

2.14 Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Development

Please note: An application has been submitted to change the title of this programme to Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainability Transitions. This change will be implemented once the amended title has been approved by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the change has been registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Admission requirements

- Any bachelor's or BTech degree or a relevant four-year diploma (NQF level 7) with a 65% pass mark in one of the following major subjects. Relevant work experience will also be considered for admission.
 - Public and Development Management,
 - Town and Regional Planning,
 - Housing,
 - Architecture,
 - Civil/Structural/Mechanical/Electrical Engineering,
 - Land Surveying,
 - Geology,
 - Geography and Environmental Studies,
 - Ecology/Nature, Conservation,
 - Forestry,
 - Botany,
 - Zoology,
 - Mathematics,
 - Statistics,
 - Economics,
 - Agricultural Economics,
 - Transport Economics,
 - Sociology,
 - Social Sciences,
 - Psychology,
 - Any other major discipline approved by the Programme Committee.
- *or*
- For applications based on the recognition of prior learning (RPL): Any tertiary qualification at NQF level 6 and five years of relevant working experience.

Your qualifications and experience must comply with the RPL regulations of the University, the Faculty and the Centre for Sustainability Transitions, respectively (for more on RPL and links to the regulations, see the chapter "General Information" at the beginning of this book).

Selection

The number of students selected will be influenced by, among other things, staff capacity and the availability of resources within the Centre, as well as academic merit and University transformation objectives. As staff capacity and resources may fluctuate from year to year, the number of students selected can also differ from year to year.

Should the number of applicants that meet the admission requirements exceed the available capacity of the Centre for Sustainability Transitions, the applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria to finalise the selection list:

- Academic excellence: consistent academic performance over and above 65%.
- Work and/or social development experience: relevant and related work and/or social development experience evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- A well-written motivation letter that demonstrates clarity of thinking and logical expression in the written form, as well as proficiency in terms of language, grammar, presentation, and formatting.
- A motivation letter and curriculum vitae that demonstrates a commitment to professional development within the broad field of sustainable development.

Each applicant is scored a mark out of five for each of these criteria, and the total out of twenty is then used to rank the applications to meet the capacity of the class. The overall composition of the cohort is then considered to reflect a mix of disciplines and work/social development experience.

Application procedure and closing date

Application procedures and dates are advertised by the Centre in April of every year. For more information, contact the Centre at the details under "Enquiries" below.

Duration, offering type and starting date of programme

Duration: One year, full-time, or two years, part-time.

Starting date: January.

Provisions relating to the continuation and termination of studies

If you do not successfully complete 30 credits of coursework in your first year of study (including Sustainability Transitions and Transformations 776), you will not be permitted to register for the second year of study.

Programme's mode of delivery

Hybrid learning.

Enquiries and programme leader

Enquiries

Please direct your queries to:

Ms Ntobsie Ngcwenga
Programme administrator
Centre for Sustainability Transitions
Tel: 021 808 9439
E-mail: ngcwenga@sun.ac.za
Website: www0.sun.ac.za/cst

Programme leader

Dr Megan Davies
Centre for Sustainability Transitions

Programme structure

Modules are presented at venues on the Stellenbosch University main campus as well as various external venues. Venues for all modules are communicated at the start of the academic year. The programme is composed of coursework consisting of two compulsory and six elective modules. It is presented in a hybrid format, consisting of one five-day contact session per module spread over the year (the module framework of a given module may specify a longer duration for the contact session). Contact sessions are supplemented with blended-learning activities. The rest of the study period comprises independent and structured self-study.

Programme content

You must earn a total of at least 120 credits for this programme.

Full-time students complete **two** compulsory modules and **six** electives in the year. **Part-time students** are advised to complete **one** compulsory module and **three** elective modules in year 1, and then again **one** compulsory module and **three** elective modules in year 2. Please consult with the Centre for Sustainability Transitions if you need guidance on structuring your part-time programme.

Compulsory foundation modules (30 credits)

Code	Module	Credits	Module Name	Semester
14942	776	15	Sustainability Transitions and Transformations	Both
14941	775	15	Leadership for Sustainability Transitions and Transformations	Both

Elective modules (90 credits)

Choose altogether six modules from the three lists below to make up at least 120 credits.

Code	Module	Credits	Module Name	Semester
14938	773	15	Biodiversity and Climate Change	Both
13702	771	15	Capita Selecta: Comparative Studies in Sustainable and Regenerative Social-ecological Systems	Both
14935	772	15	Complexity Literacy and Systems Worldviews	Both
14937	772	15	Water and Food Nexus	Both
14940	772	15	Governance and Institutional Change	Both
14936	772	15	Financing Just Energy Transitions	Both
14939	776	15	Just and Sustainable Urbanisms	Both

Please note: Not all modules are necessarily offered every year. Please contact the Centre for Sustainability Transitions to find out which modules will be available.

