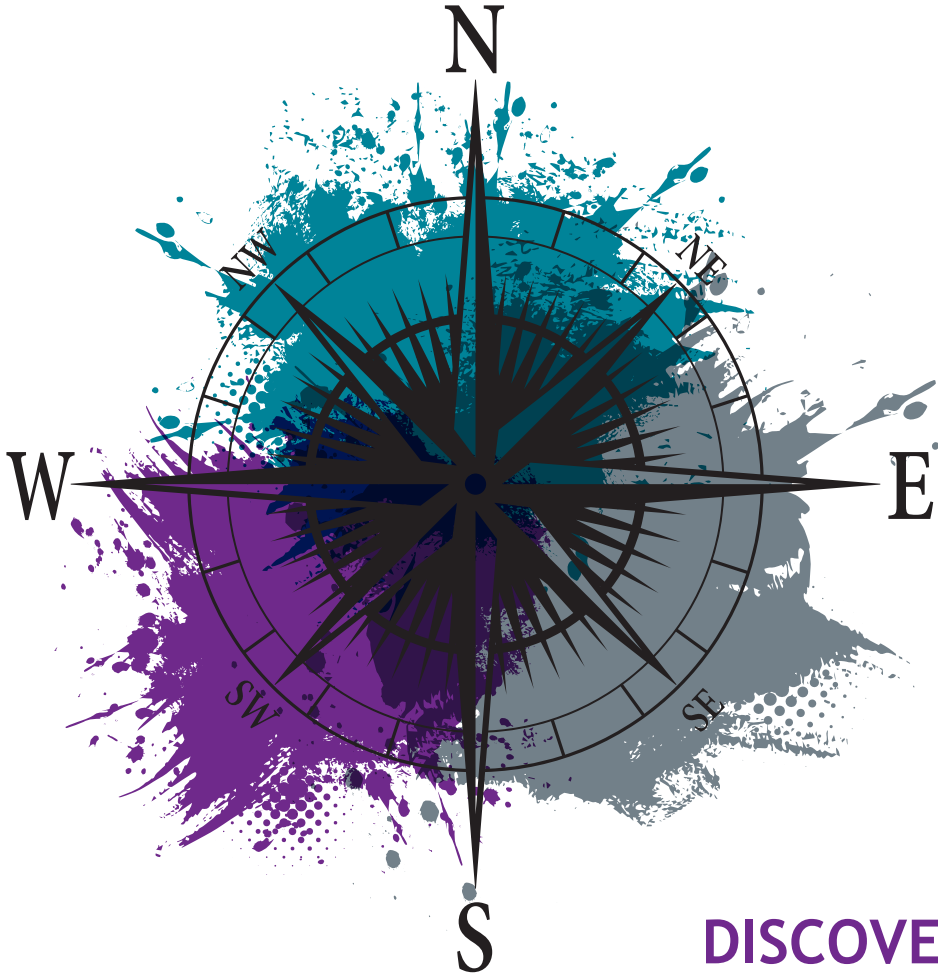




NWU®

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



DISCOVER
THE NWU

PROFILE | 2023-2024

THE BIGGER PICTURE

26

public higher education
institutions in SA

6

comprehensive
universities

14

conventional
universities

6

universities
of technology



North-West University (NWU)

is one of the conventional
universities in SA

Universities South Africa

is the governing body for SA's
higher education institutions

Front page image:

As a treasure trove of knowledge and expertise, the NWU offers its stakeholders numerous opportunities to empower themselves.

This is why the university adopted "**Discover the NWU**" as theme and campaign to encourage our stakeholders to explore these opportunities to grow and prosper.

The compass on the front page symbolises guidance and finding direction during a journey of discovery.

In this case, the image of the compass also symbolises the NWU's own journey of **discovery**. In a world of constant change, we continue to extend our horizons, unearth new knowledge, and find novel solutions to the challenges people face.

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© *Please note that all 2022 and 2023 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](#)).

FINDING WAYS TO UNLOCK THE FUTURE

Discover the spirit of the university

Every day, every moment has the capacity for **discovery** and growth.

During the recent Covid-19 pandemic, we **discovered** our ability to find new, innovative ways to do things at the NWU, for example adopting the hybrid-flexible (HyFlex) teaching-learning approach that enables simultaneous face-to-face and online teaching.

As a result, “**Discover the NWU**” has become the theme that underscores all our activities. This corporate profile tells the story of how we as a university have **rediscovered** old strengths and **discovered** new ways of

empowering our stakeholders and ourselves to flourish.

This spirit characterises everything we do – from our academic offerings and research to our student body, community engagement and sports achievements:

- Our focus on internationalisation (pp16 - 17)
- Our academic faculties (pp22 - 34)
- Our exceptional programmes (pp22 - 34)
- Our entrepreneurial learning (pp22 - 34)
- Our distance learning capability (p36)
- Our sporting excellence (pp40 - 43)

NWU logo

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



Pay-off line



Speeding up our digital journey

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has changed the digital environment beyond our wildest expectations – and the NWU has eagerly embraced this new digital world.

During the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying shift to online learning, we **discovered** novel and meaningful ways to harness technology in the higher education environment.

Implementing our extensive digital business strategy, we accelerated our digital journey in teaching and learning, student support, and workplace practices to enhance the learning experience and ensure the academic success of our students.

DISCOVER WHO WE ARE

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. Working together, consistently, we can 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.



THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENS...

Our core activities, 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.



