NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY



Q2 2026

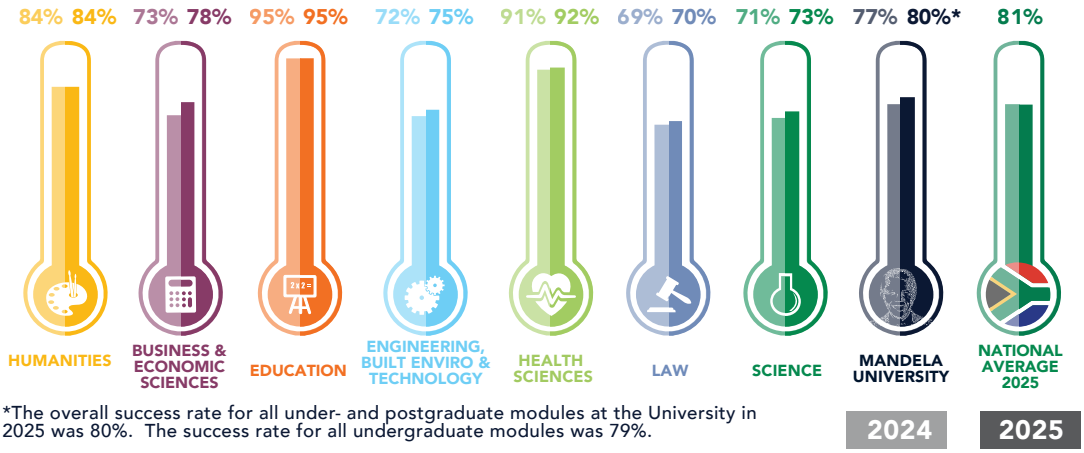
Student success at a glance

Produced by the Office for Institutional Strategy

OUR DEFINITION OF STUDENT SUCCESS

"Student success is being self-aware, understanding one's own **strengths and weaknesses**, mindfully setting & **achieving** one's personal goals with **persistence and commitment**, and taking **co-responsibility** with staff and support structures to progress academically, and to **graduate** as **holistically developed, responsible citizens.**"

SUCCESS RATES BY FACULTY 2024 - 2025



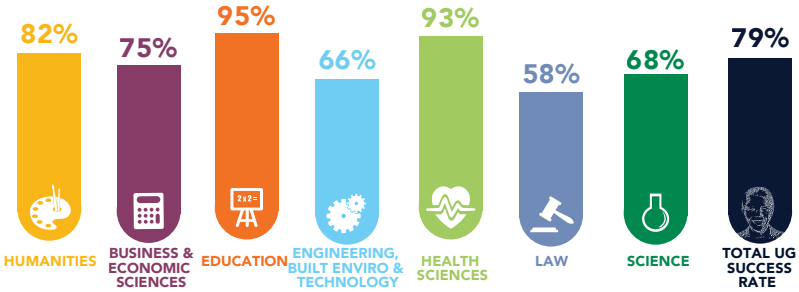
*The overall success rate for all under- and postgraduate modules at the University in 2025 was 80%. The success rate for all undergraduate modules was 79%.

SUCCESS RATES OF NSFAS-FUNDED STUDENTS 2025

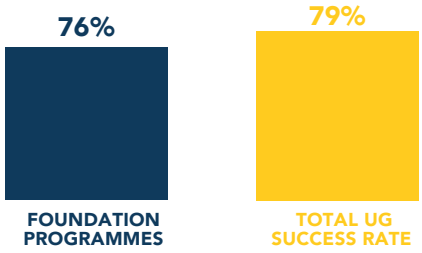
21 392
STUDENTS

78%
SUCCESS RATE
which is below the average of 79% for Nelson Mandela University undergraduate students.

