



## CENTRE FOR GENDER AND AFRICA STUDIES (CGAS) Postgraduate Programme for Gender Studies

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our qualifications in Gender Studies.

PGDip (Gender Studies)  
Structured MA (Gender Studies)

The academic programmes of the CGAS offer you the opportunity of advanced interdisciplinary study in Gender Studies (and Africa Studies). We trust that you will find all the necessary information in this application pack. Please contact us if you need any further information or assistance.

Best wishes,

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Dr Nadine Lake  
Programme Director  
Programme for Gender Studies

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| [cgas@ufs.ac.za](mailto:cgas@ufs.ac.za)

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
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UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE  
VRYSTAAT  
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UFS·UV  
HUMANITIES  
GEESTESWETENSKAPPE

## 1. ABOUT GENDER STUDIES

South Africa's history of racial and gender discrimination makes Gender Studies with a focus on **intersectionality** a particularly relevant inter-discipline that challenges sexism, racism, homophobia and other forms of social exclusion. A strong intersectional focus in these disciplines facilitates a deeper understanding of the routed forms of oppression in South Africa and the strong feminist focus of the programme provides students with the analytical and intellectual capabilities to deconstruct forms of oppression in both a local and a global context.

## 2. WHO SHOULD APPLY?

All individuals who find themselves interested in the study of gender issues and those working the field of human rights and equality should apply for the postgraduate qualifications in Gender Studies. The interdisciplinary nature of Gender Studies means that individuals from diverse academic backgrounds are suitable for these qualifications.

## 3. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION FOR STRUCTURED/TAUGHT COURSES

The programme utilises semi-distance education. Students are required to attend contact sessions in Bloemfontein on the main campus four times a year. **These sessions are compulsory and students who do not attend all sessions may forfeit their place in the programme.** Examinations can be written at external centres in accordance with the university system.

## 4. THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES FOR GENDER STUDIES

The postgraduate programmes in Gender Studies are interdisciplinary programmes consisting of the qualifications: Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Gender Studies and M.A. in Gender Studies.

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### 4.1 POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GENDER STUDIES

Qualification	POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN GENDER STUDIES			
Abbreviation	PGDip (Gender Studies)			
Min. study period	Plan code	Programme code	NQF Level	Total credits
1 year	BC153527	B1527	8	120

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#### 4.1.1 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements as presented in 1.4 under General Information in this Rule Book, the following requirements apply:

- Students must be in possession of an Exit Level 7 Bachelors or equivalent qualification in a related field within Gender Studies.
- The programme directorate in collaboration with the regional office for RPL (Recognition for Prior Learning), may allow students into the programme.
- Selection tests in language and comprehension are also applicable.

### 4.1.2 CURRICULUM

The programme consists of

- (a) Two compulsory modules and
- (b) Three electives.

#### Compulsory core modules (24 credits)

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
GSPF5806	Feminist Theory	24

**Compulsory research project (32 credits)** of approximately 9 000–12 000 words

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
GSPI5806	Gender and Institutional Transformation	24

#### Elective modules (72 credits)

Students must choose three modules (72 credits) from the following table:

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
GSPW5826	Gender and Work	24
GSPL5826	Gender and Language	24
GSPT5826	Gender and Tradition	24
GSPC5826	Gender and Citizenship	24

### 4.1.4 MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **GSPF5806** **Feminist Theory** **24 credits**

The module looks at the importance of bringing African feminism to the centre of the debate. The focus of the module is to demonstrate how important discussions around the development of feminism emerge when one compares Western feminism with African feminism to highlight and eradicate attitudes of discrimination in sociological theory.

#### **GSPI5806** **Gender and Institutional Transformation** **24 credits**

The module aims to introduce learners to policy analysis in general and gender-aware policy and planning in particular. The focus of this module is bringing about gender-sensitive change within organisations by focusing on the gendered nature of organisations, determining the need for family-friendly work policy and evaluating policies within an organisation from a gender perspective.

#### **GSPW5826** **Gender and Work** **24 credits**

The focus of this module is on women's experience in their day to day working lives. The strategies used to cope, as well as policy changes and organisational changes need to address the challenges that they face in the workplace also receive attention in this module. The course material attempts to facilitate better understandings of the lives and work experiences of women at work with a view to enabling the learner to develop strategies to promote the empowerment of such women within their work environments.