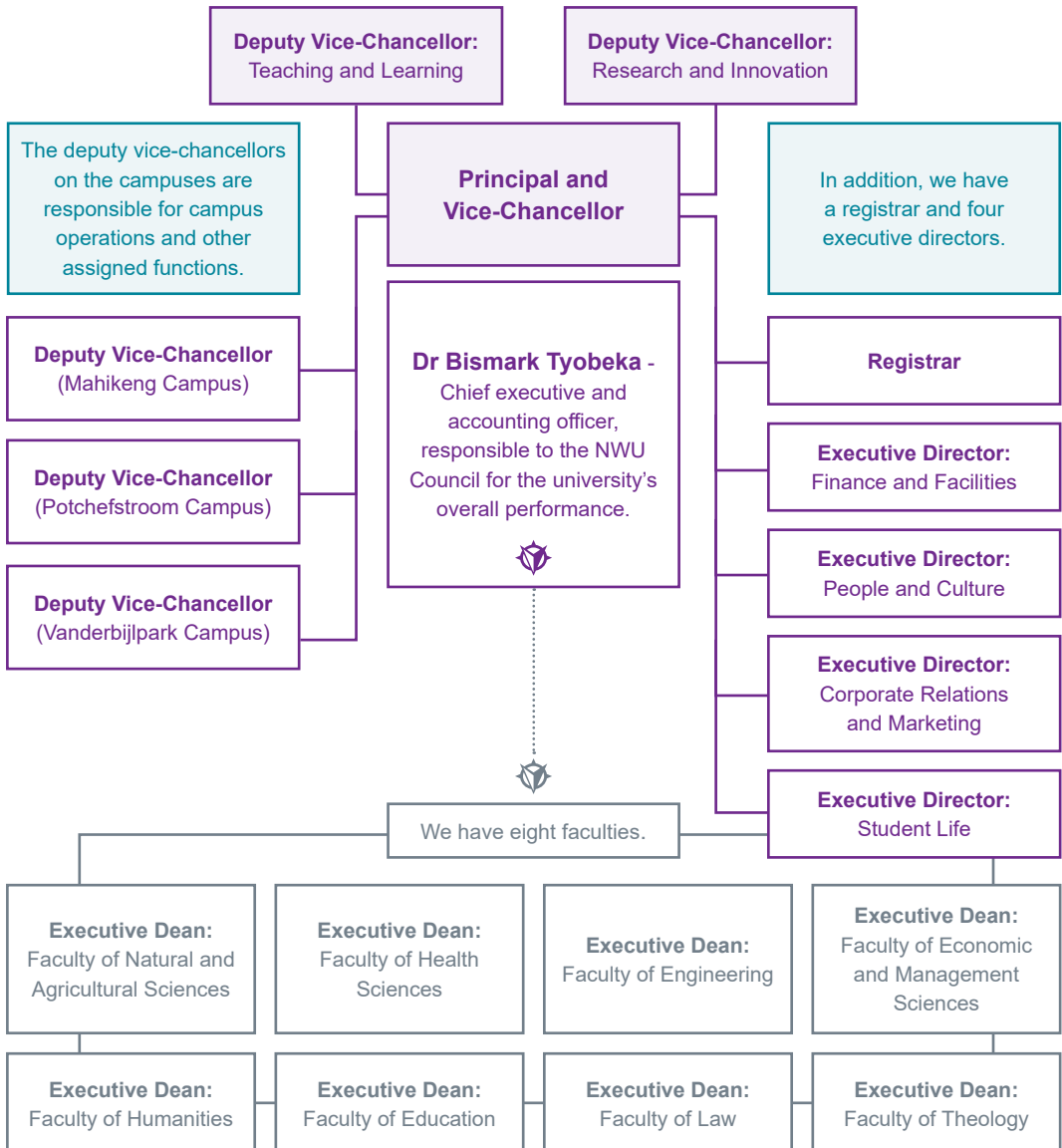
...keeping this in mind

As the NWU, we have always prided ourselves on being a values-driven institution. That is why we have reaffirmed our commitment to our guiding values. They are:

- Caring and inclusive
- Embracing diversity
- Transparency
- Excellence in all endeavours
- Ethics in all endeavours
- Responsibility and accountability
- Academic freedom and freedom of research

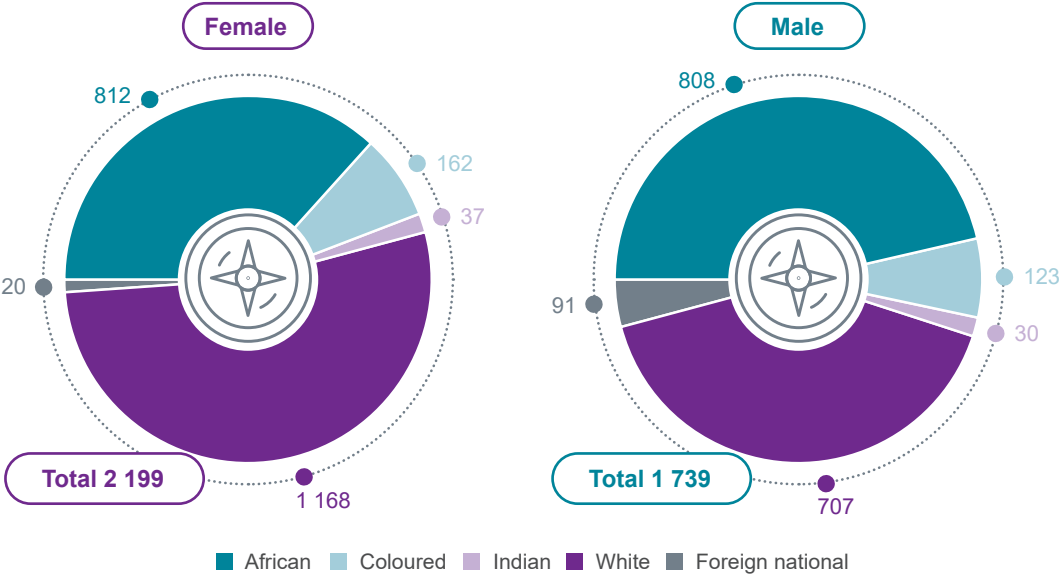
FIND OUT WHO'S MAKING IT HAPPEN

A trusted leadership



LOOK AT OUR WINNING TEAM

Gender and racial composition of permanent staff as at 3 April 2023*



*(2023 figures are not final)

See how we empower people

Black executive directors (as % of total executive directors)	75%
Female executive directors (as % of total executive directors)	50%
Black staff (as % of total staff)	49,3%
Female staff (as % of total staff)	55,8%
Black University Management Committee members (% of total UMC)	54,5%
Female University Management Committee members (% of total UMC)	45,4%

SALUTE OUR PATHFINDERS AND KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS

Research scorecard



3 028,08

weighted research output units in 2021*



1 726,10

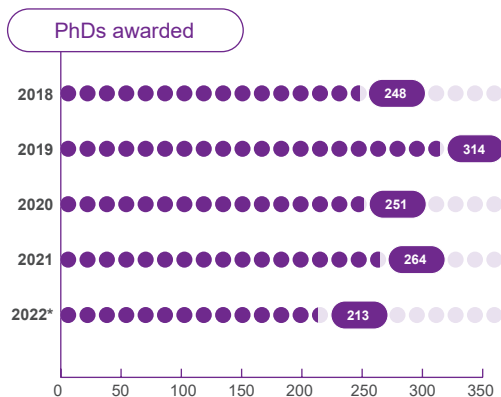
article equivalents published in 2021*



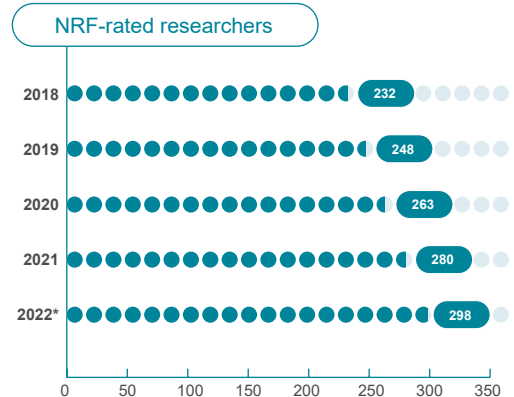
213

postdoctoral fellows in 2021*

*(2021 figures not yet approved)



*(2022 figures are not final)



The number of NRF-rated researchers increased by 28,44% between 2018 and 2022.

How we boost research capacity

When our academics successfully apply for ratings and raise their research output, their ability to **discover** solutions to societal problems grows and so does the university's knowledge base. The NWU contributes by providing training on compiling abstracts and conference papers, writing articles, and using best practices to draft research questionnaires.