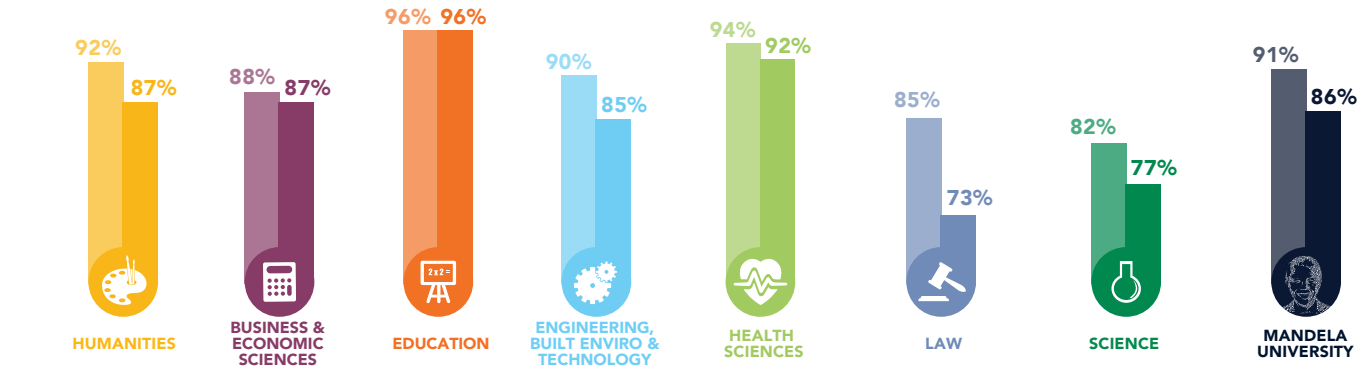
FIRST-TIME ENTERING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS RATE, 2025



SUCCESS RATE OF FOUNDATION/ EXTENDED PROGRAMME STUDENTS, 2025



RETENTION OF FIRST-TIME ENTERING STUDENTS BY FACULTY 2024 - 2025

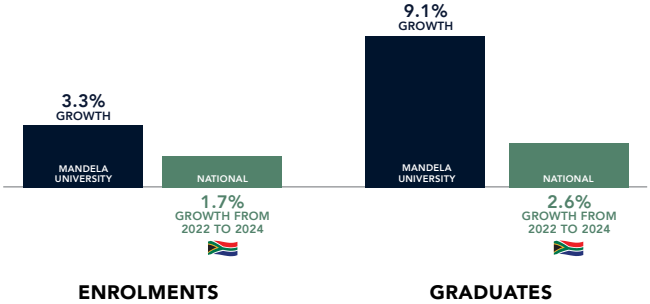


2024 FIRST-TIME ENTERING % RETURNING IN 2025

2025 FIRST-TIME ENTERING % RETURNING IN 2026

AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE FOR ENROLMENTS COMPARED TO GRADUATES 2023 - 2025

GROWTH RATES FOR 2023 TO 2025 COMPARED TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

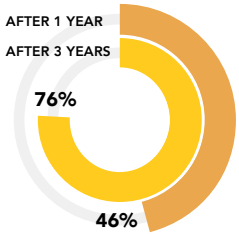


Nelson Mandela University graduates increased on average by 9.1% per annum, while enrolments grew at 3.3% on average per annum which is an indicator of increased graduate efficiency.

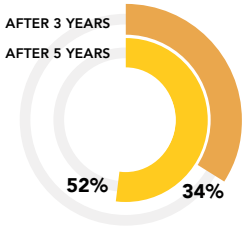
THROUGHPUT RATES* FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING COHORTS BY QUALIFICATION TYPE, 2025

FOR THE 2019 COHORT

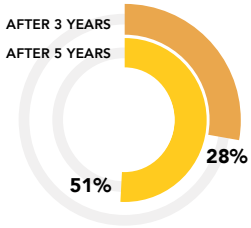
1-YEAR UG CERTIFICATES (MT**=1)



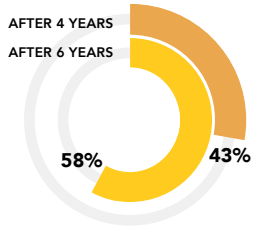
3-YEAR DIPLOMAS (MT=3)



3-YEAR DEGREES (MT=3)

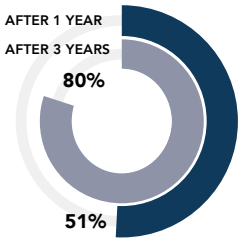


4-YEAR DEGREES (MT=4)

