SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY

Light from Africa - for Humanity • Lesedi la Afrika - go Batho • Lig uit Afrika – vir die Mensdom

2025

POSTGRADUATE PROSPECTUS

GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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WELCOME to Sol Plaatje University

At **Sol Plaatje University** (SPU), our mission extends beyond just education. We envision a future where knowledge is not merely acquired but lived, where students transcend traditional learning to become thought leaders in their fields. As we chart our progressive course, our unwavering commitment is evident in the breadth and depth of our postgraduate programmes, tailored to meet the multifaceted demands of the modern world.

Within our campus grounds, our esteemed faculties shine brightly, embodying the dynamism and rapid growth of SPU while also drawing inspiration from the rich heritage of the Northern Cape. Each faculty, with its unique curriculum and ethos, reflects our dedication to pushing the frontiers of knowledge. Our state-of-the-art facilities act as catalysts, aiding students in their quests for discovery. At the same time, our staunch emphasis on research and innovation creates an environment where ideas flourish and paradigms shift.

At SPU, we believe that growth is multifaceted. It's not just about academic prowess but also about evolving as individuals who can make meaningful contributions to society. Our students aren't just numbers; they are the heartbeat of our community, each bringing their unique perspectives, aspirations, and dreams.

Choosing to pursue your postgraduate studies at SPU means more than obtaining a degree. It signifies becoming part of an intellectual tapestry, a vibrant community of scholars who, with shared determination and passion, are sculpting the future. Through rigorous study, research, and collaboration, we aim to leave an indelible mark on both our students and the broader academic world.

FACULTY OF

ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Postgraduate Qualifications

Overview of the Faculty and why the postgraduate student should choose this Faculty

1. Welcome to the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

The Faculty of Economic & Management Sciences (FoEMS) is one of the four faculties at Sol Plaatje University. The Faculty is rooted in the University's vision, and we embarked on a mission to develop FoEMS as a Faculty of choice for high-achieving students, as well as being committed to exemplary teaching, learning, scholarly yet creative research and effective engagement with governmental entities, according to The University's mission.

We value the University's commitment to student success by preparing them to be the global leaders and change agents of tomorrow. While we celebrate our achievements, we are working aggressively to address areas of concern and opportunity. We continue to encourage our students to create innovative solutions to academic and social problems. We are motivated? by a vision of a quality system of higher education that is congruent with the national aims and personal desires and aptitudes of our students.

Along its development path, the FoEMS is establishing a reputation for academic excellence, ensuring that all students have access to resources and staff members. It is a Faculty committed to academic excellence and to producing graduates who are knowledgeable intellectuals, skilled professionals, and critical, caring, and empathetic citizens who can contribute to the social justice project of SPU and development of an equitable, just and democratic society.

2. What makes the Faculty special?

The Faculty seeks to stimulate investigation and exchange in the economics, financial and general management sciences and public management by supporting innovative teaching and learning, ground-breaking research and relevant community service. In the current depressed higher education funding environment, we are committed as a Faculty to developing well-designed policies and operational plans to ensure that resources are used optimally. To this end, we value measures that encompass attributes such as participation rates, research performance as well as the employability of our graduates. We are also endeavouring to strengthen relationships with government departments, civil society, business and the rest of the community. We will soon be exploring international links for the transmission of knowledge and staff capacity development as well.

To conclude, we continue to emphasize learning outcomes as a focal point of the Faculty. Throughout the year, we will employ various strategies and procedures for ensuring positive student learning outcomes. In this manner, we hope to ensure that our teaching, learning and research remain relevant so that our graduates are readily employable. Going forward, we want to maintain the momentum of the past four years of systemic and systematic improvement of the quality of the Economic and Management Science and Public Management education offered at the FoEMS.

3. The core team responsible for the delivery of both postgraduate qualifications are listed below:

- Dr. Olubunmi Obioha: Chairperson of the Postgraduate Committee (FoEMS)
- Prof. Ricardo Peters
- Prof. Ramos Emmanuel Mabugu
- Dr. Edward Dakora
- Dr. Abongile Zweni
- Dr. Mushimbei Mwansa
- Dr. Olubunmi Obioha
- Dr. Johann van der Spuy
- Dr. Tshepo Tladi
- Dr. Nyawo Gumede
- Ms. Gail Motlhaudi

4. What courses will be offered for 2025?

For the academic year, the Faculty will be offering the following two postgraduate qualifications:

(i) Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management and

(ii) Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship

4.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management:

The purpose of this qualification is to enable individuals to apply relevant skills, knowledge and principles to execute management functions required in the public and non-governmental sectors. The qualification seeks to develop individuals who have the capacity to add public value and function competently and ethically within public domain organisations. This builds on a review of needs within the public and development sector.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management modules and codes

The curriculum consists of eight (8) compulsory modules and a research proposal (Honours paper) as indicated below:

Module code	Module name	Credits	Semester
MRTD84124	Research Methodology and Theory	24	S1
MPAA84115	Policy Making and Analysis	15	S1
MGAA84115	Governance and Accountability	15	S1
MPED84115	Public and Development Economics	15	S1
	Total credits	69	
MHRM 84215	Human Resource Management	15	S2
MPFN 84215	Public Finance	15	S2
MRPL 84210	Research proposal (paper)	10	S2
MSTI84215	Strategy and Innovation	15	S2
	Total credits	55	
	Overall credits	124	

Admission Requirements

The following are the requirements for entry into the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management:

- A cognate Bachelor's degree and
- A cognate Advanced Diploma

4.2 The Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship

This qualification provides a balanced approach to entrepreneurship by blending practical and theoretical exposure to enrolled participants. This qualification will prove invaluable for current entrepreneurs aspiring to grow their business ventures, or for aspiring entrepreneurs and specialists involved in the public and private entrepreneurship support environment.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship modules and codes

The curriculum consists of seven (7) compulsory modules:

Module code	Module name
MRTD84124	Research Methodology & Theory
MEFN 84120	Entrepreneurial Finance
METP 84120	Entrepreneurship
MPEM 84220	People Management
MEMR 84220	Entrepreneurial Marketing
MPEN 84218	People Management
MELL 84218	Entrepreneurial Law
MRPL 84210	Research proposal (paper)

Admission Requirements

The minimum requirement for admission into the Postgraduate Diploma in Entrepreneurship is one of the following:

- A recognised bachelor's degree OR
- A recognised advanced diploma (NQF 7).

Applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements but who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the University that they have a qualification or experiential or work-based learning which has taken the applicant to an equivalent entry level specified above, may be considered for admission and for the recognition of prior learning. The formal Sol Plaatje University Recognition of Prior Learning Policy (SPU RPL Policy) applies.

5. What can a PG student look forward to in 2025?

We will provide you with up-to-date and relevant learning material which is regularly compared and benchmarked against similar local and international programmes. We ensure the learning material is in line with the needs of industry and commerce by consulting regularly with the profession, and with industry leaders and government officials. We will assist you as students by giving you the opportunity to develop competencies and skills at a certain level.

The outcomes correspond to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level. You will be assessed taking the level descriptors of the NQF into account. You may contact your lecturer(s) by making personal appointments; contact them by phone, via e-mail or via the Internet. You will be provided with clear indications of what we expect from you in terms of your assessment. In addition, you will receive timeous feedback on test, projects and assignments. We aim to return your feedback within two weeks after the due date if the assignment is submitted before the due date. Finally, you can look forward to robust and academically stimulating discussions in class and syndicate groups.

Best wishes with your studies! We look forward to meeting you in 2025.

Contact Details:

Acting Faculty Registrar:
Ms Patience Mabule
patience.mabule@spu.ac.za

Faculty Post Graduate Admin:
Ms. Harriet Moremedi
Email: harriet.moremedi@spu.ac.za

Master of Public Management and Governance

Purpose And Rationale of the Qualification

The primary purpose of the Master of Public Management and Governance is to develop researchers who can contribute to the production of knowledge at an advanced level, culminating in an independent investigative research project.

