



Faculty of  
Health Sciences



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**MASTER DEGREE  
(MSW) IN FORENSIC  
PRACTICE (NORTH-  
WEST UNIVERSITY)**

# MASTERS DEGREE (MSW) IN FORENSIC PRACTICE

## 1. Duration (minimum and maximum)

The minimum duration for the study is one year and the maximum duration two years, calculated from the date of first registration for the programme. The faculty's decision is based on the current subsidy model for universities and may differ from other faculties or regulations.

Students who apply for an additional study year according to the Academic rules of the University, must note that it will have financial implications for them.

## 2. Admission requirement of the qualification

- A four-year Bachelor's degree in Social Work is required.
- Students enrolling for this programme must provide 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 your final year of the BSW degree.

## 3. Selection Requirements

### 3.1. Application Process

#### Selection procedure

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

#### Closing date for applications

- 31 July of year prior to study commencement.

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Forensic Social Work**

### **Can any student with a degree enroll 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 programme 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 Master's mini-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

**For any further  
information, please  
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