Admission Requirements

Any B.A. degree in social sciences. Third year political science is a prerequisite or a minimum of 8 modules of political science to the value of 60 credits

Structure of the programme

Students are required to accumulate credits to the value of 120. The fundamental and core modules are compulsory. From the list of electives students can design their own area of expertise. A maximum of two modules may be taken from another postgraduate programme.

Fundamental modules:

Research theory and application [20]

Core modules:

Political Philosophy [24]
Political Dynamics   [16]
Trends in South African Politics   [20]

Electives

Conflict and conflict processes [24]
Political Trends [17]
International Relations [20]
African Politics [20]

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

Change the World

Enquiries

Ms Danielle Barnes
T 041 504 1192
E Danielle.Barnes@mandela.ac.za
 www.mandela.ac.za

mandela.ac.za

Department of
Political and Conflict
Studies

Honours in
Political Science

INTRODUCTION

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University opened on 1 January 2005, the result of a merger of the PE Technikon, the University of Port Elizabeth and the PE campus of Vista University. Drawing on the merger partners' track record of more than a century of quality higher education, research and technological innovation, NMMU brings together the best of career-focused and academic education - a dual university offering both general and professionally oriented university programmes as well as technologically and career oriented programmes from the entrance level (certificate level) through to the research level (Ph D level). The University changed its name to Nelson Mandela University in July 2017.

Nelson Mandela University offers an exciting programme in Political Science that will cater for all needs in the market. This postgraduate programme will expose the student to research, political thinkers, African politics and democracy, international relations and South African Politics. This year-long Honours programme will ensure that students have the necessary skills to engage in effective socio-political analysis around various issues in Africa, South Africa and the world.

There are no limits to your dreams, whether you are a future academic, political economist, political journalist, diplomat or foreign policy expert.

The curriculum

Research theory and application:
This module introduces the student to the research process and provides the student with the necessary skills to successfully conduct a research project. It is a skills orientated module that will equip the students with essential research skills in a knowledge-generating era.

Political Philosophy (SLP 400)
Classical political philosophy. Contemporary political philosophy. African political philosophy.

Political Dynamics (SLR 400)
The relevance of political theory. Understanding the debates surrounding democracy. State transformations and democratisations. Forms of state and governments. Types of legislatures. The dynamics of political participation, political organisations and political leadership.

Trends in South African Politics (SLP 404)
Literature review of post-1999 South African Politics. The politics of coalitions and opposition. The politics of development, delivery and demonstrations. Obstacles to the stability of the South African democracy

Conflict and conflict processes (SLU 400)
Definitions, theories and approaches to conflict. Analysing and explaining conflict from various theoretical framework. The process of conflict. Conflict resolution techniques and models.

Political Trends (SLT 400)
Debates surrounding the state in an era of globalisation. Debates surrounding the compatibility thesis and globalisation. Theories and debates on an emerging new world order. New issues in political studies. Religion, terrorism and politics in the post-Cold War era.

International Relations and world politics (SLZ 400)
Theoretical perspectives on the study of international relations. Hierarchy and structure of the international system. Relationship between state and non-state actors. International relations, globalisation, and the spread of democracy. Terror and nuclear proliferation in the era of globalisation. Economic development and globalisation: Paradoxes in the First and the Third World.

African Politics (SLX 400)
A study of the various factors inhibiting development in Africa in line with Political and development theory. Case studies focus.