



MASTERS DEGREE (MSW) IN FORENSIC PRACTICE

*Faculty of Health Sciences Potchefstroom Campus
School of Psychosocial Health
Social Work Division*

General Information: 2021/2022



Are You Dynamic?

Do you want to make a difference?

Then a Master's degree in Social Work: Forensic Practice is the
Profession for you

Admission requirements

- A four year Bachelor's degree in Social Work is required.
- Students enrolling for this programme must provide proof of registration as Social Worker as required by the Act on Social Service Professions 1978 (Act 110 of 1978).
- Candidates must have achieved an average of 60% in your final year of the BSW degree

Selection procedure

- An initial paper-based selection is done
- Submission of a mini-proposal
- Completion of an academic literacy test and/or psychometric test
- Each applicant will be subjected to a selection interview conducted by the post graduate panel of the subject group. For this purpose a structured interview schedule will be used and the average of panellist's ratings will serve as selection criterion.

Closing date for applications

- 30 September of year prior to study commencement.

Frequently asked questions about Forensic Social Work

- ***Can any student with a degree enrol for the Masters Programme in Forensic Social Work?***

No, the requirement for the Master's degree in Forensic Social Work is a four year degree in Social Work and registration with the South African Council for Social Work Professions (SACSSP).

- ***Is it full time or part time?***

There are two options available which has an influence on the bursary. A full time student will receive a full bursary on condition the programme is completed in two years. However the student can only register full time if they are unemployed.

The Master's program comprises of two years, the first year is theoretical which includes 7 weeks of classes during the year, it is important that you attend all 7 weeks of these classes. You will also be examined orally as well as regular tests and exams on the modules. You will be allocated a research supervisor to assist you with your research study.

- ***How long is the course?***

The Master's degree in Forensic Social Work is a two year degree. During the first year there will be theoretical classes, the second year will include the completion of the Masters dissertation. If all modules are successfully completed in the first year, then the student will not need to attend classes during their second year.

- ***Is the research dissertation compulsory?***

Yes

- ***I graduated in 1993, can I still apply for the Master's degree in Forensic Social Work?***

Yes, provided that you are registered with the SACSSP and achieved an average of 60% in your final year of the BSW degree

- ***Is the course offered anywhere else besides Potchefstroom?***

No, it is only offered at Potchefstroom campus

If I can't attend all the classes required, what will happen?

You will be requested to repeat the specific module that you missed

Is the course offered in English or Afrikaans?

The course is presented in English; however examinations and interviews can be in English or Afrikaans. Class discussions are also in English and Afrikaans.

Does the course include assignments and examinations?

The course includes assignments, examinations as well as oral and practical assignments

How many students are accepted for the course?

10 – 12 students per year

Do I need experience in forensic social work before I apply for the course?

No, but it would be beneficial to have some sort of experience in the field of child protection to be able to understand the theory related to forensic social work.

What does the selection process entail?

A language test, in-depth interview and a mock court trial. We usually do a paper selection and then invite 30 students.

When are the dates for the selection process?

During October

When do applications close?

30 September.

Programme Manager

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