Postgraduate Programmes

1. General information for all postgraduate programmes

The information in this section applies to most of the postgraduate programmes and is not repeated for each programme, so please read it through carefully. Exceptions and deviations are, however, indicated at the individual programmes.

1.1 Postgraduate programmes in the Faculty

The table below lists the postgraduate programmes up to master's level by the department, school or centre where they are offered. The campus or facility is indicated in italics where necessary. All departments, schools and centres also offer a PhD programme. For more on the PhD, see the doctoral section at the end of this chapter.

Africa Centre for Inclusive Health Management
PGDip (HIV/Aids Management)
MPhil (HIV/Aids Management)
Centre for Sustainability Transitions (CST)
PGDip (Sustainable Development)
MPhil (Sustainable Development)
Department of Business Management
PGDip (Marketing)
BComHons (Business Management)
MCom (Business Management)
Department of Economics
BComHons (Economics)
BComHons (Economics and Mathematical Statistics) [with the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science]
MCom (Economics)
Department of Industrial Psychology
PGDip (Strategic Human Resource Management)
BComHons (Human Resource Management)
BComHons (Industrial Psychology)
MCom (Human Resource Management)
MCom (Industrial Psychology)
Department of Logistics
PGDip (Transport and Logistics)
BComHons (Logistics Management)
BComHons (Operations Research)
BComHons (Transport Economics)
MCom (Logistics Management)
MCom (Operations Research)
MCom (Transport Economics)
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
PGDip (Actuarial Science)
BComHons (Actuarial Science)
BComHons (Economics and Mathematical Statistics) [with the Department of Economics]
BComHons (Financial Risk Management)
BComHons (Mathematical Statistics)
BComHons (Statistics)
MCom (Actuarial Science)
MCom (Financial Risk Management)
MCom (Mathematical Statistics)
MCom (Statistics)

School of Accountancy
PGDip (Accounting)
BComHons (Management Accounting)
BAccHons
MCom (Computer Auditing)
MCom (Financial Accounting)
MCom (Management Accounting)
MCom (Taxation)
MAcc (Auditing)
MAcc (Financial Accounting)
MAcc (Taxation)
School of Public Leadership (SPL), <i>Bellville Park</i>
PGDip (Environmental Management) <i>Stellenbosch</i>
PGDip (Public Finance Management)
BComHons (Public and Development Management)
BPubAdminHons
MCom (Public and Development Management)
M (Public Administration)
MPhil (Environmental Management) <i>Stellenbosch</i>
Stellenbosch Business School, <i>Bellville Park</i>
PGDip (Business Management and Administration)
PGDip (Development Finance)
PGDip (Financial Planning)
PGDip (Futures Studies)
PGDip (Leadership Development)
PGDip (Project Management)
MPhil (Development Finance)
MPhil (Futures Studies)
MPhil (Management Coaching)
MBA

1.2 Undergraduate module requirements for postgraduate programmes

In Appendix D to this Yearbook part, you will find a table showing the minimum module requirements for admission to certain postgraduate programmes. Review this table to determine whether you meet the requirements for the postgraduate programme you wish to follow.

1.3 Selection

Every postgraduate programme in the Faculty is potentially a selection programme since the capacity of the relevant department determines the number of students that can be accommodated in each programme. This means that selection happens when more candidates apply than the department can accommodate in a specific programme. There are, however, also programmes where selection always happens, regardless of how many candidates apply. Departments may choose to list specific requirements and criteria at the relevant programme entries below or on their website or in the programme brochure.

1.4 Postgraduate assessment and examination

- Assessment is determined at modular level; therefore, consult the relevant module framework for more information.
- For the Faculty postgraduate assessment rules, you can consult the Faculty website at www.sun.ac.za/ems and look under "Current students" and then "General information" to find the link "EMS Postgraduate Assessment Rules".
- For more information and the general rules on assessment, see Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook, under "Assessments and Promotions".

- For the general specifications for assignments, theses, and dissertations, consult the section "Postgraduate Qualifications" in Part 1 (General Rules) of the Yearbook.
- For specific information relating to the assignment, thesis or dissertation for an individual programme, consult the programme administrator or leader or relevant programme documentation.

1.5 Pass requirements for postgraduate programmes

The pass mark for postgraduate programmes is 50% and to pass with distinction you need 75%. More detailed information on pass requirements for individual programmes is available from the relevant programme administrator or leader.

1.6 Different campuses and facilities

Some postgraduate programmes are presented by the Stellenbosch Business School or the School for Public Leadership, both of which are on the Bellville Park campus of the University. The School of Public Leadership also presents classes at the Sustainability Institute at Lynedoch. The place where a particular diploma programme will be presented, if not Stellenbosch campus, is indicated below for each individual Programme under "Programme structure".

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Economic and Management Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Economic and Management Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section ***2. General provisions for postgraduate programmes.***