**GSPL5826****Gender and Language****24 credits**

The module will provide students with research tools to perform a critical investigation of the relationship between language/communication (including non-verbal communication), gender, and social structure exploring the role of language in reflecting and perpetuating gender inequities, as well as the potential for language for challenging and transforming gender relations.

**GSPT5826****Gender and Tradition****24 credits**

The objectives of this course are to equip you with a basic background in core issues of gender studies and its *situatedness* in the patriarchal past and the accompanying history of women's struggle for equal treatment and emancipation in the broader social context. The historical perspective is necessary to create a keen awareness of the historical process and traditions which have ascribed to women roles of inferiority and have structured society in such a way as to benefit the patriarchal status quo. The current debate about gender, gender roles and women's rights is comprehensive and varied. This course seeks to contextualise this debate within history.

**GSPC5826****Gender and Citizenship****24 credits**

The wave of democratisation in Africa in the 1990s had a positive effect on women's formal representation in the decision making structures of state. Globally, there appears to be a heightened awareness of the need to develop national and transnational mechanisms to guarantee the rights of citizens, and women in particular. The quota system (a popular mechanism to 'fast track' gender equality) has however, been a controversial tool which produced mixed results, as the case of Rwanda. There is thus a need to distinguish between formal and substantive (thicker) forms of citizenship. The theory-praxis gap will therefore also require a reconceptualization of the three criteria of citizenship, namely rights, political participation and the ability to hold the state to account through, for instance, the fourth state, i.e. the media. The media is a powerful platform for the promotion of women's voices and the fostering of involved citizenship, but the media can equally be an instrument of marginalisation. The study of the media and media discourses is therefore another important fact of the gender-citizenship interface, which will receive attention in this course.

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**4.2 MASTER OF ARTS WITH SPECIALISATION IN GENDER STUDIES**

Qualification	M.A. WITH SPECIALISATION IN GENDER STUDIES			
Abbreviation	M.A. Gender Studies			
Min. study period	Study code	Programme code	NQF Level	Total credits
2 years	BC170027	B1700	9	190

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#### 4.2.1 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirements as presented in 1.4 under General Information in this Rule Book, the following requirements apply:

- (i) The programme directorate may admit students in possession of an Exit Level 8 Honours or equivalent qualification in a discipline related to Gender Studies into the programme;
- (ii) The programme directorate, in collaboration with the regional office for RPL, may allow students into the programme by means of RPL in which case additional modules may be prescribed; and
- (iii) Selection tests in language and comprehension are also applicable.

#### 4.2.2 CURRICULUM

The programme consists of

- (c) Three compulsory modules and
- (d) Two electives.

##### Compulsory core modules (126 credits)

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
GSMF7908	Feminist Theories	32
GSMR7908	Research Methodology and Research Proposal	32
GSM7908	Research Report Gender Studies (Structured Masters)	62

##### Elective modules (64 credits)

Elective modules are offered on a two-year rotating basis. Students choose two modules from list applicable in their year of registration.

CODE	NAME OF MODULE	CREDITS
GSML7928	Gender and Law	32
GSMG7928	Gender and Religion	32
GSMD7928	Gender and Development	32
GSMP7928	Gender and the Politics of Security	32
GSME7928	Gender and the Environment	32
GSMS7928	Gender and Sexuality	32
GSMH7928	Gender and History	32

#### 4.2.4 MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

##### GSMF7908

##### Feminist Theories

32 credits

The module teaches students to understand and explain the varieties of contemporary feminist theory as well as to describe the epistemological and methodological tenets of various feminist approaches.

After successful completion of this course the learner will be able to:

- Understand and explain the varieties of contemporary feminist theory
- Describe the epistemological and methodological tenets of the various feminist approaches

- Reconstruct the qualitative/quantitative debate in feminist research and evaluate the various positions

**GSMR7908                                      Research Methodology and Research Proposal                                      32 credits**

By the end of the module the learner will be able to:

- Have a clear understanding of the different steps in the research process
- Be able to choose a researchable topic
- Be able to develop a problem statement for the research topic
- Know how to choose a theoretical framework in which to ground the research study
- Be able to choose a suitable research design
- Be able to write a research proposal.

