

DESCRIPTION

The Master of Policing Practices programme equips the student with the skills and competencies to formulate, design, conduct and complete a research project in the field of law enforcement.

A student may fulfil the requirements of the qualification by completing EITHER: a full research based dissertation **OR** four (4) research topics and a dissertation.

OPTION 1

Master Of Policing Practices: Full Research Dissertation

OPTION 2

Master Of Policing Practices: Four (4) Research Topics and a Short Dissertation

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- a relevant postgraduate diploma; **OR**
- Bachelor Honours degree in the field of policing / criminal justice with a mark of:
Full Research Dissertation: 65% for Research Topics + Short Dissertation: 55% for Research

(Intensive exposure to the various disciplines of management of at least five research topics is required)

ONE-DAY INDUCTION SESSION (COMPULSORY)

Students must attend a compulsory one-day induction session subsequent to registration of their proposal module. During the session, students will be guided through refining and finalising their research topic, developing their proposal, utilising techniques of data collection and writing of the dissertation.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOLLOWING

- have minimum of three (3) years work experience in a managerial capacity;
- be proficient in English;
- be computer literate;
- have access to the internet;
- have a personal computer or laptop; and
- have conducted academic research* before.

* A student who did not complete Research Methodology as a module at NQF Level 8 previously will be required to take the Research Methodology bridging module in the first semester of registration (MET50A & MET50B).



MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- Wi-Fi: Reliable broadband Internet access (Wi-Fi is available on all of our campuses, but you may prefer access from home as well).
- Web browser: Edge/Chrome/Safari/Opera/FireFox.
- Computer/Laptop: A current Windows or Apple Mac computer/laptop capable of running the Office 365 software. Office 365 includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook.
- PDF Viewer: The free Adobe Acrobat software.
- Scanning documents: Ability to scan and upload documents (typically from your cellphone or smartphone).
- Email/cellphone for notification and communication.
- Communication: A cellphone or smartphone for receiving notifications and communication.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

FULL RESEARCH DISSERTATION

Structure:

- Completion of dissertation
- To be completed in a minimum of two (2) years
- Consists of a compulsory postgraduate induction session

FOUR (4) RESEARCH TOPICS AND A SHORT DISSERTATION

Structure:

- Four (4) research topics are compulsory - see table below (must be completed before commencing with PRO292 + DIS292)
- A short dissertation (108 Credits) based on a research topic identified from any of the below four (4) modules

YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
1st Semester of Registration	2nd Semester of Registration	1st Semester of Registration	2nd Semester of Registration
Strategic Organisational Development OBR192 (18 credits)	Law Enforcement Policing LEP192 (18 credits)	Select and submit a research topic based on any of the four modules completed. Attend the compulsory induction session. Commence research in order to submit a proposal. PRO292 (30 credits)	Completion and submission of the short dissertation. DIS292 (78 credits)
Strategic Leadership (Ethical Policing) LDP192 (18 credits)	Comparative Policing CPP192 (18 credits)		
CREDITS PER YEAR 72		CREDITS PER YEAR 108	

* The order of registered modules will follow the curriculum outline.

* Editing is compulsory for the dissertation. Editing services will be for the students own account. A list of optional editors will be provided to students on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

COMPARATIVE POLICING

TOPIC 1: Community Policing Models: A Comparative Analysis of Strategies and Outcomes

This topic involves a comparative analysis of community policing models implemented in different law enforcement environments. It examines the strategies, principles, and practices of community policing in various countries or regions, such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. The research can assess the effectiveness of different approaches in building trust, reducing crime, improving police-community relations, and enhancing public safety. It can also explore the contextual factors that influence the success or challenges of implementing community policing in different cultural, social, and political contexts.

TOPIC 2: Use of Force Policies and Practices: A Cross-Cultural Comparison

This topic focuses on comparing the use of force policies and practices across different law enforcement agencies or countries. It examines the legal frameworks, guidelines, and training protocols governing the use of force by police officers. The research can investigate how cultural, legal, and social factors influence the interpretation and implementation of use of force policies in various jurisdictions. It can also explore the impact of these policies on police-community relations, accountability, and public trust. Additionally, the research can assess the effectiveness of de-escalation techniques and alternative approaches to reducing the use of force in different law enforcement contexts.