This unique intensive research qualification will provide students with the opportunity to pursue an independent investigative research project under the supervision of an academic staff member specifically designed to provide relevant skills in research design, communication, integrity, and interpretation of research results. This qualification will develop advanced skills and knowledge in Public Management and Governance while strengthening the ability to creatively solve problems in the public sector management space.

The programme targets individuals who have research and/or practical experience and who are motivated to investigate, assess, and analyse the controversies, challenges, and issues associated with the core functions of the public sector. Students are expected to not only describe problems but also come up with solutions that would enhance the capabilities of the public sector. The programme would also prepare students to gain insight into the challenges and opportunities of a career in today's public administration and management environment. The programme is designed to meet the needs of a new generation of leaders in South Africa and even beyond national borders, as it intends to help students face the challenges faced by the public sector through meaningful research projects.

The Master of Public Management and Governance is a research master's degree programme that comprises a dissertation written under supervision in the field of Public Management, Administration, and Governance on a topic selected in consultation with the Postgraduate Committee of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. The qualification is one year full-time or two years part-time.

Admission Requirements

A preceding cognate qualification (for example public management/public administration/ governance/public development/municipal administration etc) that meets NQF level 8 exit level outcomes such as a:

- Bachelor Honours or Postgraduate Diploma with an average pass of at least 65% for the degree or diploma.
- A completed course in Research Methodology/Research Project with a final mark of 65% is also required.

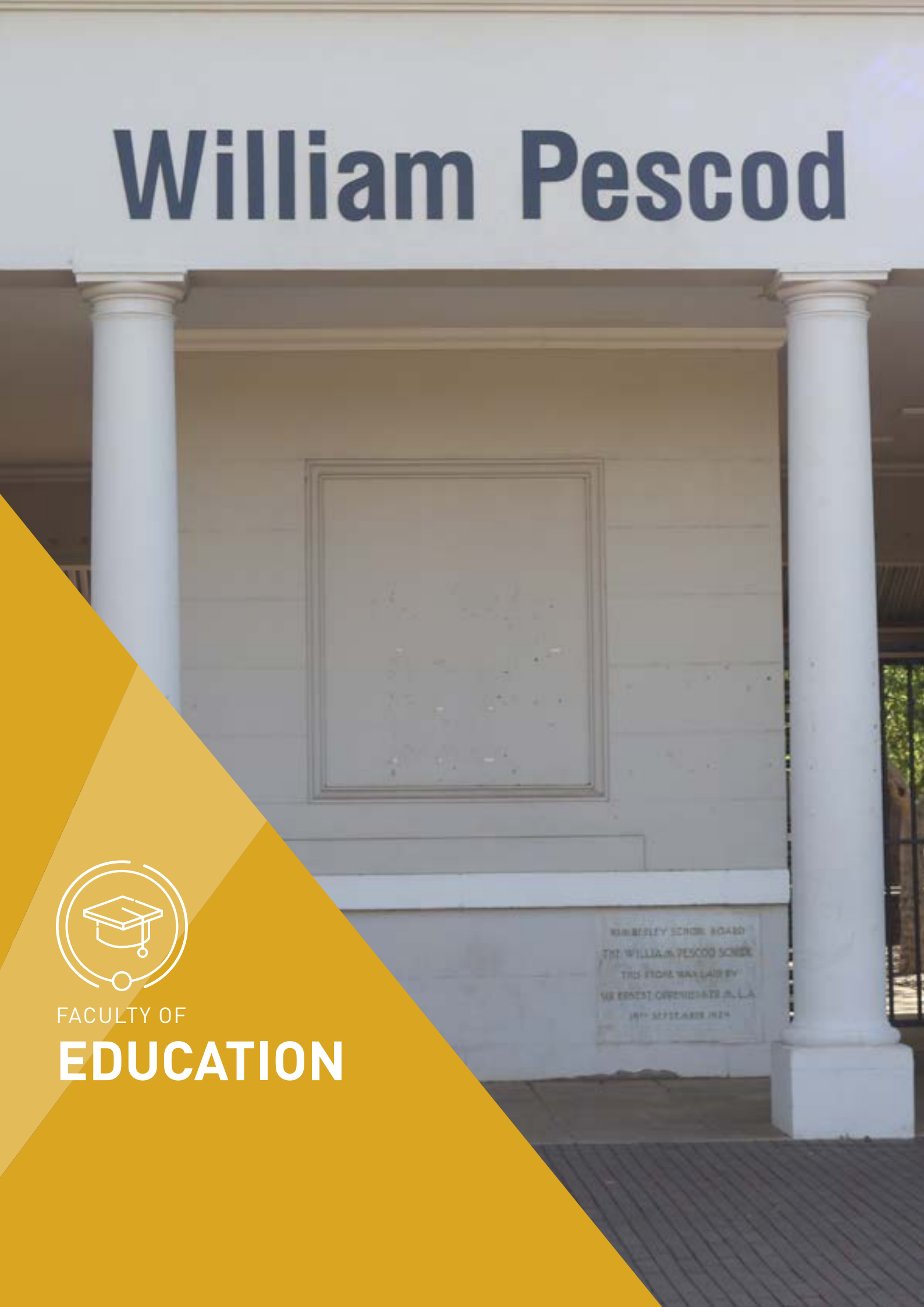
MPG900 (Master of Public Management and Governance)

Admission requirements

- A preceding cognate qualification (for example public management/public administration/ governance/public development/municipal administration etc) that meets NQF level 8 exit level outcomes such as a:
- Bachelor Honours or Postgraduate Diploma with an average pass of at least 65% for the degree or diploma.
- A completed course in Research Methodology/Research Project with a final mark of 65% is also required.
- Additionally, the prospective applicant who meets the minimum requirements, will be provisionally selected pending the submission of a broad outline of a proposed area of research outlining their proposed research project which will be used as part of the selection criteria.
- A student pursuing an MPG degree by research may be requested by the respective discipline to sit for the honours level research methods and theory courses for the purpose of assisting them in the development of their research proposal and or dissertation.

Programme structure

Module code	Module name	Credits
MMPG900	Research dissertation	180



FACULTY OF

EDUCATION

Faculty of Education

An Overview of the SPU Faculty of Education

The SPU Faculty of Education serves as a paragon of distinction within the domain of pedagogy and instruction in the nation of South Africa. Committed to cultivating the forthcoming cohort of pedagogues, our institution is firmly entrenched in the tenets of ingenuity, dedication, and a profound comprehension of the multifaceted educational milieu that permeates our nation. We take great satisfaction in providing an educational encounter that is unparalleled and distinctive, tailored specifically to individuals who envision a future characterised by effecting tangible change within the educational landscape of South Africa.

Innovative Approaches to Teacher Training

Central to our curriculum lies a harmonious fusion of theoretical and practical components, with the ultimate goal of equipping our students with a comprehensive comprehension of the teaching vocation. Our cutting-edge methodologies distinguish themselves through their integrative essence and the prioritisation of cross-disciplinary advancement. As the nation confronts the formidable task of nurturing proficient educators for its forthcoming generations, our innovative methodologies emerge as a solution to this urgent requirement. We ensure that our alumni possess the necessary skills to navigate the curriculum adeptly and make meaningful contributions to the perpetually evolving educational landscape.

Producing Passionate and Proficient Educators

The SPU Faculty of Education places great emphasis not only on the acquisition of subject mastery, but also on the cultivation of educators who possess profound compassion, unwavering zeal, and the aptitude to shape the intellects of the youth. Our aim is to nurture teachers who do not merely possess extensive subject knowledge but can also transmit this knowledge with fervour and efficacy. Irrespective of the educational milieu, our alumni emerge as compassionate pedagogues, perpetually in pursuit of the most efficacious methodologies to captivate their pupils and kindle a fervour for knowledge.

Why Choose the SPU Faculty of Education for Postgraduate Studies?