Building our pool of postgraduate students

Our pool of research skills is becoming bigger because we are actively recruiting more master's and doctoral students.

In 2023 we had 382 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 provide a fair and functionally multilingual language environment across all components of the university, making sure that all our students and staff can communicate with ease.

The language policy promotes the academic status of the African languages predominant in 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.

Instead of reducing the range of languages spoken and written, our language policy is inclusive. We use all linguistic resources at the disposal of our staff and students, who have

widely varying linguistic repertoires, to achieve our multilingual goals. We intend to improve teaching, learning, and the student experience through functional multilingualism.

We have several modes of multilingual instruction. Going further, we use what is known as translanguaging. This allows for multilingual pedagogies, where all languages spoken by students are used in teaching and learning. This approach is still in its infancy but is being actively developed.

Ultimately, we want our students to be 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.



Our multilingual language policy allows the NWU community to **discover** and respect the richness of each other's languages.



LISTEN TO OUR ACADEMIC MEDLEY

The NWU offers more than just an education: we direct people to recognise their dreams and **discover** ways to realise them.

Academically, students benefit from abundant choice and flexibility. By **discovering** and using the myriad opportunities we offer them, they fulfil their potential and start developing their careers.

Teaching and learning scorecard

35,89%

Total growth
Students enrolled

2004 - 2022*
40 145 - 54 555

8,35%

Total growth
Ungraduate pass rate

2005 - 2022*
78,02% - 86,37%

42,23%

Total growth
Qualifications awarded

2004 - 2022*
9 657 - 13 736

144,83%

Total growth
PhDs awarded

2005 - 2022*
87 - 213

**(2022 figures are not final)*

Pass rates and qualifications from 2018 to 2022

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


	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Undergraduate pass rate	83,2%	83,8%	92,27%	89,2%	86,37%
Graduation rate	25,1%	23,5%	27,4%	27%	23%
Degrees and diplomas awarded	15 350	14 961	15 454	14 484	13 736
Master's degrees awarded	753	798	722	698	695
PhDs awarded	248	314	251	264	213

**(2022 figures are not final)*



SEE HOW WE PROVIDE CRITICAL SKILLS

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, early childhood care and education, special needs education, mathematics and a variety of South African languages.

By offering various qualifications via distance delivery, we give working educators across the country 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

The shortage of qualified accountants in South Africa is a major challenge, and the NWU strives to ensure that we have a programme for all prospective students who want to become 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 consistently **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.



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.

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



Risk managers and economists

Our economics and risk management degrees open doors to scarce-skills professions. These include economic research and analysis, economic advisory services to government and the private sector, investment analysis, portfolio management and financial risk analysis, which are on the 2022 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.

Discover the NWU



Children in the crossfire

South Africa is a country plagued by violence against women and children.

The trauma young victims feel usually continues when they must give testimony in court and are forced to relive their harrowing experience in what is often perceived as a hostile environment.

Realising that preparing these traumatised children for the court proceedings can make a huge difference, the NWU is the only local university offering a Master of Social Work in forensic practice.



[Read more](#)

Developed by Prof Cornelia Wessels from the Faculty of Health Sciences, our structured master's programme is tailor-made to equip students for these special demands of the social work profession.



Agricultural economists

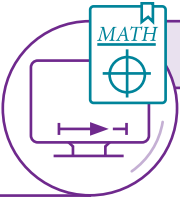
Owing to a decline in the research focus at agricultural colleges and the Agricultural Research Council, the agricultural industry has lost a significant number of highly (and critically skilled) staff. In recent times, various agribusinesses have requested the NWU to address the critical need for training 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, while our School of Agricultural Sciences offers a BSc degree in agricultural economics.



Law experts

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



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 actuarial sciences graduates 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 Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).



Natural and biological scientists

We produce natural scientists such as physicists, chemists and microbiologists who are sought after in manufacturing, mining and pharmaceuticals, among other fields. 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.



Language practitioners

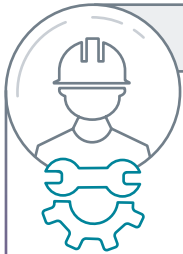
In multilingual and multicultural South Africa, there is a growing demand for qualified language practitioners with specialised skills for translation, text editing, interpreting, audiovisual translation, and sign language.

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.



Our School of Languages offers a course in South African Sign Language, which is the official language of the South African deaf community and is used by almost one million South Africans, deaf and hearing.



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, and airplane design and manufacturing.



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.



Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) specialists

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



Occupational hygienists

The BHSc 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.



Health professionals and related clinical scientists

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

Forensic social work was gazetted as a field of speciality in social work as part of the government's commitment to protect children – especially in the fight against child sexual abuse and in high-conflict divorce cases.

Our Master of Social Work in forensic practice is a direct response to this professional practice need and is jointly housed in the School of Psychosocial Health and the Community Psychosocial Research entity (COMPRES).

We are currently the only South African university offering this specialist qualification where social workers are trained to serve as expert witnesses in criminal justice cases as well as in family court and children's court procedures.

Our Research Institute for industrial pharmacy hosts the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Quality Assurance of Medicines. This centre is continuously developing new short courses to build and strengthen the regulatory capacity of international medicines regulators.



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 the field is small, interpreters of ancient documentary evidence are in high demand.



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.



WATCH US ON THE WORLD STAGE

Through collaboration with other universities and institutions internationally, we are part of the global higher education community. This gives us insight into higher education trends and access to partnerships and collaborations that enable us to **discover** new ways to empower our communities and ourselves.

Our internationalisation activities involve cooperation in academic, research, cultural and sports matters. We offer joint degrees with our partners and our staff co-produce publications, develop international networks, and serve on international bodies. Our activities also include international visits, and student and staff exchange programmes.

In 2023, we have 1 023 international students from over 50 countries. Among them are 381 postgraduates, including 176 doctoral candidates.



How we perform at home and abroad

The NWU has relationships with many universities in South Africa and abroad (see world map). We also cooperate with international bodies that 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 with local businesses.

Other relationships that matter are those 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.

Extending our networks and sharing our expertise, we collaborate with our knowledge partners around the globe to **discover** solutions to societal problems.

FINDING WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

See us aim for sustainable impact

Sharing our expertise is intertwined with our core business (teaching and learning and research) and emphasises sustainability and community impact.

Our local communities identify needs that we can then assist in meeting. We continuously compare these needs and the actual impact of our community engagement to ensure we truly address communities' needs, and do so in a sustainable way.

We also track our contributions towards realising the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the African Agenda 2063. In this way, we align our community engagement initiatives with these international and continental goals, ensuring maximum impact.

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.

Learning and serving together

Confirming our commitment to community outreach and sharing of expertise we carried out 754 community engagement activities in 2022.

Students from our faculties are involved in various work-integrated and service-learning projects in our communities.

One of the most notable contributions was made by our NWU Business School where MBA students in operations management conducted community engagement projects benefitting more than 100 non-profit organisations between 2013 and 2022.

In Health Sciences, the Phelophepa train is a flagship project run in collaboration with Transnet. Two trains travel to stations in

communities all over South Africa to render healthcare services such as optometry, nursing, psychology, pharmacy and dentistry.