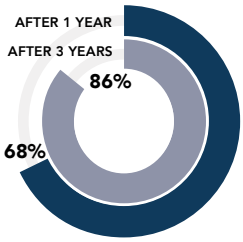


AFTER 1 YEAR 24%	AFTER 3 YEARS 31%	AFTER 3 YEARS 30%	AFTER 4 YEARS 48%
AFTER 3 YEARS 54%	AFTER 5 YEARS 61%	AFTER 5 YEARS 59%	AFTER 6 YEARS 70%

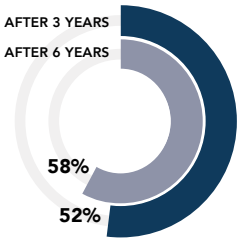
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA



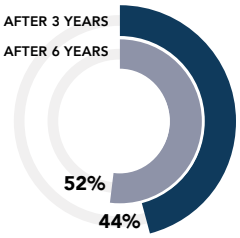
HONOURS



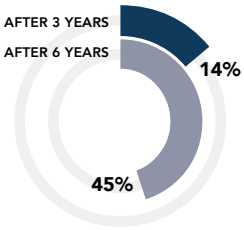
MASTER'S COURSEWORK



MASTER'S RESEARCH



PHD

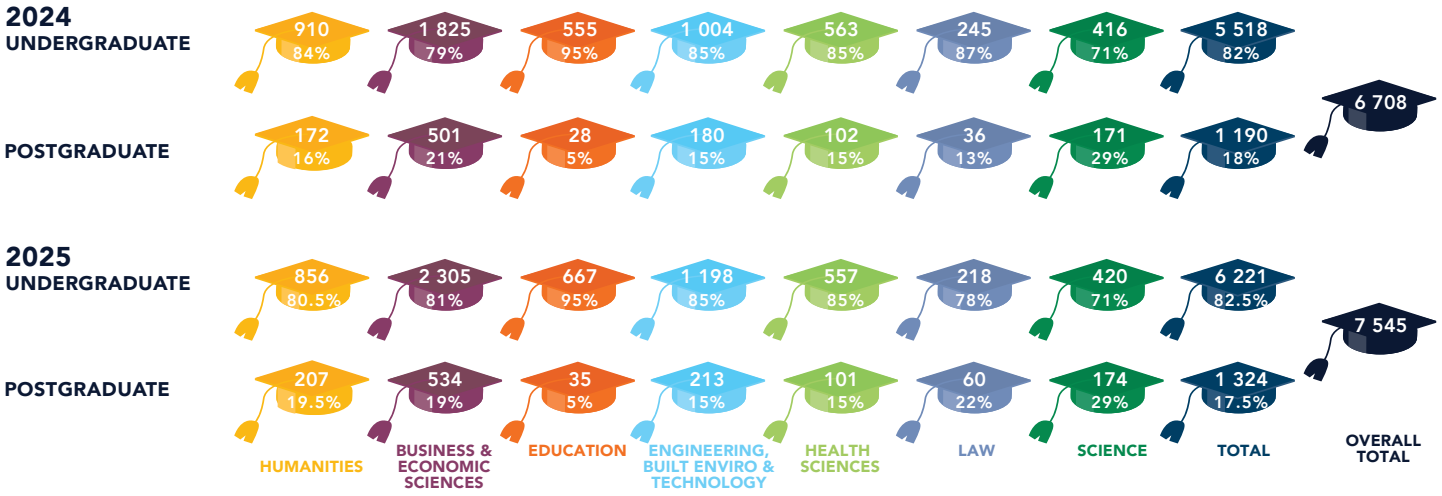


AFTER 1 YEAR 60%	AFTER 1 YEAR 64%	AFTER 3 YEARS 40%	AFTER 3 YEARS 33%	AFTER 3 YEARS 14%
AFTER 3 YEARS 84%	AFTER 3 YEARS 82%	AFTER 6 YEARS 60%	AFTER 6 YEARS 54%	AFTER 6 YEARS 50%

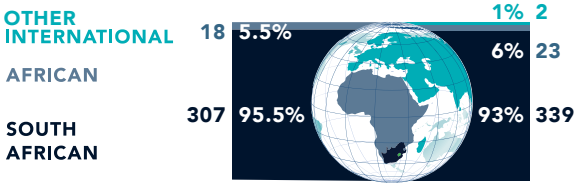
*The throughput rate is the percentage of first-time entering students of a particular cohort that graduate in minimum time for the qualification. The percentage of students that graduate in minimum time plus 3 years (M+3) is also calculated given that a large proportion of students take longer than the minimum time to graduate.