The act of selecting a destination to pursue one's scholarly endeavours is a weighty choice; the SPU Faculty of Education presents a captivating proposition for individuals aspiring to pursue advanced studies. By enrolling in our recognised postgraduate programmes, you are aligning yourself with a prestigious Faculty that places great importance on the lifetime pursuit of knowledge with a strong emphasis on the perpetual enhancement of pedagogical abilities. In this context, our unrelenting commitment lies in the pursuit of a more expansive perspective on the advancement of society. By aligning yourself with our cause, you are making a solemn commitment to participate actively in this profound and far-reaching endeavour. The convergence of your ambitious aspirations and our profound expertise shall indubitably forge a path towards a more luminous educational landscape for the nation of South Africa.

What Sets The Faculty of Education Apart?

The SPU Faculty of Education is renowned for its exceptional standards of educational prowess within the South African context. In stark contrast to its counterparts, our educational establishment provides a unique scholastic encounter that harmoniously amalgamates avant-garde pedagogical methodologies with comprehensive theoretical and pragmatic elements. The on-going commitment to fostering innovation within our educational institution guarantees that our students are not merely proficient in their respective areas of study, but also possess the ability to transmit their knowledge with fervour and effectiveness to future generations. Moreover, our distinctive emphasis on the cross-disciplinary cultivation of fundamental cognitive domains effectively tackles the pressing demand in South Africa for educators of exceptional calibre. Consequently, the alumni of our revered institution transcend the mere role of educators, embodying the essence of visionary pedagogues who possess the acumen and foresight to shape the future of our nation.

An Invitation to Our Differently-abled and Sign Language Community

Within the admired confines of the SPU Faculty of Education, the concept of diversity is not merely a cause for celebration, but rather an indispensable component that lies at the very core of our philosophical framework. In view of the recent endorsement by the Cabinet's acknowledging South African Sign Language as the twelfth official language of our nation, we cordially extend an invitation to our students with special skills, particularly those who possess a high level of proficiency in South African Sign Language, to participate in our revered postgraduate programmes.

Our unshakable commitment to the pursuit of inclusive education necessitates our acknowledgment of the multifarious avenues through which knowledge can be disseminated, encountered, and exalted. It is our firm conviction that each vocalisation, be it articulated or expressed through manual communication, possesses an individualistic viewpoint capable of enhancing the intellectual fabric of our scholarly collective. As you commence upon this forthcoming stage of your scholarly odyssey, be assured that within the esteemed confines of the SPU Faculty of Education, you will encounter a nurturing milieu meticulously designed to guarantee your success.

We cordially invite you to join our endeavour, in which we will collaboratively establish an intellectual environment in which every student, irrespective of their chosen means of expression, shall be bestowed with the agency, recognition, and aptitude to effectuate a significant influence within the realm of education.

Who Are We?

The SPU Faculty of Education is anchored by a cohort of well-informed academics, distinguished by their possession of doctoral credentials, and fortified by their extensive tenure in overseeing postgraduate research endeavours. We embody more than the mere role of educators; rather, we assume the mantle of scholars, thinkers, and innovators, firm in our commitment to transcend the limits of academic prowess. Each individual comprising our team is duly acknowledged and respected by their colleagues, serving as a testament to the profound influence and exceptional quality of their contributions. At the helm of this formidable assemblage stands Prof. Percy Sepeng, a respected and knowledgeable academic who holds the valued title of full professor in the field of Mathematics Education. Under the distinguished guidance of our respected leader, our firm dedication persists in delivering an excellent calibre of education, mentorship, and guidance in the realm of research. By electing to enrol in the admired SPU Faculty of Education, you will be making a conscious decision to align yourself with a longstanding tradition of exceptionalism, diligently maintained by a cohort of the most brilliant intellects within the realm of Education.

What courses will be offered for 2025?

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

POSTGRADUATE AND HIGHER DEGREES OFFERED BY THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Postgraduate programme coordinator: Prof. Percy Sepeng

Students enrol for one of the following programmes:

Qualification	Programme
PGDip. (Mathematics Education)	Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics Education
B.Ed. Hons. (Curriculum Studies)	Bachelor of Education Honours in Curriculum Studies
M.Ed.	Master of Education

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

PGDip (MATHEMATICS EDUCATION)

Period of Study: 2 years part-time

The purpose of a Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics Education is to strengthen and deepen the student's knowledge in Mathematics Education and to enable the student as working professional to engage in advanced reflection and development by means of a systematic survey of current and post- thinking and practice in Mathematics Education.

A high level of theoretical and independent engagement will form the conceptual framework for this qualification.

Minimum requirements for admission to the programme

1. The General Rules of SPU in respect of admission to Postgraduate Diploma studies (aligned with the HEQSF) are applicable to this Postgraduate Diploma.

2. Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma in Mathematics Education programme is subject to Departmental approval on the advice of the Faculty of Education Postgraduate Committee.

3. In order for a student to be admitted into the programme, studies in Mathematics Education at level 7 in the preceding qualification is needed. The preceding qualification can be

- a 4-year BEd degree, OR
- a 3-year degree capped by a PGCE, OR
- ADE in Mathematics Education.

4. Recognition of Prior Learning will be applied to students who do not meet the minimum entry requirements to the programme.

5. In addition, the SPU Policy on Admission will apply.

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION HONOURS IN CURRICULUM STUDIES

B.Ed. Hons (CURRICULUM STUDIES)

Period of study: 2 years part-time

The Bachelor of Education Honours in Curriculum Studies is a postgraduate specialisation qualification that prepares students for research-based postgraduate studies in the field of Curriculum Studies.

The B.Ed. Hons. (Curriculum Studies) programme is currently offered on a part-time basis only.

Minimum requirements for admission to the programme

1. The General Rules of SPU in respect of admission to Bachelor Honours Degrees (aligned with the HEQSF) are applicable to this degree.

2. Admission to the Honours programme is subject to departmental approval on the advice of the Faculty of Education Postgraduate Committee.

3. To be admitted to the Bachelor of Education Honours (B.Ed. Hons.) programme, a student must possess an acknowledged qualification at NQF Level 7, such as:

- a four-year professional Bachelor of Education degree with a minimum of 480 credits, OR
- a bachelor's degree (minimum 360 credits) capped with a professional teaching qualification such as a PGCE (minimum 120 credits), OR
- a four-year professional teaching qualification AND an advanced diploma in a cognate sub-field of Education, with a minimum of 120 credits.

4. Students must have an average pass mark of not less than 60% for the degree or diploma and an average of 60% and above in the prerequisite modules/courses for the specialisation.

5. Students with an average pass mark below 60% may be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Faculty, following motivation by the candidate and recommendation of the Postgraduate Committee.

6. The formal SPU RPL Policy applies in instances where applicants do not meet the minimum requirements for entry into the Honours degree.

MASTER OF EDUCATION

M.Ed.

Period of study: 2 years part-time

This programme aims to provide pathways for graduates at this level to further their studies by conducting academic research in education and to fulfil the need for more and appropriately qualified graduates whose research could address the various challenges faced by education regionally, nationally and globally.

Minimum requirements for admission to the programme

1. The General Rules of SPU in respect of admission to master's studies (aligned with the HEQSF) are applicable to this qualification.

2. Admission is subject to Departmental approval on the advice of the Faculty of Education Postgraduate Committee.

3. This is an NQF Level 9 qualification. To be admitted to the Master of Education (MEd) programme, a student must:

- Have obtained an approved B.Ed. Honours degree with an average of 60% pass, OR
- have a cognate PGDip. in Education with an average of 60% pass; AND
- complete research modules of at least 30 credits.

4. All students who enrol for this programme need to take a compulsory and credit-bearing 10 credit Research Design and Methods Course offered by the University.

5. Students who enrol for this programme also need to be computer literate and have access to the Internet to be successful in the programme.

6. The formal SPU RPL policy applies in instances where applicants do not meet the minimum requirements for entry into the master's degree.

7. M.Ed. applicants will have to submit a motivation and a detailed description of the research that they intend on undertaking along with their applications.

