

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.



Prof Dan Kgwadi
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Chief executive and accounting officer,
responsible to the NWU Council

The NWU has eight faculties:

Education	Humanities
Economic and Management Sciences	Law
Engineering	Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Health Sciences	Theology

91,6%

NWU undergraduate success rate for **contact** students in 2020
(The national average for 2019 was 82,1%.)

87,4%

NWU undergraduate success rate for **distance** students in 2020
(The national average for 2019 was 70,0%.)

This is how our **graduation rates** (for undergraduate students) compare to other South African higher education institutions:

27%

NWU graduation rate for students in 2020
(The national average for 2019 was 20,6%.)

3rd highest number of students enrolled

In 2019 the NWU was the third-largest university in South Africa based on the total headcount. Of the 63 671 students enrolled here in 2019, a total of 19 024 were distance students.

University of South Africa (only distance students)	342 797
Tshwane University of Technology	67 673
North-West University	63 671
University of Johannesburg	50 594
University of Pretoria	50 590

3rd highest number of graduates

For the total number of degrees and diplomas awarded in 2019, namely 14 961, the NWU rated third in the sector.

University of South Africa	48 906
Tshwane University of Technology	16 871
North-West University	14 961
University of Johannesburg	14 099
University of Pretoria	12 651

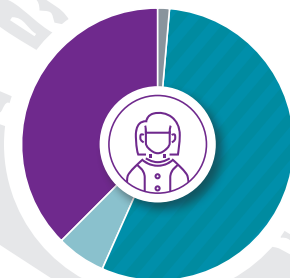
Student statistics as at 31 JULY *2021

Total student enrolments	2019	2020	*2021
First-time entering undergraduates	12 255	12 221	9 880
Undergraduate diplomas	15 258	9 801	8 436
Undergraduate degrees	37 299	38 463	38 370
Total undergraduate	52 557	48 264	46 806
Postgraduate diplomas	1 181	1 007	874
Honours	4 925	2 501	2 130
Master's	3 081	2 873	2 713
Doctors	1 645	1 496	1 474
Total postgraduate	10 832	7 877	7 191
Occasional students	282	284	263
TOTAL ENROLMENT	63 671	56 425	54 260

By qualification type: Contact	2019	2020	*2021
First-time entering undergraduates	9 920	10 266	9 023
Undergraduate diplomas	1 546	1 831	1 658
Undergraduate degrees	34 838	35 749	35 380
Total undergraduate	36 384	37 580	37 038
Postgraduate diplomas	1 032	738	440
Honours	2 297	1 866	1 753
Master's	3 075	2 869	2 711
Doctors	1 613	1 475	1 461
Total postgraduates	8 017	6 948	6 365
Occasional students	246	257	239
TOTAL ENROLMENT	44 647	44 785	43 642

* 2021 figures are not final

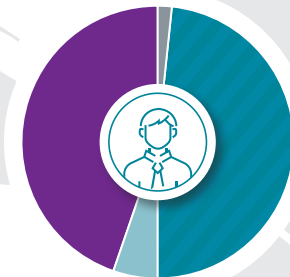
Racial and gender composition of NWU staff as at 25 August *2021



Female

African 1 375
Coloured 221
White 2 033
Asian 59

Total 3 688



Male

African 1 319
Coloured 159
White 1 423
Asian 55

Total 2 956

* 2021 figures are not final

QUICK STATS 2021/2022

This image symbolises how we **explore, expand** and **evolve** to adapt to the new circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Qualifications awarded in 2020

Undergraduate diplomas	3 769
Undergraduate degrees	8 204
Total undergraduate	11 973
Postgraduate diplomas	673
Honours	1 835
Master's	722
Doctors	251
Total postgraduate	3481
TOTAL	15 454

Qualifications awarded by major field of study in 2020

	2020
Science, Engineering and Technology	3 020
Business/Management	3 540
Education	5 691
Other humanities	3 203

Permanent staff as at 31 July *2021

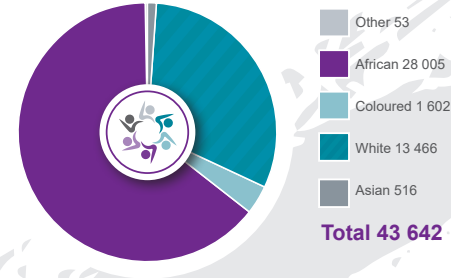
Permanent, professional and non-professional	2019	2020	*2021
Instruction/research professionals	1 570	1 611	1 569
Executive/management professionals	88	82	82
Support professionals	511	503	473
Total professional staff	2 169	2 196	2 124
Technical staff	250	243	239
Non-professional administrative staff	1 302	1 294	1 272
Crafts/trades staff	25	26	24
Service staff	332	325	303
Total non-professional staff	1 909	1 888	1 838
TOTAL PERMANENT STAFF	4 078	4 084	3 962

* 2021 figures are not final

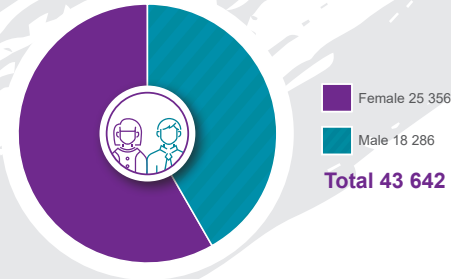
University profitability and growth

	Rmillion	Rmillion	Rmillion
	2018	2019	2020
Recurrent income	4 900,3	5 049,4	5 088,8
Recurrent expenditure	4 039,9	4 143,5	3 981,1
Net recurrent surplus	860,4	905,9	1 107,7

Racial composition of contact students as at 31 July *2021



Gender composition of contact students as at 31 July *2021



* 2021 figures are not final

Research scoreboard

Research output	2016	2017	2018	2019
Article equivalents	1 148	1 108	1 173,05	1 233,18
Conference proceedings	89	82	133,38	118,75
Books	119	110	131,85	189,22
Total article equivalents published	1 356	1 300	1 438,28	1 541,15
Master's degrees conferred	744	813	753	798
Research master's degrees	539	601	526,66	574,87
Doctoral degrees conferred	238	235	248	314
Doctoral degrees weighted	714	705	744	942
NRF-rated researchers	195	229	232	248
Postdoctoral fellows	203	215	215	231

NWU in top 4,7% of global universities

The Center for World University Rankings placed the NWU in the top 4,7% of universities in their 2021/2022 edition of the Global 2000 list.

Total weighted research output units
2004 → 2019
798 → 3 058

283,2% growth

NRF-rated researchers
2004 → 2019
73 → 248

239,7% growth

CONTACT DETAILS

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