

MA / MSC PROGRAMMES IN GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

FACULTYOF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Programme Coordinator: Prof A. Van Niekerk (021) 808 3101 | avn@sun.ac.za

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Everything you need online at www.sun.ac.za/english/students/

ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY

How to obtain an application form or APPLY ONLINE: www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/

For enquiries send an email to info@sun.ac.za or phone +27 21 808 9111

Address: The Registrar, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND 7602

Closing dates for application: 30 October

BURSARIES AND LOANS

Stellenbosch University offers various merit bursaries, sports bursaries, bursaries for studies in specific faculties or departments, general bursaries and bursary loans for needy students (see Calendar Part 2).

Website: www0.sun.ac.za/international/postgraduate-student-funding

Tel: 021 808 4208

E-mail: postgradfunding@sun.ac.za

Address: The Registrar (Head: Postgraduate Bursaries and Loans), Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1,

MATIELAND 7602

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TUITION FEES

Website: www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/fees.html

Tel: +27 21 808-9111 **E-mail:** info@sun.ac.za

ACCOMMODATION

The same prescribed application form is used for applications for admission to a programme and to accommodation in a University Residence.

Website: www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/living-in-stellenbosch/accommodaton.html

University accommodation: Apply online or contact 021 808 9111 for an application form.

Private accommodation: Student Housing Office, Tel 021 808 2848

Closing date for applications: 30 June of the year before accommodation is needed.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International (Non-South African) students must apply through the Stellenbosch University International Office, accessed at www0.sun.ac.za/international/

Address: International Office, Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, 7602 Matieland, South Africa

Tel: +2721 808 2565

E-mail: nrrhoda@sun.ac.za

Closing dates for international applications: 15 September for January semester

The University accepts no liability in regard to inaccuracies of content in this brochure, if any. Every reasonable care has been taken, however, to ensure that the relevant information is presented accurately.

GENERAL AIMS AND STRUCTURE OF THE MASTERS PROGRAMME

MA in Geography and Environmental Studies [49905-879 (NQF8: 100% Thesis)(180 credits)]
MSc in Geography and Environmental Studies [49913 -878 (NQF8: 100% Thesis)(180 credits)]

AIM AND FOCUS

The spatial focus which characterizes Geography as a discipline transcends the boundaries of numerous related disciplinary fields. This spatial perspective addresses the very real need for a holistic approach to understand and study the contemporary human-environmental interactions. Hence, the central aim of this research-orientated programme is for candidates to successfully apply their expertise to investigate human-environmental problems

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at an advanced level from a spatial perspective, applying the most recent theories methods and techniques in geographical analysis and synthesis. The programme focuses on the investigation and resolving of human-environmental issues, environmental disasters and urban or tourism phenomena from a spatial perspective.

NATURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Students are mentored to become independent researchers. Enquiry into the spatial dimensions of human-environment relationships and problems is pursued through research on a mutually agreed topic for each candidate. Directed and independent literature and experiential surveys lead to the development and drafting of a research proposal. Empirical investigation (sample surveys, field work and interviews) then follows, after which the collected data are analysed spatially and statistically, displayed graphically and cartographically, and finally interpreted and communicated in a scientific report.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A BA / BSc Honours degree in Geography and Environmental Studies or a related discipline
- An average of 60% is required for the Honours degree
- Acceptance of a research proposal. Following initial admission, candidates are invited to submit a research proposal.

ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION

The candidate and the supervisor agree on an approved research topic that culminates in a thesis of 30 000 - 40 000 words demonstrating the candidate's ability to do independent research on a geographical problem. It is examined according to the University's prescriptions in Part 1 of the Calender. Masters candidates are expected to report back at prescribed dates regarding their progress made on their research report. Furthermore, candidates are expected to complete the first draft of the full thesis within 12 months and publish their findings in an accredited academic journal with the supervisor as co-author.

A research topic may be formulated from within the following list of themes in which our research staff specialises:

- Tourism and regional development, Crime and tourism destination image, Responsible tourism development, Tourism and transfrontier parks, Tourism and small towns;
- Urban risk research, Urban social geography, Urban geography;
- Public spaces, Gated developments, Geographies and security, Small town geographies, Urban social geographies, Retirement geographies;
- Climate change, flooding risk assessment.

In addition, and depending on the selected topic and formal qualifications already obtained, candidates may enrol (at no additional cost) for a number of the taught course modules offered in the department.

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MILESTONE DATES

APPLICATION YEAR:

Before end October Year-1 Candidates apply to university

Early December Year -1 Invited Candidates submit tentative research proposal

Middle December Year -1 Department dispatches final acceptance letter to accepted candidates

FIRST REGISTERED YEAR:

End January Year 1 First orientation meeting at the Department (compulsory attendance)

End August Candidates submit thesis for December Graduation

End October Candidates submit thesis for March Graduation (2nd registered year)