Envisioning the Year 2025 and Beyond: An Intellectual Expedition Awaits

As the 2024 academic year commences, postgraduate scholars find themselves on the brink of an enlightening and revolutionary educational experience at the revered SPU Faculty of Education. In light of the dynamic transformations occurring within the global educational sphere, the multifaceted requirements of the contemporary academic domain, and the distinctive socio-cultural milieu of South Africa, the recognised SPU Faculty of Education extends beyond the conferral of a mere degree. Rather, it pledges an illuminating odyssey that holds the potential to influence the trajectory of education profoundly in the days to come.

As a postgraduate student within our highly regarded academic institution, you will find yourself immersed in an environment that is replete with intellectual stimulation and which fosters a propitious atmosphere for cultivating innovative thought processes. Our meticulously crafted curriculum, diligently shaped by cutting-edge research and prevailing intellectual currents, will motivate you to engage in profound questioning, meticulous analysis, and substantive contributions to the boundless expanse of pedagogical wisdom. By availing yourself of the expertise of a distinguished consortium of intellectual scholars, celebrated for their fastidious oversight of scholarly endeavours, you can anticipate receiving unparalleled guidance, thereby ensuring that your research project not only garners distinction at the national level but also engenders significant impact on the international platform.

Moreover, the forthcoming academic year of 2025 and subsequent years hold the potential for a revitalised emphasis on interdisciplinary cooperation, thereby guaranteeing that our postgraduate initiatives transcend the confines of isolated reservoirs of knowledge and instead manifest as interconnected networks of knowledge and culture. This particular methodology guarantees that our students are adequately equipped to confront genuine educational obstacles with a comprehensive outlook.

By electing to enrol in the respected SPU Faculty of Education, you will be consciously selecting an intellectual haven that seamlessly amalgamates time-honoured customs with groundbreaking advancements. Within this respected institution, the cultivation of analytical reasoning is diligently fostered, while simultaneously acknowledging and harnessing the untapped capabilities of each unique individual. The realm of education finds itself on the brink of momentous transformations, and as a postgraduate scholar at SPU, you will not merely bear witness to these shifts, but rather assume an active role in shaping their trajectory. Join us on this intellectual odyssey, as we collaboratively shape the future of worldwide teacher education.

Contact Details:

Faculty Registrar:
Ms. Edwinah Egelser
Email: edwinah.egelser@spu.ac.za

Faculty Post Graduate Admin:
Mr. Patrick May
Email: patrick.may@spu.ac.za

FACULTY OF

HUMANITIES

Faculty of Humanities

Welcome to the Faculty of Humanities. As a Faculty, we believe that our location in this region gives our students and staff unique opportunities for learning, research, and community development. We endeavour to promote and advance engaged scholarship that talks to the realities of our communities as reflected in our work and that of our postgraduate students. We take pride in making our students realize immense possibilities and become true visionaries and drivers of innovation and change that shape our society and its future. This in many ways gives us a new lens of understanding our context and communities and some of its challenges while presenting possible solutions for a better society and its future. In line with this vision, our research and that of our students present us with the opportunity to interrogate the lived experiences of our communities. We are host to local and international postgraduate students who are involved in cutting edge research that critically interrogates our community's daily lived experiences and realities. One of our master's candidates, Chantelle Naledi Serithi (Sociology), who is carrying out research on climate change and resilience, presented her work at the Africa Youth Climate Assembly (AYCA) during Africa Climate Week in Nairobi, Kenya between 04-08 September 2023.

What sets us apart is that we take pride in the cutting-edge research undertaken by our staff and students which intimately talks to the daily realities and experiences of our communities. As a Faculty we do not only strive to produce practitioners; we also take pride in producing conscious and engaged citizens who will become leading torchbearers and change agents in their various communities and who will shape the future. We strive to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives in our Faculty and among our students while seeking to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue that promotes engaged scholarship.

Our postgraduate programme is growing in terms of breadth and depth, and we look forward keeping this momentum going forward. Our Master of Arts programme introduced in 2021 produced its first graduates in 2023, a first for the university, marking an important milestone. We are excited that for the 2024 academic year we are adding a new Bachelor of Arts Honours (Setswana) to our postgraduate studies programmes. We are looking forward to further expanding and adding more new programmes and specialisations in the coming years. Our PhD programme is currently undergoing the accreditation process and will be introduced once the approval process has been finalised. This will present a significant opportunity to contribute towards producing innovative original knowledge and research crucial for driving change and the future of our society.

Several of our academics are internationally recognized and leading experts in their disciplines and are National Research Foundation (NRF) rated. Many of them sit on various editorial and review boards and committees and have been commissioned to conduct research by various international and local institutions. As a Faculty we strive to help our students realise a wide range of possibilities. Some of our alumni have been warmly received by industry and the world of work. Some are already serving in various leading research institutes, NGOs, and government institutions while others are pursuing further postgraduate studies, including PhDs.

We expect to keep growing and attracting more students from the local, national, regional, and global community as a university and faculty of choice. Our growth in research is reflected in the high number of publications in accredited journals by our members of staff. Emerging strong research themes include, but are not limited to the following:

- African Languages
- The Paleoanthropology of the Region
- Heritage and Development
- Digital Society
- Digital Capitalism
- Gender, Sexuality and Health
- Sociology of Work
- Higher Education and Development
- Land, Labour, and Identities,
- State Politics , Youth, and Political Activism
- War Studies and Heritage of Conflict
- Military Studies
- Governance for NCD Prevention in Africa.
- Extractive Sector and Related Politics Mining and Mining Communities

PROGRAMMES ON OFFER IN 2025

The Faculty consists of three departments with the following programmes on offer in 2025:

Department of Heritage Studies

Bachelor of Social Science Honours (Archaeology)

Bachelor of Social Science Honours in Heritage Studies

Master of Arts (Heritage Studies)

- Dissertation / Research only
- MA Coursework:
  new on offer for 2025 academic year

Master of Arts (Archaeology)

- Dissertation / Research only
- MA Coursework:
  new on offer for 2025 academic year

Departments of Languages and Communication

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Setswana)- a new programme on offer from 2024

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Languages (Afrikaans)

Bachelor of Arts Honours in Languages (English)

Master of Arts (Afrikaans)

Master of Arts (English)

Master of Arts (Setswana) – new on offer for 2025

Department of Social Sciences

Bachelor of Social Science Honours (Anthropology)

Bachelor of Social Science Honours (History)

Bachelor of Social Science Honours (Sociology)

Master of Arts (Anthropology)

- Dissertation / Research only
- MA Coursework:
  new on offer for 2025 academic year

Master of Arts (History) (Dissertation / Research only)

Master of Arts (Sociology)

- Dissertation / Research only
- MA Coursework:
  new on offer for 2025 academic year

Meet our Team

Professor Victor Teise: the Postgraduate Chairperson for the Faculty of Humanities

Ms. Sukayna Obaray: Faculty Registrar

Mr. Sabelo Gumede: Officer: Administration

Ms. Kedibone Mokgotu: Senior Faculty Administrator

Ms. Ntshepeng Makoko: Faculty Administrator

Contact Details:

Faculty Registrar:

Mrs. Sukayna Obaray
Email: sukayna.obaray@spu.ac.za

FACULTY OF

NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences

1. Why should I choose the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences?

The Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FoNAS) aims to produce well-rounded graduates that will be able to adapt to and compete in the workspace while making significant inputs to various spheres in South Africa and within a global context. We are committed to professionalism, integrity, and a high level of work ethics. The Faculty advocates for a stakeholder-inclusive approach to promote ownership of the Faculty's core mandate (Teaching, Learning and Research) through engagement, collaborations and information-sharing sessions.

We believe that students are our future and our ambassadors and as such, we value their endeavours. Therefore we work continuously on improving processes to ensure that they spend less time in Administration offices and more time in learning and research activities. We always strive to do what is best for our students, thereby promoting success for every student who is committed to learning.

