

OUR JOURNEY CONTINUES

towards excellence and impact

QUICK STATS

2025 | 2026

Since its 2004 merger, the NWU has over the past two decades evolved into a globally impactful institution, driven by innovation, resilience, and transformation. Embracing change, 4IR technologies, and societal challenges. It is a continued journey towards excellence, social justice, and making a lasting difference.

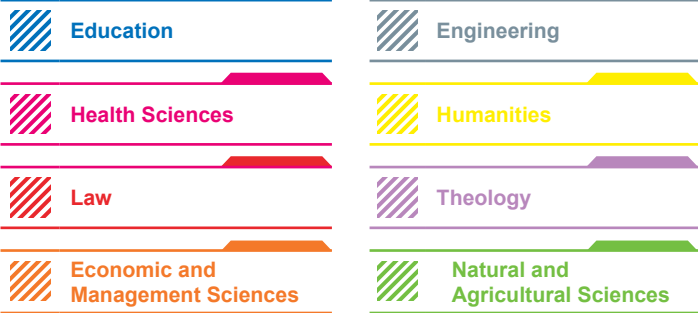
OUR STRATEGY

Taking the NWU forward – 2024 and beyond to discover new frontiers and opportunities that benefit society, highlighting our relevance and impact.

OUR MISSION

To benefit society through the provision of knowledge, excelling in innovative teaching, cutting-edge research and focused engagement with the community.

THE NWU HAS EIGHT FACULTIES:



Prof Bismark Tyobeka
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
Chief executive and accounting officer, responsible to the NWU Council



85,6% Success rate:
NWU undergraduate success rate for contact students in 2024
(The national average for 2023 was 81,6%)

93,8%
NWU undergraduate success rate for distance students in 2024
(The national average for 2023 was 70,9%)

23,2% Graduate rate:
NWU graduation rate for students in 2024
(The national average for 2023 was 15,3%.)

3rd highest number of students enrolled

In 2023 the NWU was the third largest university in South Africa based on the total headcount. Of the 55 096 students enrolled here in 2023, a total of 8 510 were distance students.

University of South Africa	350 407
Tshwane University of Technology	60 134
North-West University	55 096
University of Pretoria	53 911
University of Johannesburg	53 564

This table shows the total number of students that includes both contact and distance students.

5th highest number of graduates

For the total number of degrees and diplomas awarded in 2023, namely 220 758, the NWU rated fifth in the sector.

University of South Africa	56 549
North-West University	12 358
Tshwane University of Technology	13 436
University of Johannesburg	13 506
University of Pretoria	14 306

Student statistics as at 20 March 2025*

Total student enrolments	2023	2024	2025*
First-time entering undergraduates	13 137	13 201	13 580
Undergraduate diplomas	4 973	5 577	3 793
Undergraduate degrees	41 940	43 984	46 031
Total undergraduate	47 795	50 504	50 409
Postgraduate diplomas	990	1 132	1 025
Honours	1 868	1 981	1 965
Master's	2 751	2 943	2 920
Doctors	1 477	1 484	1 335
Total postgraduate	7 086	7 540	7 245
Occasional students	215	210	246
TOTAL ENROLMENT	55 096	58 254	57 900

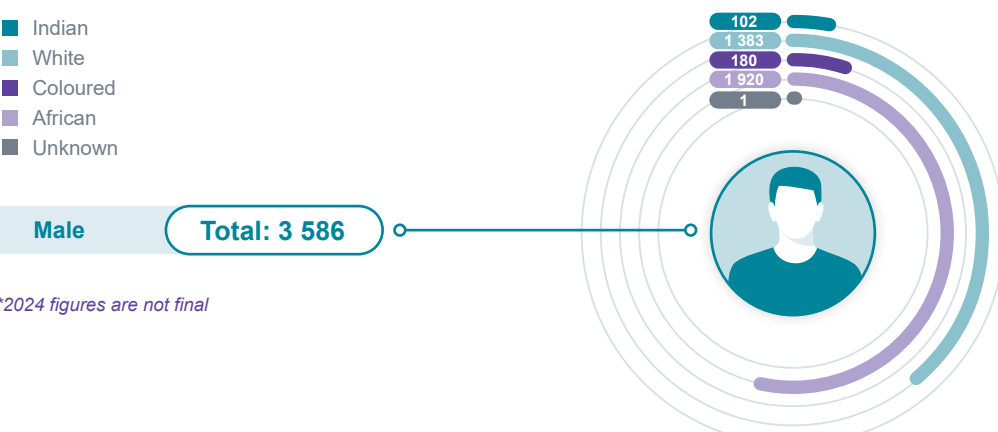
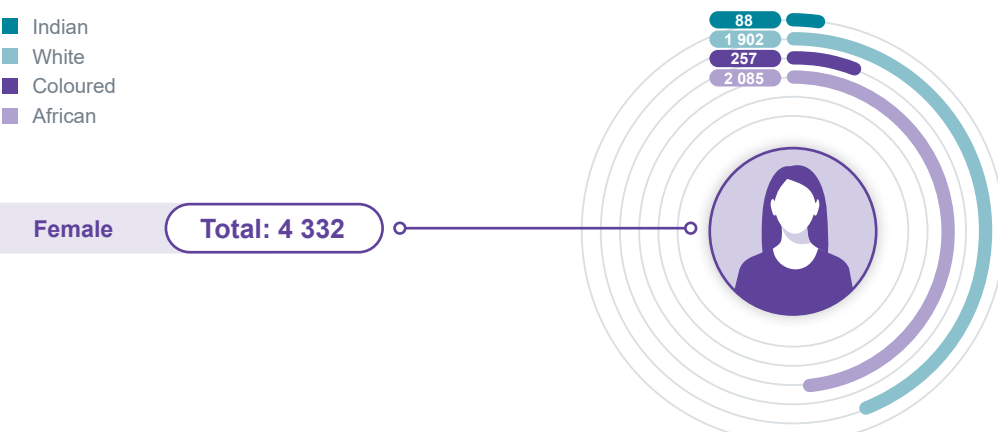
*2024 and 2025 figures are not final