The Faculty of Engineering conducted a community-based campaign on its low-emission, semi-continuous stove to improve air quality in low-income households.

Partnering with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (NEMISA), the Faculty of Humanities rolled out computer training to schools in Mahikeng.

Staff from our law clinics continue their involvement with legal education, legal services, and capacity-building programmes for paralegals and members of the community.

Partnering to share our expertise

Entrepreneurship, environmental responsibility, and digital literacy will remain key focus areas as we strive to contribute towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the African Agenda 2063 by sharing our expertise and working with partners.

Together with our partners, we have the potential to **discover** new ways to have a positive influence on communities, for instance through training and community-based research partnerships.

During community engagement initiatives, we liaised with 95 non-profit companies and organisations to explore beneficial community engagement activities.

The North West Provincial Government is one of the key stakeholders of the university, and in 2022 we embarked on activities with various departments, ranging from Arts, Culture and Recreation, to Statistics and Health.

We also liaised with organisations such as the Film and Production Board and the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

Discover the NWU



Students collect 100 000 sanitary pads to advocate for free pads for girls in need

Students on the Mahikeng Campus collected over 100 000 sanitary pads as part of a campaign to encourage government leaders to provide free sanitary pads to all school-going girls and members of communities who cannot afford them.

A total of 60 000 pads were laid in one long line, spanning a distance of 6 km, to advocate against period poverty. This feat by students on the Mahikeng Campus has now been sent to Guinness World Records to evaluate.

A petition has also been launched to encourage the government to legislate the issuing of free sanitary pads to girls in schools. The pads the students collected were donated to various schools in and around Mahikeng.



A total of 400 volunteers helped to lay out 60 000 pads, spanning a distance of 6 km.

[Read more](#)

WATCH US UNLOCKING THE FUTURE THROUGH INNOVATION

Going for innovation with impact

Innovation is an important part of our journey of **discovery**, as we are always looking for life-changing solutions to benefit society.

We work with all types of innovations at all stages of development. Traditionally, many of our innovations have been from the fields of science, technology and engineering, but our Technology Transfer and Innovation Support office has strengthened our commercialisation skills to include innovations from the humanities, social sciences and arts disciplines too.

The NWU has seen:



454

patents granted, covering



66

patent families and



54

territories

In recent years, non-patent-based technologies such as software and other copyright-protected technologies have become more prominent. Products based on NWU intellectual property have found real and practical applications in the areas of education, health, agriculture, and advanced manufacturing, among others.

Creating companies

The NWU has assisted in the establishment of 41 companies in its history.

These include spin-off companies (which commercialise university intellectual property, or 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 18 of these companies.

Spin-off companies are formed where new NWU technologies are best commercialised by starting a business when the technology is market ready and the entrepreneurial team is able to attract venture capital.

Discover the NWU



Donors make dreams come true

[Video link](#)

Nozopho Phil had loads of musical talent. What she did not have was funding for her BMus studies.

Then the life-changing call came from the NWU's bursary office: the Hillensberg Trust was offering her a bursary for her undergraduate studies and eventually also for her postgraduate studies in music.

In this video, master's student Nozopho and Celeste Rossouw, senior stakeholder specialist at the NWU, tell us how donors such as the Hillensberg Trust make dreams come true.

Being money-wise counts

The NWU is a financially stable university that runs at a profit. Our steadfast approach to financial sustainability exemplifies our commitment to grow as an institution while empowering our stakeholders to do the same.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Total income	R4 901m	R5 242m	R5 146m	R5 375m	R5 746m
Surplus (recurrent items)	R860m	R906m	R1 108m	R1 282m	R1 272m
Staff cost/total cost	55,2%	56,3%	63,1%	64,1%	60,0%
Self-generated income	R1 166m	R1 190m	R1 112m	R1 085m	R1 362m
% of income from government	41,0%	41,0%	43,0%	42,6%	43,0%
% of income from tuition fees	35,1%	32,6%	34,3%	34,5%	33,2%
Capital expenditure on upgrading projects	R115m	R119m	R56m	R14m	R19m

* Draft consolidated amounts (audit in progress at the time of writing.)

Find out how fundraising keeps us going forward

Universities cannot rely only on income sources such as state subsidies and tuition fees – we need donations to keep the wheels turning and help us reach our strategic goals.

Continued support from our stakeholders and donors enables our students to **discover** and use the myriad of opportunities the NWU offers. Donations in the form of bursaries, research and project funding, or student-specific campaigns – among others – make a significant difference in the lives of our students, and enable us to find solutions to challenges faced by communities.

The generosity of our donors creates **stories of hope**, such as those associated with our 34-year-old Ikateleng school project, socio-economic impact projects and initiatives for eradicating historical student debt.

The team at our **Department of Development and Fundraising** are committed to good governance when administering funds, and are eager to speak to prospective donors. With the cooperation of our donors, we can be **#GreaterTogether** while allowing everyone to #DiscoverNWU.



DISCOVER THE HEARTBEAT OF THE NWU: OUR FACULTIES

8 Faculties

Faculty structure

EXECUTIVE DEAN OF THE FACULTY

Deputy Dean:

Teaching and Learning









Deputy Dean:

Research

Deputy Dean:

Community Engagement

Here are the numbers of students in each faculty in 2023*:

Faculty	Students	Faculty colour
Education	16 209	
Economic and Management Sciences	11 029	
Engineering	1 625	
Health Sciences	6 137	
Humanities	7 230	
Law	2 832	
Natural and Agricultural Sciences	7 622	
Theology	676	
Business School	842	

**(2023 figures are not final)*

For more information about our faculties, visit our [faculty fact sheets](#).

EDUCATION

Entrepreneurial learning

As part of teacher education, the Economic and Management Sciences for Education subject group offers programme content with strong entrepreneurial foundations to promote financial independence and contribute to economic growth.

Short learning programmes with entrepreneurial content are offered as part of the professional development and training of in-service educators.

Exceptional programmes

We are a one-stop teacher training facility, spanning the full spectrum of education phases and teacher needs, and catering for contact and distance learning.

- The faculty's offerings address all levels of schooling and teacher development. The flagship offering is the BEd, which encompasses the full range of initial teacher education programmes; the foundation, 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 various continuing education programmes at certificate and diploma levels, as well as the sought-after BEdHons, MEd and PhD programmes.

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.
- **LEGO 6 Bricks** is a project that focuses on training first-year students to use the 6 Bricks teaching approach in all phases, while also training foundation phase teachers in the Kenneth Kaunda District.
- Other new projects focus on ensuring food security, coding and robotics, and literacy enhancement, thereby addressing **Sustainable Development Goals** 1, 4 and 15.

NWU research entities

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

Research chairs

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

ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Entrepreneurial learning

Universities play an essential role in promoting a culture of entrepreneurship among students and local communities. As a faculty, we offer students and local entrepreneurs many opportunities to **discover** and improve their entrepreneurial talents.

- The NWU's bhive Enterprise Development Centre (bhive EDC) develops the entrepreneurial capacity of students, women and local entities.