2. What makes the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences special?

FoNAS comprises the following four clustered departments:

(a) Biological and Agricultural Sciences (Biology, Botany, Zoology and Agriculture),

(b) Computer Science and Information Technology (Computer Science, Data Science,

and IT-related subjects),

(c) Mathematical Sciences (Applied Mathematics, Mathematics and Statistics), and

(d) Physical and Earth Sciences (Chemistry, Geography and Physics).

These academic departments have dedicated teaching and research staff who are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about teaching in their areas of expertise. They are always eager to walk with students on their learning journey as their supervisors.

Some of our academic staff members are NRF-rated researchers, serving on various committees. They are engaged in research and other activities to ensure

(e) that they are updated with new developments (so that they remain relevant) and

(f) knowledge generation through interactions and collaborations in their different areas of specialisation.

Over the years, we have seen collaborations between our academic members and students, and we were thrilled with the exposure that our students have received as some have presented conference papers and excelled during events such as the Hackathons.

FoNAS staff (Academic and Administrative) members are customer oriented as they strive to offer a one-stop-shop to support teaching and learning. They believe in creating a friendly environment to ensure access, retention, and success. FoNAS seeks to give the best service to all our students without discriminating.

FoNAS has beautiful buildings equipped with state-of-the-art teaching and research equipment along with allocated dedicated study space and seminar rooms for postgraduate studies.

FoNAS was the first at SPU to host a postdoctoral fellow and to establish interdisciplinary Science Research Centres, namely the Risk and Vulnerability Science Centre and the Centre for Applied Data Science. In 2022 and 2023, promoted several projects aimed at addressing the RVSC's niche area, namely "Studying global change, tackling local impacts". PG students are involved in these projects and are sponsored by RVSC.

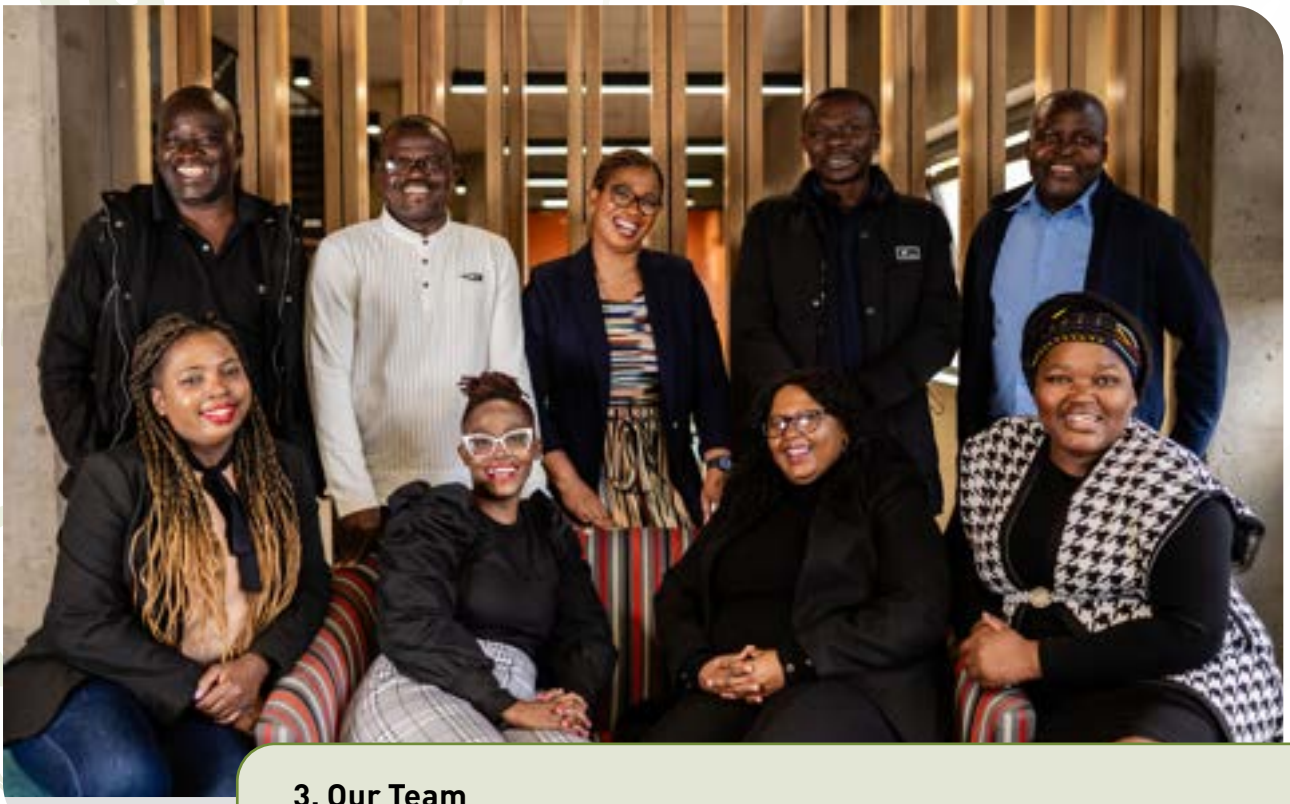
Contact Details:

Faculty Registrar:

Ms. Nobulali Mathimba
Email: nobulali.mathimba@spu.ac.za

Faculty Post Graduate Admin:

Ms. Unathi Mqongwana
Email: unathi.mqongwana@spu.ac.za



3. Our Team

FoNAS has a dedicated team of five Administrators whose role is to quality assure every administrative process (Applications, Admissions, Registration, Examinations and Graduations) by ensuring adherence and compliance to University policies and procedures. This team also acts as student advisors as they are the first point of call by engaging students in assisting them.

In addition to the Administration team, FoNAS has six PG coordinators (1 per discipline). Their role is to ensure that all research project-related matters are streamlined in an attempt to assist PG students.

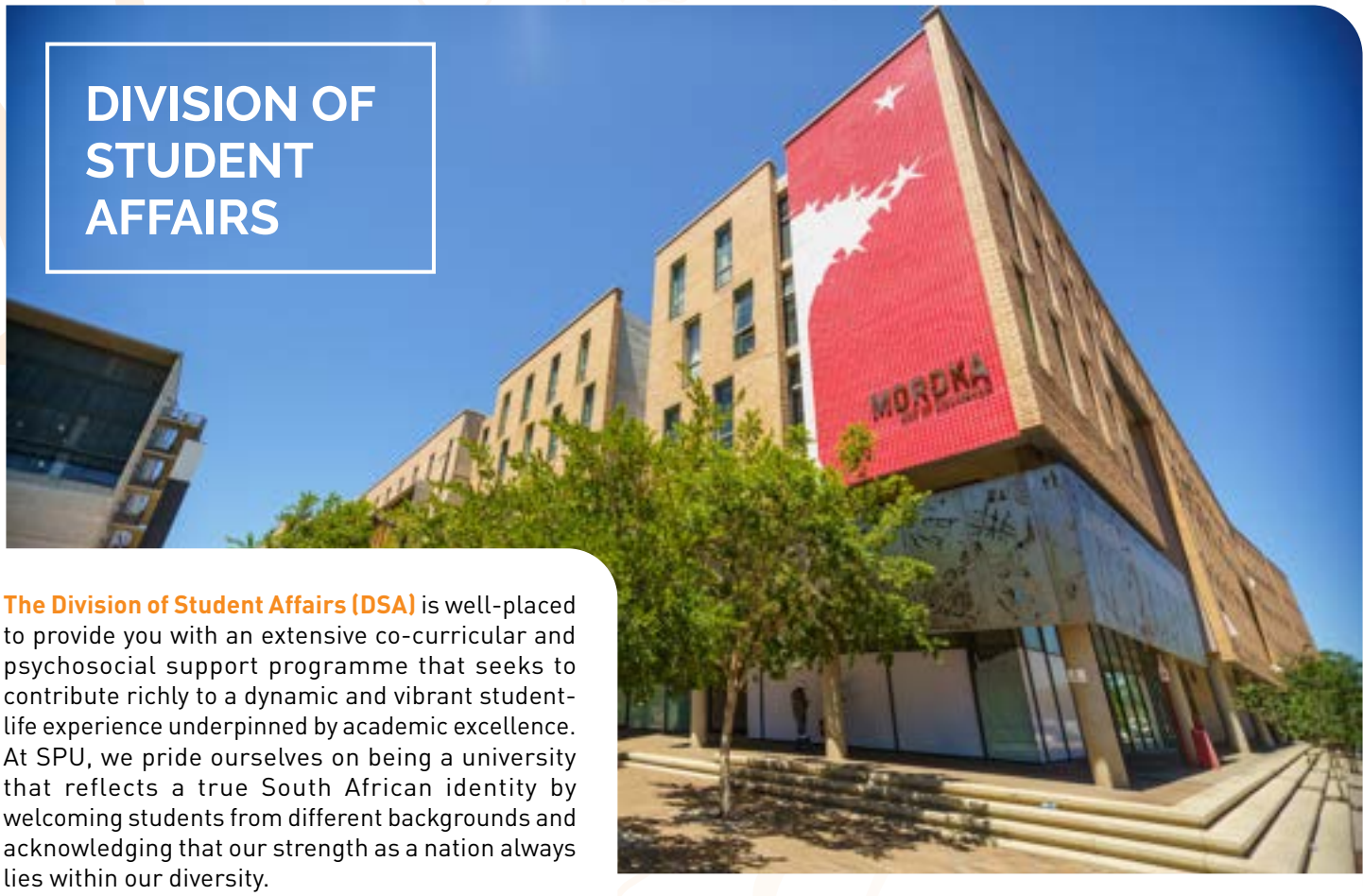
4. In 2025, FoNAS will offer the following programmes:

Name of Qualification	Minimum duration of study
1.Bachelor of Science Honours in Biological Sciences (Botany and Zoology)	1 year
2. Bachelor of Science Honours in Computer Science	1 year
3. Bachelor of Science Honours in Data Science	1 year
4. Bachelor of Science Honours in Mathematical Sciences (Applied Mathematics, Mathematics and Statistics)	1 year
5. Bachelor of Science Honours in Physical Sciences (Chemistry, Geography and Physics)	1 year
6. Master of eScience	2 years
7. MSc in Biological Sciences (Research only)	2 years

5. What can a PG student look forward to in 2025?

The year 2025 is going to be a very exciting one at FoNAS. The Faculty has started planning for the new year to ensure an early start for all our students – an early start will result in more time for consultation and support which will then lead to an early finish and achievement of the desired output.

Support Divisions



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) is well-placed to provide you with an extensive co-curricular and psychosocial support programme that seeks to contribute richly to a dynamic and vibrant student-life experience underpinned by academic excellence. At SPU, we pride ourselves on being a university that reflects a true South African identity by welcoming students from different backgrounds and acknowledging that our strength as a nation always lies within our diversity.

With the foundational values entrenched in the Constitution being equality, dignity, and freedom, the University endeavours to provide a nurturing environment with the fundamental philosophy of leading with care at the helm of our student-centric approach. Centred on our ethos of care for fellow human beings, other life forms, the natural environment, and self, the very essence of ubuntu is entrenched in the DSA's holistic student support offering.

The DSA will take care of you by providing you with an array of extensive student support and developmental programmes. These have been deliberately designed to ensure you unlock and reach your full potential. In fostering the ethos of community-building, it is integral to know [carry on here ...]that community is important at SPU which espouses that by creating opportunities to centre community engagement as a scholarly activity. Through a collaborative integrated approach, we purposefully work with internal and external stakeholders in creating and ensuring seamless integration.

Effective academic-life balance is achieved through socially cohesive relationships created with our strong student communities, comprehensive sports offerings, clubs, and societies. The Student Representative Council (SRC) serves the interest of the entire SPU student commitments without partiality, bias, or prejudice. Our co-curricular offering is expanded into a variety of key support areas, including career services, peer mentoring, comprehensive health and wellness services, arts and culture, living and learning communities, and student life and development initiatives in contributing to key graduate attributes.

Choosing to study at #MySPU is the best choice for ambitious young people. The DSA echoes the Spirit of SPU and the beautiful City of Kimberley. Here you will find a home away from home and experience the care, protection and support you deserve.

MS NICOLE MORRIS: DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS UNITS

Accommodation (CAHAU)

The Campus Housing and Accommodation Unit heartily welcomes all students who have been offered accommodation in both our on-campus and our accredited off-campus accommodation. At Sol Plaatje University, we are keen on building strong relationships that exist among the students living together in an environment that is conducive to living and learning. Our residences are spaces that are nurturing and caring and create enabling spaces that build a residence culture to unite all students under the banner of Campus Housing and Accommodation.

Visit Facebook @SolPlaatjeUniversityResidences. For inquiries regarding on-campus accommodation please email mbokodo.mbatha@spu.ac.za and for off-campus accommodation please email adonis.shikwambana@spu.ac.za

Student Life and Development

The Student Life and Development (SLD) unit is responsible for student governance, student development, career services, and arts and culture. The unit is responsible for student support, development, and co-curricular activities. The unit seeks to provide students with a holistic SPU student experience through providing a conducive environment for students to be critical thinkers, innovative, and change agents, as well as promoting servant leadership. The unit offers a range from formal leadership development courses, student leadership programmes, seminars, and dialogues anchored in leadership development, citizenship development initiatives, and volunteer opportunities, amongst others. These development and training programmes seek to enhance and maximize students' leadership potential and create a vibrant student body.

For more information regarding the Student Life and Development Unit of the Division of Student Affairs, please email Buntu Mnyaka at buntu.mnyaka@spu.ac.za or studentaffairs.inquiries@spu.ac.za.

Student Health and Wellness

The Student Health and Wellness Centre is located on the ground floor of the New Academic Building on Central Campus and offers free services to all registered SPU students. We commit ourselves to creating and ensuring a conducive, efficient, and student-friendly environment to enhance holistic student health and wellness.

Email: mpho.setlhabi@spu.ac.za. or in person to book an appointment with Ms. Mpho Setlhabi.

SPU Sport

SPU Sports contributes to the development and overall well-being of students by embracing diversity and providing the students with the necessary opportunities and resources. Our aim is to develop holistic students by fostering their physical, social, and emotional well-being. We provide the desired student experience by maximizing sport participation, both recreationally and competitively.

At SPU we are rooted in our "SPORTS FOR ALL" policy and offer 17 different sporting codes, including a gym, which are all-inclusive. This means EVERYONE is welcome to join, regardless of your gender, religion, sexuality, or level of sports experience. SPU Sport teams are known as the "Gemmies". The SPU Sport Office is currently located at the Moroka Hall of Residences on Central Campus in the Student Affairs Block.

For more information, please email elmien.cloete@spu.ac.za

Division of Student Affairs Unit

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA), situated on Central Campus, at the Moroka Hall of Residences, Block C003, offers holistic development in inclusive, supportive environments that enable students to flourish.

