

MASTERS DEGREE (MSW) IN CHILD PROTECTION

Faculty of Health Sciences Potchefstroom Campus
School of Psychosocial Health
Department of Social Work



**Are You
Dynamic?**

Do you want to make a difference?

**Then a Master's degree in Social Work: Child protection is
the Profession for you**

General Information: 2023/2024





Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW): Child Protection

(Program code for application form: 8EU P01: G801P)

PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAMME

The SA Government has committed itself to promoting and protecting the rights of children, as well as implementing a “first call for children”. This commitment was further reinforced by the ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child during 2000. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was also signed by the SA government

The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), approved by the cabinet in 2013, provides a holistic framework for the integration of all policies and plans developed by government departments and civil society to promote the well-being of children. The Children’s Act (38 of 2005) adopts a developmental approach that emphasizes the role of the state in the provision of social services to **strengthen the capacity of families and communities to care for and protect children.**

The North West University offers a two-year **COURSE WORK MSW-PROGRAMME IN CHILD PROTECTION.** This master’s degree provides the opportunity for social workers to become experts in identifying and prioritizing actions which will contribute to building an integrated and strengthened child protection system. The programme strives to deliver social workers who have the ability, based on their knowledge of the vulnerability of the child to, manage the practices of **ADOPTION, FOSTER CARE and ALTERNATIVE CARE** with refined expertise within the framework of child protection. This is achieved by applying the **best interests of the child** as standard within the field of child protection.

Admission requirements

A four year Bachelor’s degree in Social Work

Proof of registration as a 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 the BSW degree

Selection procedure

Online application

An initial paper based selection is done

Completion of an academic literacy test and/or psychometric test

A selection interview conducted by the post graduate subject group panel.

Closing date for applications

31 July of year prior to study commencement.

COURSE CONTENT

RESEARCH METHODS & DISSERTATION

- Knowledge on research methodology
- Execute a research project in the field of child protection

THE FIELD OF CHILD PROTECTION

- Demarcation of the field
- Purposes of child protection
- Documents shaping the child protection field in South Africa
- The standard of the best interests of the child

ASSESSMENT & INTERVENTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- Child development within an ecosystems perspective;
- Child abuse and neglect within context;
- Types of vulnerable children in South Africa;
- Models of child assessment & intervention strategies

ALTERNATIVE CARE MODELS AND STRATEGIES

- Advanced knowledge on alternative care within the framework of South African child care legislation and policy;
- Plan and implement intervention strategies for the different forms of alternative care;
- Provide supervision to social workers in the field of alternative care;
- Recruitment, selection and training of foster parents
- Understand the effect of child trauma and develop intervention strategies

ADOPTION AS SPECIALIZATION

- Developments in the adoption arena
- The legal frame of adoption
- The adoption process
- Adoption aftercare services



MANNER OF PRESENTATION AND DURATION OF PROGRAM

The Master's program comprises of two years, the first year is theoretical which includes 8 weeks of classes during the first year, it is important that you attend all 8 weeks of these classes. You will also be examined orally as well as regular tests and exams on the modules. 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. You will be allocated a research supervisor to assist you with your research study.

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ROUTE TO POST GRADUATE STUDIES

- ❖ The application form is available [online](#) (click on 'online' link). The contact person at the Post Graduate Administration is Mrs. Lisnet Louw (018 299 2465) or you can e-mail her at Lisnet.Louw@nwu.ac.za
- ❖ The following documents must accompany your application:
 - A certified copy of your identity document.
 - A certified copy of your complete academic record that includes your final results of qualifications
 - Proof of registration at the SACSSP
- ❖ Candidates who pass the first round of "paper selection" will be provided with detailed information regarding the rest of the process. This includes a psychometric test as well as a selection interview.
- ❖ An amount of R300.00 must be paid towards the psychometric test. Details will be communicated.



Financial information:

- ❖ Scholarships:
- ❖ For information about scholarships and application forms, please contact Susan vd Westhuizen (018 2992051) or e-mail her at Susan.VanDerWesthuizen@nwu.ac.za
- ❖ Fundi is the preferred provider of study loans. Contact Fundi on 0860 55 55 44 or apply at <https://my.fundi.co.za>



Ph.D.

The highest academic qualification in Social Work during which the student makes an original contribution to the subject area that should be delivered by means of independent research.

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