The bhive EDC's initiatives include:

- the student society, Enactus
- the bhive mall, our online market platform
- our Student Entrepreneurship Week initiative
- the student business competitions, Leopards' Lair and Entrepreneurship Intersarsity
- an accelerator programme for existing businesses
- incubation support services for local entrepreneurs
- our flagship programme, the Enterprising Women Programme (EWP)

Entrepreneurship is also integrated into the academic programme of our BCom Management Sciences degree: students are encouraged to start and incubate a new business towards the conclusion of their studies.

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.

- Our Centre for Applied Risk Management (UARM) offers a unique 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 community. The degree offerings include an undergraduate BCom degree 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 qualifying examinations. The NWU has been in the top four out of 17 SAICA-accredited institutions countrywide for the past six years. In two of those years, we held the top spot.

Community engagement

- In an ongoing project, schools and research entities in the faculty visit high schools to motivate learners and help them with their university applications. They also provide additional training for teachers on subject content.
- As part of work-integrated learning, students assist small businesses and non-government and non-profit organisations to run their businesses and organisations efficiently. This improves the students' problem-solving and communication skills and strengthens their sense of social responsibility.

During 2023, we expanded the initiative to emerging retail businesses to improve their operations and increase their revenue. This helps students to obtain practical skills in retail strategy and reinforces our relationship with communities.

- Students in practical psychometrics served as interns at the Department of Social Development where they trained learners and students on job readiness, CV writing, and interview preparation. They also administered career guidance



psychometric assessments and provided individual feedback.

- Our Train the Trainer initiative is an engaged research initiative in Vanderbijlpark. The goal of the project is to help train the Kisto Sharpeville Community Centre trainers to train community members in developing human capital skills for skills transfer.
- In collaboration with the school of Tourism Management, our Tourism Research in Economic Environments and Society (TREES) research entity has a Facebook page with tourism-related news for the general public.

Together with several stakeholders such as Greenpeace, TREES has also launched a campaign about seismic surveys' ecological and environmental impact, focusing on the Wild Coast of South Africa.

- To celebrate Mandela Day, the faculty planned different activities such as spending time at orphanages and old age homes, and donating food, hygiene parcels and clothes to nearby communities.

NWU research entities

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

Research chair

- World Trade Organization Chair (WTO)

Discover the NWU



Chartered accountants excel nationally

The NWU continues to deliver chartered accounting students of the highest calibre. This is evident from the latest results of the Initial Test of Competence (ITC) of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Namibia (ICAN), which was written in January 2023.

In total, 99% of our SAICA candidates passed the ITC exam, which is – percentage-wise – the second-highest of the 18 participating institutions in the country. In addition, 100% of our ICAN candidates passed the exam.



Ten more NWU candidates passed the exam in 2023 than in 2022 and we delivered three candidates in the SAICA top 10, all of whom passed the examination with honours (distinction).

[Read more](#)

ENGINEERING

Entrepreneurial learning

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

For Industrial Engineering's business engineering module, students formulate a fundable business plan, while the engineering management module has a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary 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. This benefits industry and gives students an appreciation of the challenges and opportunities in the engineering profession.

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 standards and are internationally recognised qualifications.

As from 2022, a new postgraduate diploma in industrial engineering is presented in full online distance mode. Related short learning programmes are also 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 an impact on individuals, communities and companies.

It is important to involve all staff and students in community engagement, harnessing many talents and skills to benefit society.

Special community engagement projects include:

Solar car design | Coal stove design | National parks projects | Feeding programme | Student RAG Community Service project design | Engenius Kids | Modiragatsi | Femmeengineering | Short learning programme for teachers | Cybathlon

NWU research entities

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

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)
- ESKOM EPPEI Specialisation Centre for Emission Control

Hosted entities, platforms and institutes

- DSI/HySA Infrastructure Centre of Competence in hydrogen production, storage, reticulation and safety codes and standards

HEALTH SCIENCES

Exceptional programmes

- We have a rich variety of programmes, from pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition and occupational hygiene to positive psychology, 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 of its kind in South Africa.
- 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.
- The Master of Arts in positive psychology is the only postgraduate programme of its kind in Africa.

Other notable programmes are:

- MScs and PhDs in pharmaceutical sciences, nutrition, dietetics, consumer sciences, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology and pharmaceutics
- MHSs and PhDs in health professions education, transdisciplinary health promotion, human movement sciences and recreation science
- MHSc in cardiovascular physiology
- Master's and PhD in nursing science
- BHSc in occupational hygiene
- MA and PhD in positive psychology
- Master's in clinical, counselling and research psychology
- PhD in physiology
- MSW in forensic practice and child protection

Community engagement

Through mutually beneficial collaborations and a commitment to overcome health challenges in society, we strive to improve the health of all:

- 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, more than 100 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 we hold exercise and therapeutic recreation programmes for residents of homes for the elderly and persons with intellectual disabilities.
- 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.
- 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 effects.

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.

RESEARCH

Research chair

- DSI/NRF Albertina Sisulu Research Chair in Nursing Science (SARChI)

NWU research entities

- Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CEN)
- Centre of Excellence for Pharmaceutical Sciences (PharmacEn)
- Centre of Excellence: 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)

Hosted entities, platforms and institutes

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

Commercial research entity

- Centre for Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Service (CPBS)

Discover the NWU



Internship programme for pharmacists gets a booster shot

For most newly graduated pharmacy students, the compulsory one-year pharmacy internship is the first step towards their service to the community and the start of their professional pharmacy careers in South Africa.

The NWU is now collaborating with the South African Pharmacy Council to enhance this internship programme to cater for the changing health needs of South Africans.



The internship year aims to allow pharmacy graduates to apply the knowledge and skills they acquired during their undergraduate studies.

[Read more](#)

HUMANITIES

Exceptional programmes

- 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 BA degree 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 regional history studies commissioned by the Greater Taung local municipality are the first of their kind, focussing on early human settlement, integration, migrations and especially the intercultural mingling of the Tlhaping.

Community engagement

- Graphic Design embarked on a new venture by connecting their students with local industry-relevant projects, ensuring service learning and fostering community engagement.
- Our South African Sign Language subject group organises various activities during Deaf Awareness Month to create awareness around the Deaf community, its people, language and culture.
- Creative Writing's Byderhand initiative is a digital literature project that provides interactive and multisensory reading experiences to visually impaired learners.
- The Language Practice subject group on the Mahikeng Campus is collaborating with the

Department of Sport, Arts and Culture on a terminology development project.

- 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 South African Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR).
- The Centre for Text Technology's Autshumato project supports multilingualism in South Africa by developing and distributing free, open-source software, machine translation systems, glossaries, and other valuable resources to our diverse community.
- The Musikhane programme creates opportunities for learners, teachers and the community to have meaningful musical experiences by exploring music education, staff development, and community music participation.
- The School of Philosophy hosted the NWU Forum, which focused on academic integrity and students' opinions and views on this topic.
- 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.
- The Social Transformation research focus area is busy with a project mapping the cultural, environmental, and mining heritage of the Far West Rand region and proposed sustainability measures long after mining has ceased.

