STADIO

HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF POLICING & LAW ENFORCEMENT

MASTER OF POLICING PRACTICES

NQF 9 │ 180 CREDITS │ SAQA ID: 117868 │ MIN. 2 YEARS

MODE OF DELIVERY: DISTANCE LEARNING

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
- a 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).

MODE OF DELIVERY - DISTANCE LEARNING

DISTANCE LEARNING AT STADIO

STADIO's distance learning programmes offer students excellent, quality education without the need to attend venue-based classes. The rapid technological advances of the past decade have transformed distance learning into an exciting study option for many students in South Africa, SADC, and internationally. However, STADIO recognises that many prospective students have only limited access to technology, with restricted connectivity, networks, and bandwidth. The STADIO distance-learning and teaching model therefore makes provision for this reality, ensuring that students can combine work and studies meaningfully, regardless of personal circumstances.

Distance learning and teaching at STADIO is built on best practices, enabled and supported by technology. This includes a world-class learning management system where students can access their learning materials, assessments, and live online classes for each of the modules for which they have registered. In addition, in some qualifications, study materials will be provided in printed format. Key dates for milestones, such as assignment submissions and live online sessions, will be communicated well in advance to allow students to plan their studies. Online sessions are not compulsory; however, students are encouraged to participate in scheduled sessions as they are designed to promote student success. Online sessions are always recorded for convenience.

Throughout the distance-learning journey, academic support is only a click away. Questions may be asked in the online module environment, where the lecturer will provide guidance. Distance-learning students have easy access to online library facilities and an eBook library, as well as access to a variety of online databases to support their studies. There is a physical library for distance-learning students on the Krugersdorp campus. STADIO understands the potential isolation of distance learning, and further provides a range of other support services to promote academic success and general student wellbeing. The full distance-learning experience is also accessible using your mobile device.

WHO SHOULD CONSIDER DISTANCE LEARNING?

Distance learning is suitable for students who wish to study from any location without the need to attend classes at a specific venue. Apart from the obligation to submit assessment tasks punctually, distance learning provides students with the flexibility to create their own study schedules. This option is particularly well suited for working adults, mature learners, or school-leavers who prefer learning at their own pace, reside at a distance from STADIO's campuses, or have other commitments during the day. Despite the physical distance, students still have access to expert lecturers, current study materials, and peer engagement through the online module learning environment.

That said, it is important to highlight that some assessments, including the final examination, may require attendance at one of our exam venues, available throughout South Africa and internationally. This is STADIO's commitment to ensuring the integrity of its qualifications and the credibility of its graduates.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM STADIO

Students will have access to a range of resources and facilities in person and online, designed to support not only their learning journey but also their social and emotional well-being. In most modules offered through distance learning in the schools of Administration and Management, Commerce, Law, and Policing and Law Enforcement, printed study materials are available in addition to the online study guides. STADIO offers academic support and wellness initiatives throughout the learning journey to help students realise their goals.

WHAT STADIO WILL EXPECT FROM YOU

In addition to engaging with the study materials (whether printed or online), students are required to utilise the online learning management system on their learning journey. Students, therefore, need access to a computer and to the internet to access and submit their assessments and to access feedback. STADIO believes that the key to academic success, especially in distance learning, is motivation and consistent engagement. Students will be expected to submit their assessment tasks on time and to take part in the learning activities designed to assist their learning journey. STADIO expects all students to always act in accordance with the principles of the Student Code of Conduct and the STADIO values and to be familiar with the institutional policies and rules, especially those pertaining to student success.

STUDENT SUPPORT FOR DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS

Distance learning students have access to STADIO's student support services via the learning management system. Students can access a range of presentations and online support initiatives aimed at success and wellness. At the start of the semester, new students will be invited to join the online student orientation programme to familiarise themselves with the services offered by STADIO. STADIO, in partnership with SADAG, has a dedicated STADIO student helpline providing students with free telephonic counselling, information, referrals, and support. Students will also have access to general counselling services.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

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: Chrome/Safari/Opera/FireFox.**
- **Computer/Laptop: A current Windows or Apple Mac computer/laptop capable of running the Office 365 software (STADIO provides the software to you as a STADIO student). 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.**

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY:

STADIO School of Policing & Law Enforcement uses its ONLINE student administration and learning environments to provide students with materials and resources, to conduct online assessments, create discussion opportunities and render a range of administrative services.

Therefore, having continuous access to the above ONLINE facilities is essential for efficient communication, learning and success.

MASTER OF POLICING PRACTICES:

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) Strategic Leadership (Ethical Policing) LDP192 (18 credits)	Law Enforcement Policing LEP192 (18 credits) Comparative Policing CPP192 (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 (54 credits)	Completion and submission of the short dissertation. DIS292 (54 credits)
72		108	

*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).

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

TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

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.

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.

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FEES & PAYMENT OPTIONS

PRESCRIBED TEXTBOOKS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.stadio.ac.za

I'M READY! APPLY ONLINE NOW

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hello@stadio.ac.za

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