By qualification type: Contact

First-time entering undergraduates	11 691	11 616	12 828
Undergraduate diplomas	1 566	1 552	1 422
Undergraduate degrees	38 395	40 014	42 286
Total undergraduate	40 269	41 819	43 839
Postgraduate diplomas	373	497	375
Honours	1 546	1 630	1 627
Master's	2 751	2 943	2 919
Doctors	1 472	1 484	1 333
Total postgraduates	6 142	6 554	6 254
Occasional students	175	165	231
TOTAL ENROLMENT	46 586	48 538	50 324

*2024 and 2025 figures are not final

Racial and gender composition of NWU staff as at 31 May 2024*



*2024 figures are not final

Total weighted research output units increased from 798 in 2004 to 3 217,16 in 2023

403% growth

NRF-rated researchers - 73 in 2004, 323 in 2023.

442% growth

In the top 4,1% of the worlds best universities

The Center for World University Rankings placed the NWU in the top 4,1% of universities in their 2025 edition of the Global 2000 list.

Racial composition of contact students as at 20 March 2025*



Gender composition of contact students as at 20 March 2025*

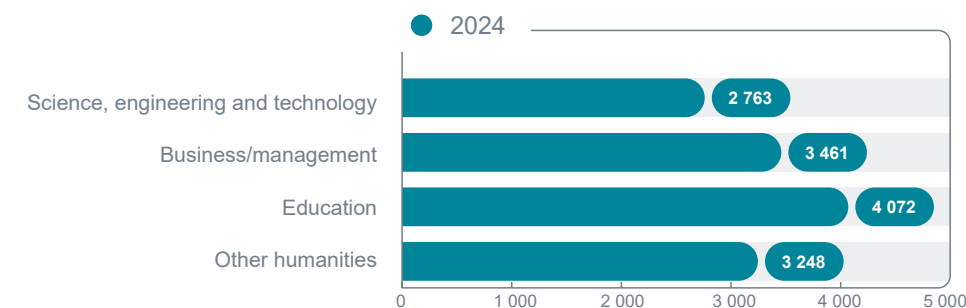


*2025 figures are not final

Qualifications awarded in 2024*

Undergraduate diplomas	1 494
Undergraduate degrees	8 125
Total undergraduate	10 240
Postgraduate diplomas	773
Honours	1 470
Master's	787
Doctors	273
Total postgraduate	3 303
TOTAL	13 543

Qualifications awarded by major field of study in 2024*



*2024 figures are not final

Permanent staff as at 20 March 2025*

Permanent, professional and non-professional	2023	2024	*2025
Instruction/research professionals	1 692	1 696	1 616
Executive/management professionals	91	93	86
Support professionals	532	548	513
Total professional staff	2 315	2 337	2 215
Technical staff	251	256	239
Non-professional administrative staff	1 351	1 366	1 281
Crafts/trades staff	23	24	24
Service staff	295	283	265
Total non-professional staff	1 920	1 929	1 809
TOTAL PERMANENT STAFF	4 235	4 266	4 024

*2025 figures are not final

University profitability and growth

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Recurrent income	5 234,9	5 744,0	6 244,3	6 625,7
Recurrent expenditure	3 952,7	4 471,7	5 269,7	5 796,0
Net recurrent surplus	1 282,2	1 272,3	974,6	829,7

*Draft consolidated amounts (audit in progress at the time of writing.)

Research scoreboard

Research output	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Journal articles	1 264,32	1 366,30	1 342,10	1 396,68	1 685,63
Conference proceedings	38,84	66,90	91,50	114,70	103,18
Books and chapters	233,43	222,90	272,60	327,24	308,71
Total article equivalents published	1 536,59	1 656,10	1 706,20	1 838,62	2 097,52
Master's degrees conferred	722	698	695	750	787
Research master's degrees	521,84	509,98	519,10	547,54	565,06
Doctoral degrees conferred	251	264	213	277	273
Doctoral degrees weighted	753	792	639	831	819
NRF-rated researchers	263	280	300	323	327
Postdoctoral fellows	215	213	205	206	236

*Please note that the research figures lag two years behind.

*2024 figures are not final

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