Research entities

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

Centres offering support for staff and students

- Centre for Translation and Professional Language Services (CTrans)
- NWU Writing Centre

Hosted entities, platforms and institutes

- Centre for Text Technology (CTeXT)
- Setswana National Lexicography Unit (Sefala NLU)
- South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR)

Discover the NWU



NWU singers experience the magic of opera in London

Students and staff of the NWU School of Music and Conservatory visited the Royal Opera House in London, where they rubbed shoulders with world-class talent and saw alumni flourishing in their international music careers.

The NWU delegation visited London in March 2023 as part of a collaborative agreement with the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Our singers attended various classes and showcased their talents during a concert. Prof Conroy Cupido also presented master classes to postgraduate students from Guildhall.



Dr Antoinette Olivier and Prof Conroy Cupido during the performance of Puccini's Turandot at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

[Read more](#)

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:

- BA Law with a choice of three 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 degree
- 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.

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

- Through our Research Unit for Law, Justice and Sustainability we conduct research about justice in practice; environmental change; finance, trade and innovation; and vulnerable societies.

Research chair

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



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 business mathematics and informatics
- 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

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.
- Our mobile laboratories bring science experiments to schools without laboratories in remote corners of our province. We also stimulate learners' interest in science by taking interactive science exhibits to the communities.

- Our Mahikeng and Potchefstroom astronomical observatories inspire the public and learners to explore the mysteries of the universe and highlight the important role the NWU plays in revealing those mysteries.

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 of Excellence for Space Research
- Unit for Data Science and Computing (UDSC)
- Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management (UESM)
- Chemical Resource Beneficiation (CRB)
- Human Metabolomics (HM)
- Pure and Applied Analytics (PAA)
- Material Science Innovation and Modelling (MaSIM)
- Food Security and Safety (FSS)

Research chairs

- DST/NRF Research Chair in Astrophysics and Space Physics (SARChI)
- DST/NRF SA-NAM Bilateral Research Chair in Astronomy and Astrophysics (SARChI)
- Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics (CBMI)
- Centre for Water Sciences and Management (CWSM)

Hosted entities, platforms and institutes

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

Discover the NWU

Researchers find ‘spiral arms’ around massive stars

Prof James Chibueze, a researcher at our Centre for Space Research, was part of an international group of scientists who have found an important piece of the puzzle in the formation of massive stars, also known as protostars. (These are stars with a mass that is about eight times or more greater than that of the sun).

In the first-ever observational evidence, they have determined that accretion discs around forming protostars have spiral arm structures.

James says his PhD studies focused on understanding the early formative stages of massive stars. Now, being part of solving an additional piece of the puzzle is a proud moment.



Prof James Chibueze is currently working on various projects in astrophysics and space research.



Artist's impression: The spiral arm structures around the formation discs of protostars. Illustration: Charles Willmott and Ross Burns

[Read more](#)

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 a variety of possible career options including pastoral counselling, 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 Potchefstroom 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 fields outside of theology to enrol for a master's degree in theology.

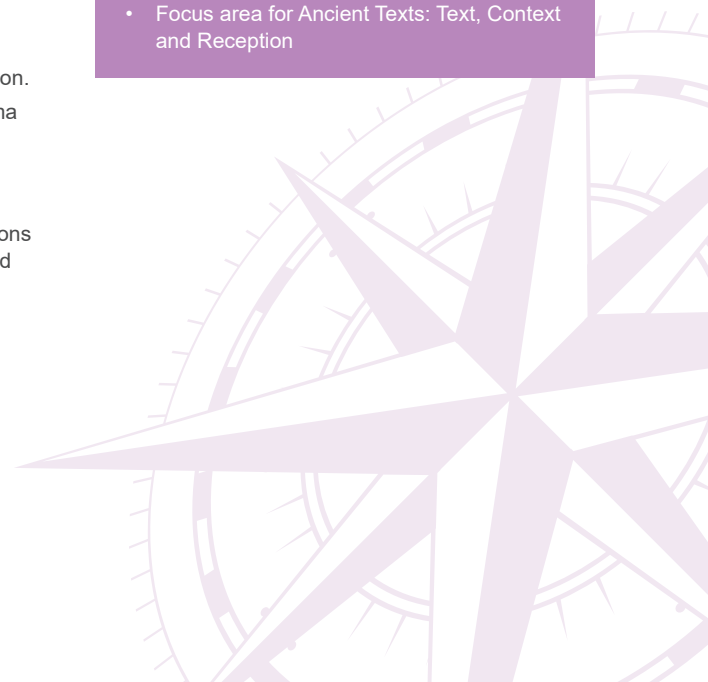
This diverse range of programmes and qualifications ensures that our students have ample room to find the best match for their interests and talents.

Community engagement

- We work with farmworkers, inmates of correctional facilities and school learners on programmes that are both practical and spiritually nourishing.
- Through the Fatherhood Training and Equipping Programme, we train inmates at the Potchefstroom Remand Detention Facility to be better 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
- Focus area for Ancient Texts: Text, Context and Reception



SEE HOW WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

The **NWU Business School** was the first school on the African continent to receive international accreditation from the Business Graduates Association.

In addition, the prestigious international Association of MBAs (AMBA) has renewed our MBA accreditation for the maximum period of five years, making the NWU Business School one of only 2% of recognised business schools in the world with AMBA accreditation.

Recently, our school has also been awarded a five-year accreditation by the Association of African Business Schools (AABS). This is the maximum term of accreditation offered by the AABS.

What makes this achievement exceptional is the fact that the NWU Business School is one of only three business schools in South Africa to have received this prestigious accolade.

Our formal programmes include an MBA qualification, a postgraduate diploma in management, and a PhD qualification, while the list of executive education short-learning programmes is extensive and in great demand.

At the NWU Business School, our aim is to cultivate and nurture strategic thought leaders who possess the necessary skills and ethical values to navigate the dynamic world of management and leadership with a focus on excellence.

Through innovative solutions and pioneering research, we strive to equip modern manager-leaders with the expertise to shape leadership minds across Africa.



WATCH OUR KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT BORDERS

Our Unit for Distance Learning (UDL) is among the largest providers of distance learning programmes in South Africa.

Although our majority of distance learning students are enrolled in education programmes, most of the university's faculties now have open distance learning offerings, with the Faculty of Engineering starting their programmes in 2022.

In addition, our unit delivers the University Preparatory Programme, which had approximately 288 participants in South Africa in 2021.

Over the years, more than 100 000 NWU qualifications have been awarded to distance students seeking self-paced opportunities to grow in their fields.