TOPIC 3: Police Accountability Mechanisms: A Comparative Study of Oversight Models

This topic involves a comparative study of police accountability mechanisms in different law enforcement environments. It explores the oversight structures, such as internal affairs units, civilian review boards, and independent commissions, established to ensure police accountability. The research can examine the strengths and weaknesses of different oversight models and their impact on transparency, integrity, and public trust. It can also analyze the challenges and best practices associated with investigating and addressing police misconduct, including the role of technology, data collection, and external oversight bodies. Additionally, the research can explore the cultural and institutional factors that influence the effectiveness of police accountability mechanisms in different jurisdictions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICING

TOPIC 1: The influence of ethics on leadership power and the moral integrity of leaders in law enforcement

Ethics influence the exercise of leadership power in law enforcement. Leadership power, in this context, is closely linked with ethical considerations as it defines how leaders utilize their authority and influence. Ethical leadership involves adhering to moral principles, even in the face of power.

Sub-topics

- 1) Utilising power to cultivate an ethical workplace.
- 2) Challenges and complexities faced by police (law enforcement) leaders in pursuit of ethical leadership.
- 3) Strategies and efforts that police managers can develop to create an ethical workplace.

TOPIC 2: The role of technology and innovation in law enforcement

This topic investigates the impacts and implications of technology and innovation on law enforcement practices. It explores emerging technologies, such as body-worn cameras, facial recognition, drones, and artificial intelligence, and their influence on policing strategies, crime prevention, and public safety. The research can assess the benefits and risks associated with technology adoption, including concerns related to privacy, data security, and biases. It can also analyse the organizational and cultural factors that influence the successful implementation of technology-driven initiatives in law enforcement agencies and evaluate the ethical considerations that arise from the use of advanced technologies.

Subtopics

- 1) Enabling law enforcement operations through technology and innovation.
- 2) The use of technology to enhance police-community relations.
- 3) Enhanced leadership and management through technology and innovation.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- TOPIC 1: Leadership Styles and Employee Motivation in Policing Organisations**
This topic focuses on exploring different leadership styles and their impact on employee motivation within policing organizations. It delves into the various leadership approaches, such as transformational, transactional, and servant leadership, and examines how these styles influence employee engagement, job satisfaction, and performance in a policing environment. The research can investigate the effectiveness of different leadership styles in enhancing employee motivation and overall organizational outcomes in the context of law enforcement.
- TOPIC 2: Stress and Burnout among Police Officers: Causes, Consequences, and Coping Mechanisms**
This topic delves into the causes, consequences, and coping mechanisms related to stress and burnout among police officers. It explores the unique stressors faced by law enforcement personnel, including exposure to trauma, long working hours, organizational culture, and public scrutiny. The research can examine the impact of stress and burnout on officers' mental health, job performance, and overall well-being. Additionally, it can explore the effectiveness of various coping strategies, such as social support, resilience training, and work-life balance programs, in mitigating stress and preventing burnout in policing organizations.
- TOPIC 3: Diversity and Inclusion in Policing: Challenges and Strategies for Building a Representative and Equitable Workforce**
This topic focuses on understanding the challenges and strategies associated with fostering diversity and inclusion in policing organizations. It examines the benefits of a diverse and inclusive workforce, including improved community relations, enhanced problem-solving, and increased trust. The research can explore the barriers and biases that hinder diversity and inclusion in law enforcement, such as recruitment practices, organizational culture, and unconscious biases. Furthermore, it can investigate effective strategies and interventions, such as diversity training, mentoring programs, and inclusive leadership, to promote equality and diversity within policing organizations.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP (ETHICAL POLICING)

- TOPIC 1: Ethical leadership in policing: promoting integrity and accountability**
This topic focuses on exploring the role of ethical leadership in fostering integrity and accountability within policing organisations. It delves into the principles and values that guide ethical decision-making and behavior in law enforcement, such as honesty, fairness, and respect for human rights. This requires law enforcement leaders that are strategic, are conscious of changes in the macro-environment and can envision the future of their organisation.
- Subtopics**
- 1) Visionary leadership in a rapidly changing law enforcement environment.
 - 2) Transformational leadership and organisational change.
 - 3) Ethical policing through community engagement.
 - 4) The role of society in creating ethical leaders in law enforcement.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Master of Policing will improve your performance of management practices in the context of today's rapidly changing environment. By enhancing your management capabilities, the Master of Policing degree will position you to successfully advance your career in the field of Policing and Law Enforcement.