**MT = Minimum Time

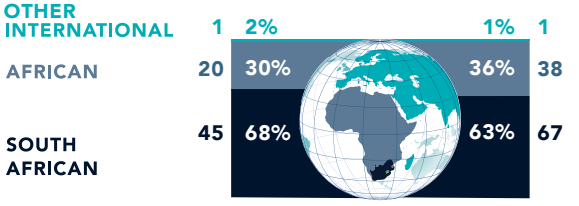
GRADUATE OUTPUTS PER FACULTY 2024 - 2025



GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL (M&D) GRADUATES 2024 - 2025

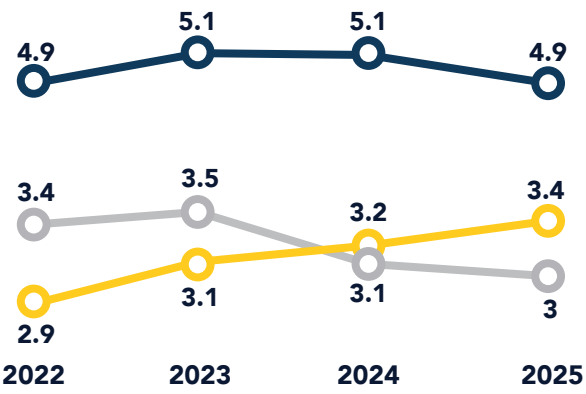


MASTER'S GRADUATES

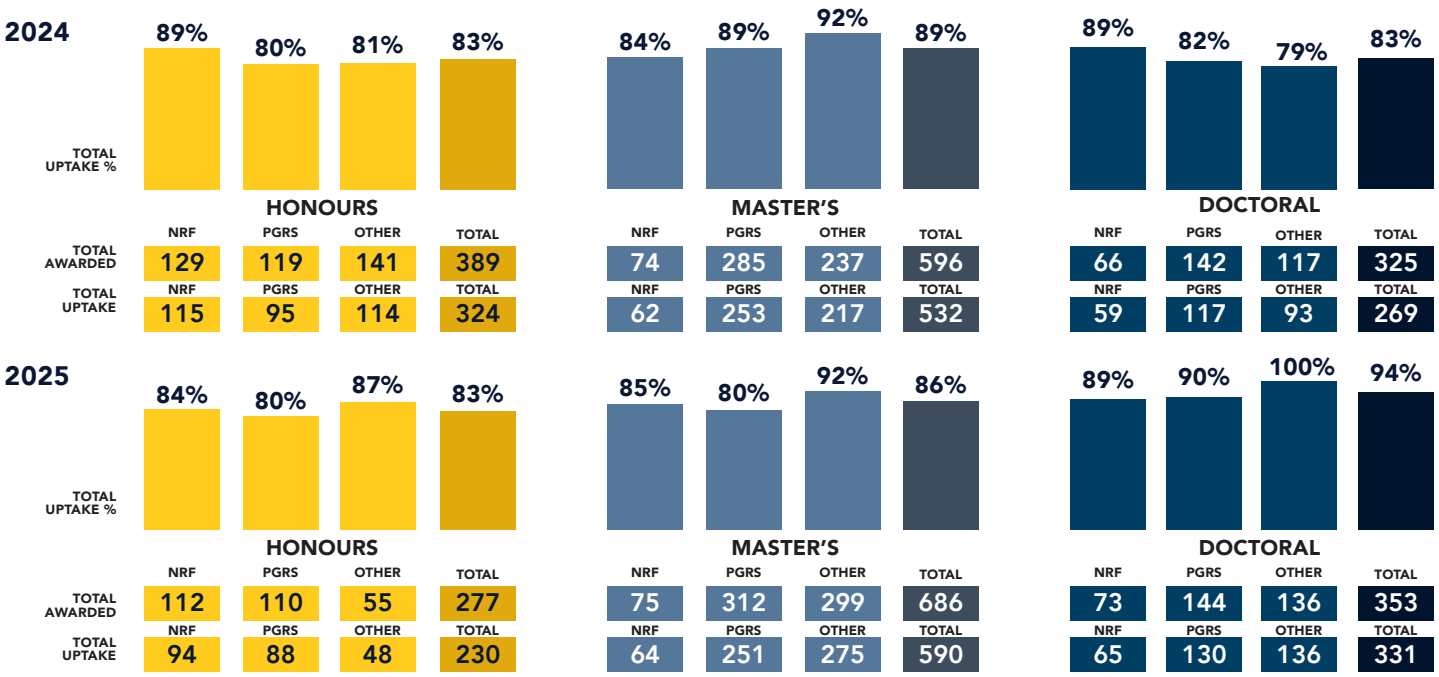


DOCTORAL GRADUATES

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS TO GRADUATE FOR MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS 2022 - 2025

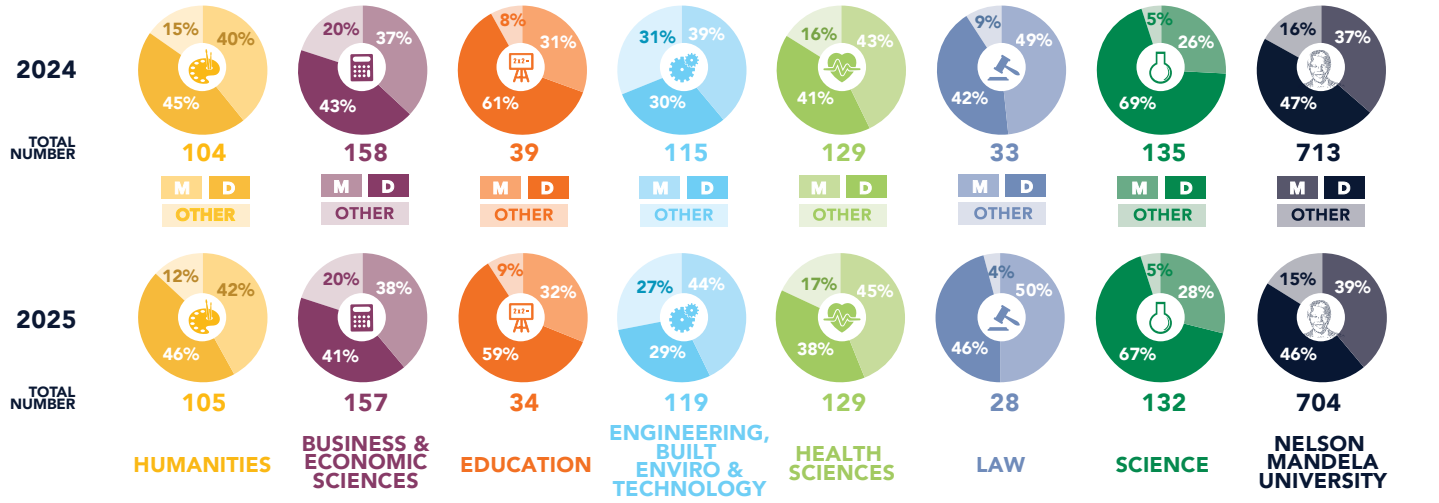


POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN AWARDED AND TAKEN UP 2024 - 2025



NRF: National Research Foundation | PGRS: Postgraduate Research Scholarship | OTHER: Other Research Bursary

% PERMANENT ACADEMIC STAFF WITH MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL (M&D) QUALIFICATIONS BY FACULTY 2024 - 2025



Only permanent academics within faculties are included. Permanent academics in non-faculty portfolios have been excluded