**GSMM7900                                      Comprehensive mini-dissertation                                      62 credits**

Mini-dissertation: a research project proceeding from independent research in the context of the research proposal written in GSMR7908

The dissertation must provide proof of your ability to deal with the discipline of study in a scientifically accountable manner in accordance with the recognised underlying methodological principles of the subject. The dissertation must constitute a meaningful scientific contribution to existing knowledge of the subject. It need not necessarily be a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the topic, although the theme must be analysed in depth and delimited in an appropriate manner.

**GSML7928                                      Gender and Law                                      32 credits**

The module introduces students to the notions of gender and equality within the context of legislation such as the Constitution; gender and Private Law, including the Commission on Gender Equality, and in that context the issues of customary marriages, unmarried fatherhood, domestic violence and unfair discrimination; gender and Employment Law, and socio-economic rights. It teaches students to analyse and discuss the above-mentioned legislation and issues in theory, as well as to advise competently on the resolution of practical problems relating to gender and law in both the private context and the workplace.

**GSMG7928                                      Gender and Religion                                      32 credits**

This course interrogates the critical apparatus of feminist and womanist critique and its agenda for social change. It provides theoretical background and sensitizes learners to the range of practical applications of the principles of feminist critique and social transformation as highlighted in religious texts historically and in a present-day context.

<b>GSMD7928</b>	<b>Gender and Development</b>	<b>32 credits</b>
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This module provides students with gendered perspectives on development and teaches them to distinguish between, critically reflect upon, and apply various policy approaches to women and development; to execute gender-aware project planning and evaluation and to apply the analytical tools of gender and development.

<b>GSMP7928</b>	<b>Gender and the politics of security</b>	<b>32 credits</b>
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This course aims to enhance the students' understanding of the role of gender in fostering comprehensive human security, and to find ways of integrating this understanding security at the political, strategic and tactical levels. It offers a specifically feminist focus and critique, and is designed to facilitate application of the lessons learnt from the international experience to the context of Africa, in particular in respect of women's involvement in peace-keeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

<b>GSME7928</b>	<b>Gender and the environment</b>	<b>32 credits</b>
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Achieving sustainable human development is one of the central goals of international policy. Sustainable human development cannot, however, be achieved without pertinently focusing on the issue of gender and gender inequality in society and how this is linked to environmental issues faced by society. In this course, the main aim is therefore to guide students in gaining an in-depth understanding of the linkages between gender and the environment.

<b>GSMS7928</b>	<b>Gender and Sexuality</b>	<b>32 credits</b>
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The module will focus primarily on twentieth and twenty-first century developments in literary and critical theory relating to Gender and Sexuality. The theoretical discourses studied in this module focus on the fundamental assumptions and premises of various theoretical schools, with a view to establishing a platform for the study of later theoretical constructs. Various perspectives on literature are offered, with the emphasis firmly on a progression of ideas relating to the text as a construct. The module includes themes that focus on the history of sexuality, African sexualities and representation and female body comportment.

<b>GSMH7928</b>	<b>Gender and History</b>	<b>32 credits</b>
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Gender and History will focus on specific periods in history that contributed to the development of gender theory/theories. It will also examine the historical developments that contributed to gender inequalities in society.



## 5. TUITION FEES FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY

The fee structure for postgraduate degrees at the University of the Free State is calculated as per the credit values of the modules. For information regarding tuition fees or any other tuition enquiry, please contact a relevant person in the Class Fees division as provided below.

