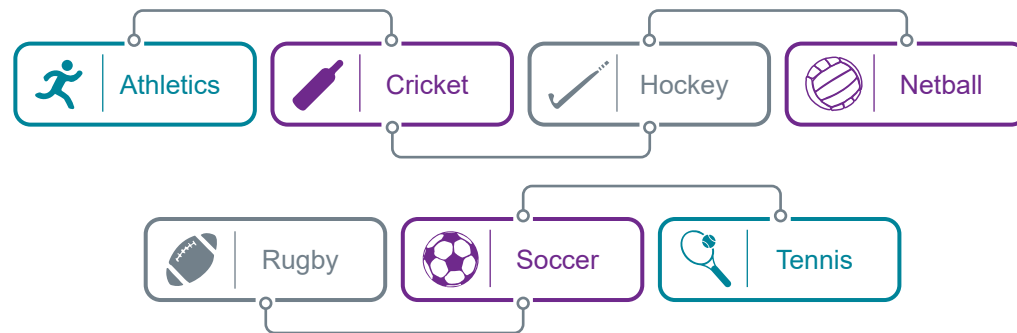
There were also limited opportunities to participate in cultural activities, which under normal circumstances include debate, drama, dance and cultural societies, orchestras, first-year concerts, musicals, talent competitions, choirs, vocal groups, art festivals, exhibitions and competitions, beauty contests, campus radio stations and student newspapers.

Off to a running start

Based on achievements on the sports field, the university is one of the top sports universities in South Africa. We boast the following:



We offer seven major sports codes:



We also have numerous smaller sports codes and activities:

Cycling / karate / softball / squash / rock-climbing / table tennis / competitive chess / body building / boxing / netball / dancing / rugby sevens / aerobics / jui-jitsu / water sports (rowing and canoeing) / marathon running / basketball / equestrian tent pegging

We are the champions

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, only two interuniversity tournaments took place in 2020. These were the University Sport South Africa (USSA) championships and the Varsity Cup Competition.

Varsity Sports Competition:

RUGBY:
THE NWU
EAGLES
REACHED THE
SEMI-FINALS

FOOTBALL
6th PLACE

BASKETBALL
6th PLACE

NETBALL
3rd PLACE

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
3rd IN
GROUP B

USSA championships:

1st
Athletics: the
NWU won first
place (sixth title)

3rd
**Women's netball
and hockey:** third
place

5th
Men's hockey:
fifth place

Top training venues

The NWU High Performance Institute (HPI) has one of the best-equipped sports gymnasiums in Africa and offers a complete range of sports training, medicine, research, nutritional and sport psychology services. Its top-of-the-range facilities have attracted many elite athletes from around the world.

The Institute for Sport Science and Development provides scientific support services to national and provincial sports federations, the North-West Academy of Sport and various sporting codes on our campuses.

The modern Sports Village on our Potchefstroom Campus accommodates national and international sports teams that train at these venues.



Liezel Gouws (200m and 400m) qualified for the Paralympics in Tokyo. She came fifth in the 400m.

On the world map

Joanne van Dyk took part in an international athletics meeting in Brazil in December 2020.

Charné Maddocks was selected for the national hockey team at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Fifteen athletes qualified to represent South Africa at the African Championships in Algeria.

Elroy Galant (cross-country), Zack Nene (4x100m relay), Jo-Ané van Dyk (javelin), Chederick van Wyk (4x100m) and Pieter Conradie (4x100m) were included in the SA Olympic athletics team.

Jean Verster (team manager), Pierre Blignaut (coach) and Dr Pieter Kruger (psychological services) represented the NWU at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Jerry Motsau set a new national record in the 3000m at a competition in Nembro, Italy.

NWU javelin throwers Jo-Ané van Dyk and Johann Grobler were placed second and third respectively in an athletics competition in Kladno, Czech Republic.

Marissa Swanepoel (racewalking) qualified to participate in the 2021 World Junior Athletics Championships in Kenya.

NWU Netball produced two new Protea players, Elmere van den Berg and Jessica du Plessis.



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It all starts here®



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