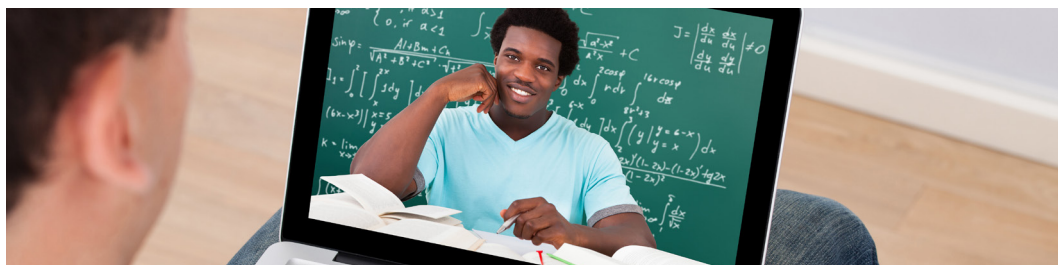
All systems go

Our 25 learning support centres and four learning hubs across South Africa and Namibia are equipped with interactive technology that allows students and lecturers to engage during live broadcast sessions.

The UDL building on the Potchefstroom Campus houses modern studios for national and international broadcasts. We also have the capability to record contact sessions and post them on the web for students to access. The unit has approximately 114 exam centres across South Africa and Namibia.

See our footprint 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. We accommodate these requests whenever we can.



THIS IS HOW WE PRODUCE WELL-ROUNDED STUDENTS

For our students, their journey of *discovery* starts at the NWU. On our campuses, they *discover* opportunities to achieve academic excellence and develop their talents – whether in the arts, culture, sports or leadership spheres.

As campus life is geared to holistic growth, we also provide services such as health and psychosocial support to promote students' health and wellbeing.

The same goes for our cultural and sports activities. Now that the vibrant student life for which the NWU is so well known has resumed, our students have numerous opportunities to participate in their chosen activities at university, regional, national and international levels.

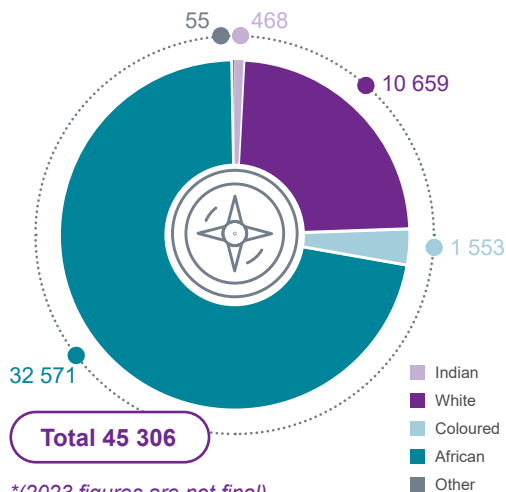
Student profile

In 2023* the NWU student profile looked like this (as at 3 April 2023*):

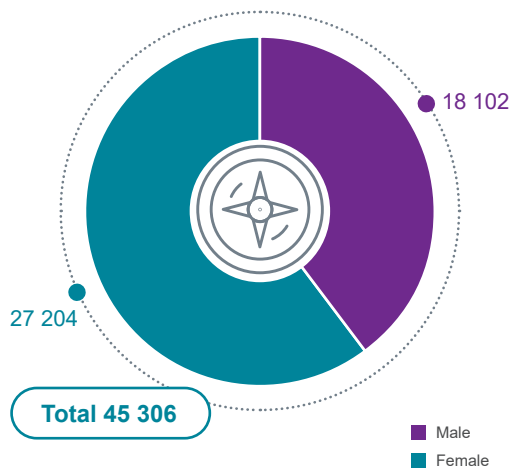
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Total student enrolment	61 212	63 671	56 425	53 469	53 071	54 207
Contact	43 418	44 647	44 785	43 638	44 139	45 306
Distance	17 794	19 024	11 640	9 830	8 932	8 901

*(2023 figures are not final)

Racial composition in 2023*



Gender composition in 2023*



Undergraduate vs postgraduate

Although the majority of students were undergraduate students, the NWU also had significant numbers of postgraduate students in 2023*. Among them were:



2 154

master's students



924

doctoral students

**(2023 figures are not final)*

Study options

Here are some of the study choices students made in 2023*:

Major field of study	Contact	Distance
Science, engineering and technology	11 998	381
Business and management	11 916	373
Education	8 389	7 779
Humanities and social sciences	13 003	368

**(2023 figures are not final)*

Promoting academic success

We offer several programmes to assist students academically, helping them **discover** and develop their potential, and achieve success.

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

- All first-year students participate in our academic orientation programme, and write an academic literacy test to determine whether they would benefit from the additional academic literacy modules offered.
- The First Year Navigator is an online platform where first-year students are guided throughout the academic year and all support services and events are highlighted.
- Other academic support includes academic advisory services, academic development workshops, peer mentoring, tutorials, reading laboratories, writing centres, and mathematics and statistics centres.
- We also offer supplemental instruction (SI), which is an internationally recognised student academic support programme.
- Our university preparatory programme (UnivPrep) and higher certificates offer bridging 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 spread the curriculum over a longer period of time, which lightens the academic workload and enhances their chances of academic success.

Caring for our students

Our campus health centres and student counselling and development units offer free medical services and psychosocial support to students.

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 is where the heart is

Student accommodation is extensive. We provide 12 979 beds that 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).

An estimated 16 000 students live in accredited housing facilities provided by private landlords, while many more students live in private, non-accredited facilities.

There are 46 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.

The six new residences on the Mahikeng campus, consisting of 1 728 beds, were all available for full occupation from the beginning of 2023.

Discover the NWU



Mahikeng Campus can now house more students

Our Mahikeng Campus can now house more students on campus thanks to the new student housing project.

Prof Sonia Swanepoel, deputy vice-chancellor for community engagement and Mahikeng Campus operations, says the NWU is excited to have more on-campus student residences.

“All universities are grappling with student accommodation and the six new residences – Clusters 8 to 13 – enable us to provide accommodation for a total of 4 714 students, of whom 1 705 are first years.”



The extra student housing was made possible through a partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training.

[Read more](#)



WATCH US BUILDING IMAGINATION AND MUSCLE

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

Culture takes centre stage

Cultural activities 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.

Sport in the spotlight

On all three campuses, students have the opportunity to play sport for recreation or wellness, to participate competitively, or participate as high-performance players and athletes.

When representing the university, our sports teams participate under the banner of the NWU Eagles. Based on their achievements on the sports field, the NWU is one of the top sports universities in South Africa.

We boast the following two institutes:



Rugby Institute



Soccer Institute

We offer seven sports codes on high-performance level:



Athletics



Cricket



Hockey



Netball



Rugby



Soccer



Tennis

In addition, the following sports codes can be enjoyed competitively or for recreation or wellness:

Aerobics / badminton / basketball / body building / boxing / canoeing / chess / circuit training / cricket / cross country / cycling and mountain biking / dance sports / e-sport / golf / gymnastics / hockey / Ju-jitsu / karate / kick-boxing / learn to swim / mindsport / netball / Pilates / pool / rock climbing / rugby / 7s rugby / running club / spinning / squash / swimming / Taekwondo / table tennis / tennis / volleyball / water polo / yoga / Zumba

We are the champions

Our sport stars participated in two interuniversity tournaments in 2022 and 2023. These were the Varsity Cup Competition and the University Sports South Africa (USSA) championships.