NO.	CONTACT PERSON	POSITION	CONTACT NUMBER	E-MAIL
1	Mrs Olga Odendaal	Postgraduate Students	Tel: +27(0) 51 401 9537	<a href="mailto:OdendaalO@ufs.ac.za">OdendaalO@ufs.ac.za</a>
2	Mrs Susan Van Heerden	Client Services Line Manager	Tel: +27(0) 51 401 9092	<a href="mailto:fibu@ufs.ac.za">fibu@ufs.ac.za</a>
3	Mrs Wieda McCrae	Deputy Director Tuition Fees	Tel: +27(0) 51 401 3330	<a href="mailto:McCraeW@ufs.ac.za">McCraeW@ufs.ac.za</a>
4	Mr Chris Liebenberg	Senior Director Finance	Tel: +27(0) 51 401 2129	<a href="mailto:LiebenbergCR@ufs.ac.za">LiebenbergCR@ufs.ac.za</a>

All correspondence regarding financial matters must be addressed to:

The Director Finance  
University of the Free State  
P.O. Box 339  
Bloemfontein  
9300

Fees may be subject to yearly increases. These fees represent the tuition for one year only and not the entire degree. A similar fee, taking into account any yearly increase that could occur, will be charged every year the student is registered. The Centre for Gender and Africa Studies does not accept any responsibility for subsequent changes. International students must direct all administrative enquiries through the International Office (Contact person: Mrs Jeanne Niemann, Tel. +27(0)51 401 3219, E-mail: [niemannaja@ufs.ac.za](mailto:niemannaja@ufs.ac.za)).

### **Bursary holders must make their own arrangements with the University's Administration:**

Mr. A.L. Badenhorst  
Deputy-Director Student Finance  
Tel: +27(0)51-401 2479  
[aaab@ufs.ac.za](mailto:aaab@ufs.ac.za)

## 3.2 STUDY MATERIAL

The relevant course material will be made available for acquisition during the time of the first contact session. Students are also required to pay a departmental fee per module. This fee will be included in the tuition fees.

## 4. APPLICATION

You may apply by completing hard copy application forms or alternatively by using the electronic application system ([https://pssa.ufs.ac.za/psc/csprd/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/UV\\_ONLN\\_APPL.UV\\_ONLN\\_ACC\\_F\\_L](https://pssa.ufs.ac.za/psc/csprd/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/UV_ONLN_APPL.UV_ONLN_ACC_F_L)). Should you choose to use the electronic system, please inform us that you are doing so, as we require additional documentation to be completed.



Included in this pack, you will find two application forms i.e. one for postgraduate study at the UFS and one for the Programme for Africa Studies itself. Please complete both. All research qualifications (MPhil and PhD) require the submission of a draft proposal. If necessary, we may also require to view a copy of any dissertation or mini-dissertation of qualifications serving as minimum requirements.

Please take care to follow any and all instructions stated on the application form or as required in the electronic data flow. Make sure to submit full applications. Your application pack also includes a checklist. Please consult this checklist to ensure that your application is complete. Incomplete applications cannot be processed.

**Important note for applicants with international qualifications:** Please note that you will have to have your existing international qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The necessary SAQA evaluation must be included in your application otherwise the application will be considered incomplete and will not be processed. For further information, please go to: <http://www.saqa.org.za/show.php?id=5741>. Alternatively, you can also visit the UFS Postgraduate School for more information at <http://www.ufs.ac.za/postgraduate/postgraduate-school-home/postgraduate-studies/international-students>.

**Do not fax or e-mail applications. We need the original application forms as well as certified copies of certificates, previous study records, ID documents, or passports and SAQA evaluation certificates (in case of international qualifications).**

**Deliver your application to:**

Mrs Ankia Bradfield  
 Programme Coordinator  
 Centre for Gender and Africa Studies  
 Pres Steyn Annex Room 133 (Opposite the CR Swart Building)  
 Senaat Street North  
 University of the Free State  
 Bloemfontein Campus  
 205 Nelson Mandela Avenue  
 Bloemfontein  
 9301

<b><u>Or mail to:</u></b>	<b><u>Other contact details:</u></b>
<p><b>Mrs Ankia Bradfield</b>            Centre for Gender and Africa Studies (IB 110)            University of the Free State            PO Box 339            Bloemfontein            9300</p>	<p><b>Dr Nadine Lake</b>            Programme Director            Telephone number: +27(0)51-401 3813            Fax number: +27(0)51-401 9676            E-mail address: lakenc@ufs.ac.za</p> <p><b>Mrs Ankia Bradfield</b>            Programme Coordinator            Telephone number: +27(0)51-401 9609            Fax number: +27(0)51-401 9676            E-mail address: bradfielda@ufs.ac.za</p>