Contact Details:

Senior Manager: Student Life and Development
Mr. Buntu Mnyaka
E-mail: buntu.mnyaka@spu.ac.za
Tel: 053 491 0520

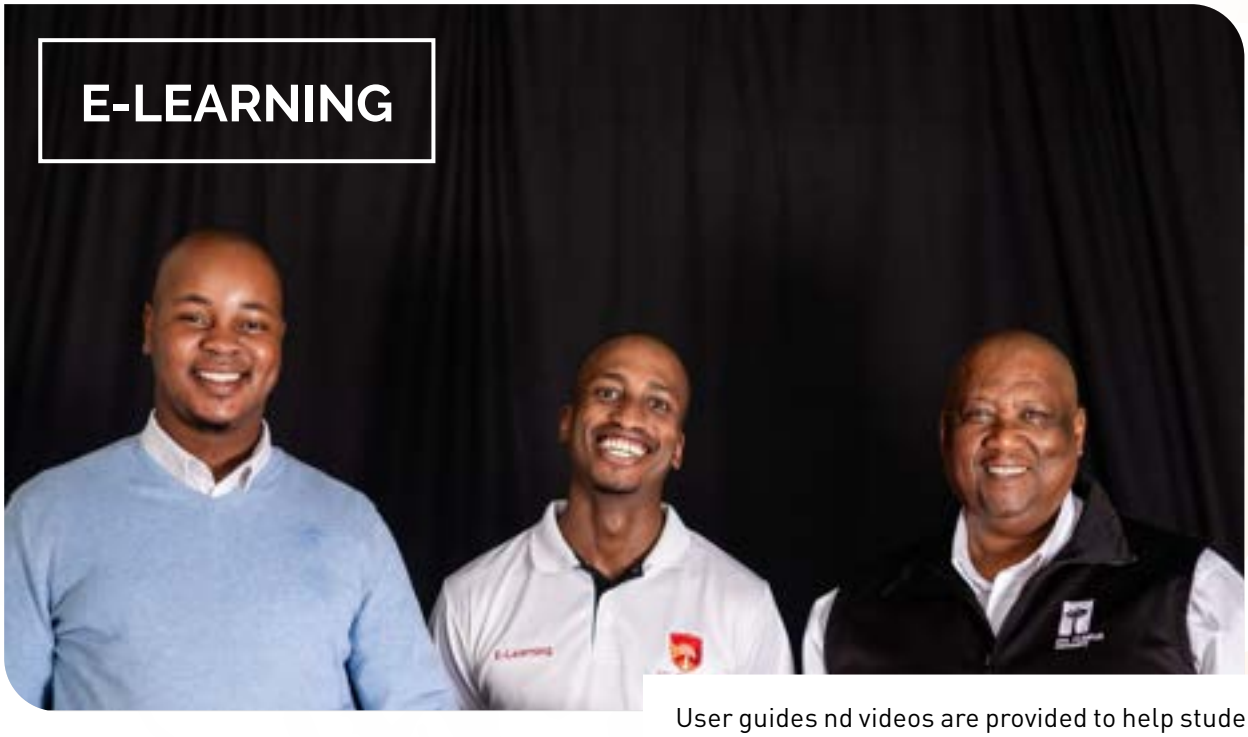
Social Worker
Ms. Thabitha Maphalle
Email: Thabita.maphalle@spu.ac.za
Tel: 053 491 0517

Primary Health Care Nurse
Sr. Mpho Setlhabi
E-mail: MphoGift.Setlhabi@spu.ac.za
Tel: 053 491 0290

Career Services
Ms. Zipho Msimango
Email: Zipho.msimango@spu.ac.za
Tel: 053 491 0043

Executive Secretary to Dean of Student Affairs
Ms. Yumna Moodaley Du-Toit
E-mail: yumna.mdutoit@spu.ac.za
Tel: 053 491 0120 H

E-LEARNING



E-Learning Unit: Postgraduate Student Support in 2025

The role of the support staff within the E-Learning unit is of key significance in ensuring the success of postgraduate students at Sol Plaatje University (SPU). The E-learning unit provides an overview of the functions undertaken by this dedicated team, clarifying their responsibilities, contributions, and the impact they have on the students' online learning experience. Within this context, this report provides an overview of the support services offered by the team members, including Mr. Godfrey Rudolph godfrey.rudolph@spu.ac.za, Mr. Fortune Marumo fortune.marumo@spu.ac.za, Mr. Lesedi Molusi lesedi.molusi@spu.ac.za, and Ms. Tlhalefo Mokopudi tlhalefo.mokopudi@spu.ac.za, as they collectively work towards enhancing the quality of e-learning resources and services for our postgraduate community.

The E-Learning unit within the Centre for Teaching Learning and Programme Development (CTLPD) is dedicated to building strong partnerships with postgraduate students on the promotion of exceptional online and blended learning experiences. This unit incorporates the management of digital learning content and the creation of online courses. Within this context, the E-Learning team is ready to provide comprehensive assistance to postgraduate students on a range of e-tools and online platforms. A dedicated service desk is available to assist students with any issues they encounter on the online platforms. Orientation or webinars are offered to familiarise students with the online learning platforms and e-tools available to them.

User guides nd videos are provided to help students navigate the online environment effectively. The E-Learning unit can also help students create multimedia content, such as videos, simulations, and podcast sessions. Support is provided to students who need help with troubleshooting issues related to accessing and using the Learning Management System (LMS). Access is also provided to library guides to support postgraduate research and coursework. The E-learning unit plays a crucial role in supporting postgraduate students, ensuring that they have access to the resources, guidance, and technology needed to excel on their academic journey.

Our commitment to enhancing the learning experience of students is evident through our support for the following e-tools and platforms:

Moodle

- This is an LMS that serves as the backbone of our online education environment and learning interface for students;
- Postgraduate students are granted access to Moodle, the University's LMS;
- Comprehensive onboarding sessions, user guides, and tutorials are provided to ensure that students can navigate the platform effectively;
- Our team is available to assist students with any technical issues related to the LMS, including login problems, content access, and course enrolment;
- Postgraduate students are offered assistance in uploading and organising course materials, assignments, and discussions on the platform.

MS Teams

- It provides a communication and collaboration platform that promotes interaction among lecturers and students and for stimulating engagement; and
- Training is provided during orientation to help students use the platform effectively for virtual meetings, group projects, and discussions

Turnitin

- This is our plagiarism detection service that ensures academic integrity and originality in student work and
- Training is provided on how to submit assignments, interpret Turnitin originality reports, and maintain academic integrity.

Panopto

- This is an online screen recording tool, enabling lecturers to create engaging and informative learning content for the students;
- Access is provided to Panopto for recorded lectures, presentations, and video content; and
- Video tutorials and user guides are provided for creating, editing, and uploading content.

IntelliBoardNext

- This is an analytics and reporting tool that offers valuable insights into LMS usage, helping lecturers refine their teaching strategies and
- Training sessions are held to help students interpret analytics data to improve their academic performance.

Inspera

- This is an online assessment tool, both proctored and non-proctored, designed to facilitate fair and effective evaluation of student knowledge and skills;
- Guidance is provided for student participation in proctored online exams; and
- Technical support is available during online assessments.

It is important to note that all the e-tools and platforms mentioned above are integrated into our Moodle LMS, providing an integrated environment for our student community. The E- Learning unit is dedicated to supporting the academic success of our postgraduate students by providing comprehensive support for educational technology tools and online platforms. For enquiries, additional support, or feedback, please contact our service desk at ctlpd.enquiries@spu.ac.za

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Postgraduate Prospective: Library and Information Services for 2025

Sol Plaatje University Library is poised to be a smart library of value to student success, research production and impact.

We are committed to enhancing student success, research production and impact by offering seamless access to world-class information resources, valuable research advice, impactful research skills, inclusive learning spaces, and advanced information processing tools. Through smart technologies, personalized services, and collaborative efforts, we aim to drive the university's vision of becoming a digital-first institution while fostering a culture of innovation, efficiency, and sustainability.

Information Librarians for SPU Faculties

Each SPU faculty has a dedicated Information Librarian who specializes in providing top-notch services to the Faculties to which they are assigned. They form a vital link between the library and postgraduate students.

Names of Information Librarians for Faculties:

Faculty of Natural & Applied Sciences:
Ms. Mashia Shokane
mashia.shokane@spu.ac.za
Library and Resource Centre Building, 1st Floor, Room No 108
Tel: 053 491 0764

Faculty of Humanities:
Mrs. Gadibolae Moshotloa
gadibolae.moshotloa@spu.ac.za
Library and Resource Centre Building, 1st Floor, Room No 107
Tel: 053 491 0787

Faculty of Economics & Management Sciences:
Ms. Winkie Siebane
winkie.siebane@spu.ac.za
Library and Resource Centre Building, 1st Floor, Room No 106
Tel: 053 491 0673

Faculty of Education:
Ms. Sinah Molokisi
sinah.molokisi@spu.ac.za
Library and Resource Centre Building, 1st Floor, Room No 109
Tel: 053 491 0033

Our Services

1. Information resources

- Books, journal articles, videos, pictures, newspapers etc.