Varsity Sports competition:

RUGBY

1st place (2023)

NWU Eagles and NWU Young Guns



ATHLETICS

2nd place (2022)



NETBALL

2nd place (2022)



USSA championships:

BODY BUILDING

1st place (2023)



SEVENS RUGBY

1st place (2022)



SQUASH (combined teams)

1st and 2nd places (2022)



ATHLETICS

2nd place (2022)



KARATE (Team Kata)

2nd place (2022)



WOMEN'S HOCKEY

3rd place (2022)



MEN'S SOCCER

3rd place (2022)



Hosting the world's best

The NWU hosted various major events during the past two years:

- Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) event for men and women
- International Tennis Federation (ITF) event for men and women
- International Hockey Federation (FIH) Junior Women's World Cup event
- International Hockey Federation (FIH) Professional League Hockey event for men
- International Cricket Council (ICC) under 19 Cricket World Cup event
- International Cricket Council's women under-19 Cricket World Cup

Excellence in the limelight - here and abroad

At the Junior Women's Hockey World Cup event in Potchefstroom in April 2022, six of the u/21 hockey players and three members of the senior national team were from the NWU. One of the senior players went to the World Cup in the Netherlands and Spain in July 2022, while the other two were non-travelling reserves.

In April 2022, NWU staff member Elroy Gelant came second at the 2022 Two Oceans Half-Marathon in Cape Town.

NWU athletes – both former and current – won a total of 16 medals during the 2022 Athletics South Africa Senior Track and Field Championships in Green Point, Cape Town. Javelin throwers Johann Grobler and Jo-Ané van Dyk, 20km race walkers Marissa Swanepoel and Wayne Snyman, and pole vaulter Valco van Wyk all claimed gold.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of South Africa's readmission to international competition in 1992, the SA Athletics Statisticians voted NWU athletics coach Terseus Liebenberg as top coach of the readmission era.

Eleven students from the NWU's athletics club represented South Africa at the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) Africa Championships in Mauritius in June 2022.

At this event, Jo-Ané van Dyk (javelin) and Alan Cumming (hammer throw) won gold, while Ryan Williams (discus) and Valco van Wyk (pole vault) won bronze.

During the USSA competition in July 2022, bodybuilder Penny Sambo finished first in his division and was announced the overall winner of the bodybuilding tournament.

Also in 2022, bodybuilders Kevin Ayanda Nkosi and Zoe Tasak represented South Africa at the PEF-2022-Fitness Worlds in Korea. In addition, Zoe Tasak was crowned the Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB) 2022 World Cup Women's Bikini Champion at an event in Spain.

Onalenna Mongale was announced North West Sportsman of the Year during the North West Provincial Government's 7th Provincial Sports Awards ceremony on 18 February 2023.

Onalenna represented South Africa at the International University Sports Federation (FISU) University Combat Sport – Karate Competition in Turkey in 2022, where he ranked 6th out of 22 athletes in his division.

At the same event, the NWU's Soccer Institute received the Community Sports Developer Award for its role in producing football players and assisting athletes with bursaries.

Deidré Jordaan, Diané Olivier and Jarred Elliot participated in the All Africa Badminton Championships in Benoni on the East Rand from 13 to 19 February 2023. Deidré won gold in the women's doubles and bronze in the mixed doubles, while Jarred won gold in the men's doubles.

The NWU/CycloDNA cycling team won two gold medals at the 2023 South African National Track and Para-Cycling Championships held in Cape Town from 1 to 5 April 2023.

In addition, Prof Pieter Kruger successfully defended his title as winner of the 20 km race for veterans (aged 40 to 49). Pieter is the director of the NWU Centre for Health and Human Performance (CHHP).

On the rugby front, the NWU Eagles ended first on the log in the Varsity Cup competition on 17 April 2023. A week later, this victory was followed by our NWU Young Guns winning the under 20 Young Guns Competition.

Top training venues

Combining excellence and skill has always been one of our hallmarks, and the Centre for Health and Human Performance (CHHP) exemplifies this.

Officially opened on 23 March 2023, the new building houses the expertise of the Institute of Psychology and Wellbeing, the Institute for Sport Science and Development and the Institute for Biokinetics.

This new world-class sports science and biokinetics facility applies scientific expertise to all our diverse services in the world of sports, exercise and health and enables us to provide a service that is not available under one roof elsewhere in South Africa. [Read more.](#)

In addition, our High Performance Institute (HPI) is a state-of-the-art sports gymnasium offering a complete range of sports training, medicine, research, nutritional and sport psychology services. Its modern facilities have attracted many elite athletes from around the world.

Our Sports Village accommodates the more than 2 500 national and international sports teams and athletes who train at these venues every year.

Discover the NWU



NWU Eagles and NWU Young Guns are the champions!

Our NWU Eagles are the newly crowned Varsity Cup champions after beating Ikeys from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in Potchefstroom on 17 April 2023.

This marks the first time the NWU Eagles have won the trophy since 2016, and the second time overall.

Emulating their older brothers, our NWU Young Guns were crowned the Varsity Cup Young Guns champions after beating Maties 27-26 in Stellenbosch on 24 April.

The trophy for every Varsity Cup rugby competition the NWU participated in, now resides in Potchefstroom, making the NWU the undisputed kings of university rugby.



We have reclaimed our title as Varsity Cup champions – a triumph seven years in the making after we last won the Varsity cup in 2016.

[Read more](#)



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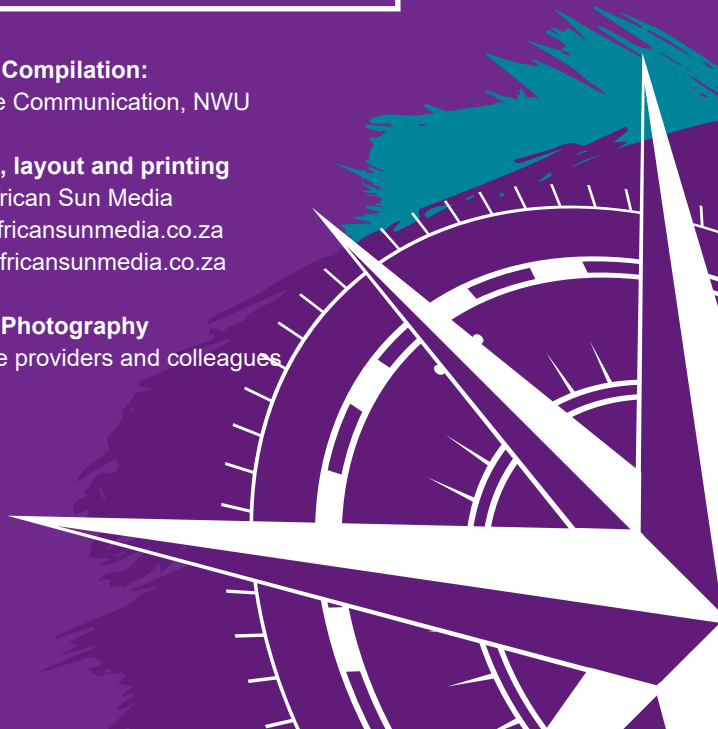
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