2. Information literacy training

- Identifying information needs.
- Searching and retrieving information effectively.
- Evaluating the credibility of sources.
- Ethical use of information (citing sources, avoiding plagiarism).
- Organizing and synthesizing information for research or academic purposes.

3. Librarian consultation include help with:

- In-depth literature searches
- Referencing and reference management tools
- Literature reviews
- Research data management planning
- Copyright and plagiarism
- Assignment support

4. Spaces

- Collaborative study rooms
- Computer lab
- Reading conner

5. Information management tools

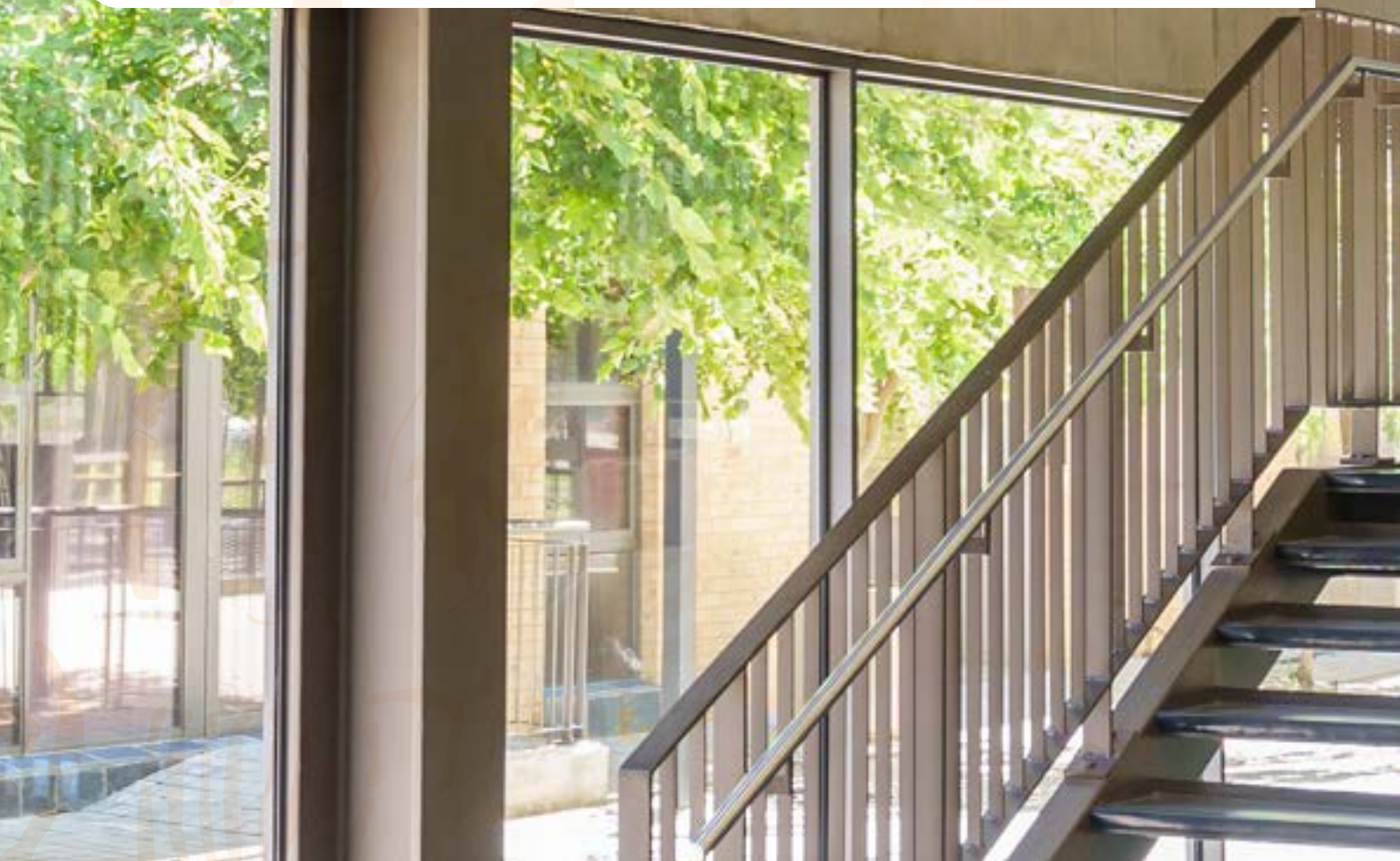
- Information discovery
- Reference management
- Digital library guides
- Citation analysis tool

Library Facilities

- 24-hour access to the ground floor
- Postgraduate computer labs
- Access to study/discussion rooms
- Wi-Fi

CHELSA Membership

The SPU LIS has signed a CHELSA agreement which allows postgraduate students who are not in Kimberley or are in other provinces to use a university library close to their location. A postgraduate student is required to contact the SPU LIS Senior Library Administrator for assistance with the application process to use another university library. This service is only available to registered M&D students. The student is expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the host institution.



STUDENT SUPPORT

Postgraduate Student Academic Support Programme

1. Introduction

Academic support is critical for student success in South African higher education institutions, including Sol Plaatje University in addition to the supervisory support provided to the postgraduate students throughout the research process. The Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Programme Development (CTLPD), in collaboration with Library and Research, provides intentional student-centred academic support to ensure that students experience quality education and succeed in their registered degrees. The student-centred support focuses on developing and enhancing the academic competencies of postgraduate students at SPU through orientation/ induction programmes, academic writing workshops presented by on-campus and invited experts, information and resources sharing, and developing a buddy system to enhance peer support. Two main academic support programmes are

- Academic Advising and
- Academic Writing

The student academic support programmes are accessible, inclusive, and lead to success. The objectives and the contact person for each faculty are outlined below. One-on-one and group sessions are available continuously throughout the year.

Academic Writing Support Programme Objective

The academic writing programme aims to increase postgraduate students' success through:

- creating a professional and positive writing environment for all postgraduate students;
- presenting academic writing workshops; and
- assisting students to identify their writing strengths and development areas.

Consultant: Mr. Sello Mashibini
Faculty of Education and Humanities

Email: sello.mashibini@spu.ac.za

Call: 053 491 0459

Academic Building, 2nd floor, Room 211

Consultant: Mr. Hendri Stander
Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and Natural and Applied Sciences

Email: hendri.stander@spu.ac.za

Call: 053 491 0502

Academic Building, 2nd Floor, Room 213

Academic Advising Support Programme Objective

Academic advising aims to facilitate a seamless transition into, through and out of higher education and provide clear progression pathways for students in registered programmes in the respective academic faculties. This is achieved through developing and enhancing students' problem-solving skills and resilience required to succeed in higher education.

Ms. Bonolo Morebodi: Faculty of Education

Email: bonolo.morebodi@spu.ac.za

Call: 053 491 0765

Education Building, 3rd Floor, Room 321

Mr. Brendan Thomas: Faculty of Humanities

Email: brendan.thomas@spu.ac.za

Call: 053 491 0573

Heritage Studies & Humanities Building- Office 244, 2nd Floor.

Ms. Boipelo Leeuw: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Email: boipelo.leeuw@spu.ac.za

Call: 053 491 0029

Academic Building, 3rd Floor, Room 332

Ms. Letlotlo Seane: Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences

Email: letlotlo.seane@spu.ac.za

Call: 053 491 0022

NAS Building (C006), 2nd floor, Room 3.

For more information:

Research Office:
Central Campus, EMS Building, 1st Floor
Labram, Kimberley 8301,
Northern Cape

www.spu.ac.za