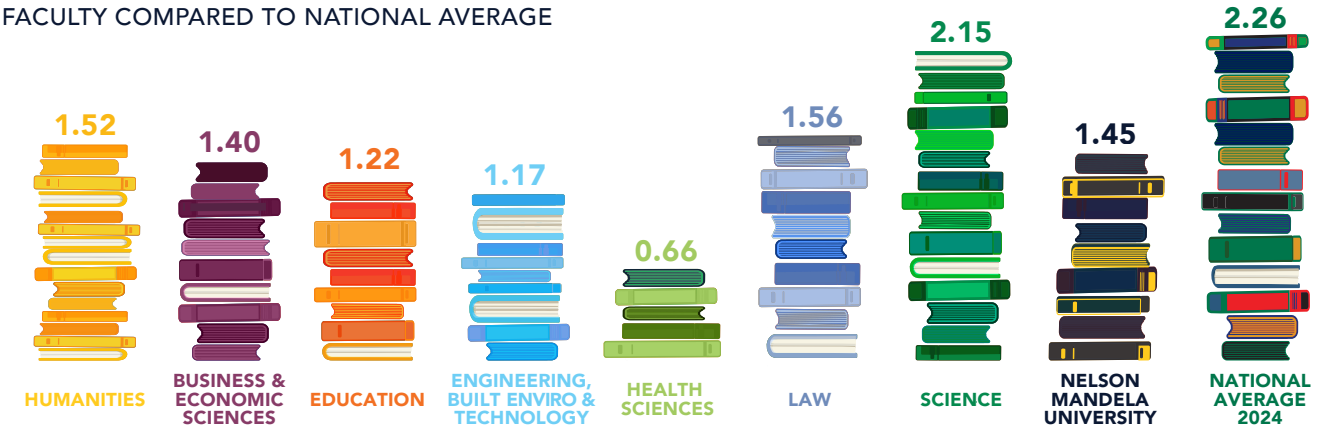
MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL (M&D) WEIGHTED RESEARCH OUTPUT UNITS* (WROU) 2024 - 2025

	HUMANITIES	BUSINESS & ECONOMIC SCIENCES	EDUCATION	ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRO & TECHNOLOGY	HEALTH SCIENCES	LAW	SCIENCE	MANDELA UNIVERSITY
MASTER'S WROU 2024	42	51	8	38	31	4	48	222
MASTER'S WROU 2025	51	44	7	56	34	9	52	253
% CHANGE 2024 - 2025	21%	-14%	-13%	47%	10%	125%	8%	14%
DOCTORAL WROU 2024	30	48	18	24	24	3	51	198
DOCTORAL WROU 2025	63	96	9	42	24	9	75	318
% CHANGE 2024 - 2025	110%	100%	-50%	75%	0%	200%	47%	61%

*Weighted Research Outputs are the total of research publication units (weight = 1), research master's units (weight = 1), and research doctoral units (weight = 3)

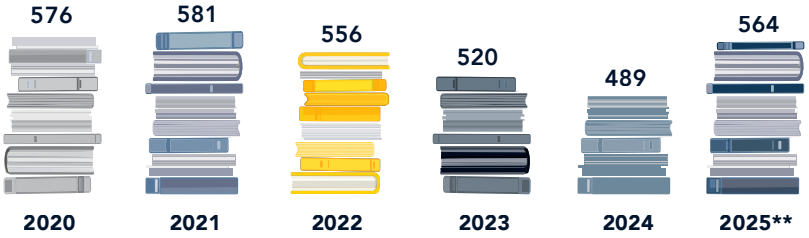
RATIOS OF WEIGHTED RESEARCH OUTPUTS* PER ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBER, 2025

BY FACULTY COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE



*Weighted Research Outputs include research articles but not conference proceedings, books and chapters in books which will only be available at the end of 2025

NUMBER OF RESEARCH PUBLICATION UNITS* 2020 - 2025



NOTES:

* Research Publication Units include research, articles, conference proceedings, books and chapters in books.

**The Research Publication Units for 2025 are preliminary and still need to be approved by the DHET.

NUMBER OF RESEARCH ENTITIES AND CHAIRS, 2025

2025

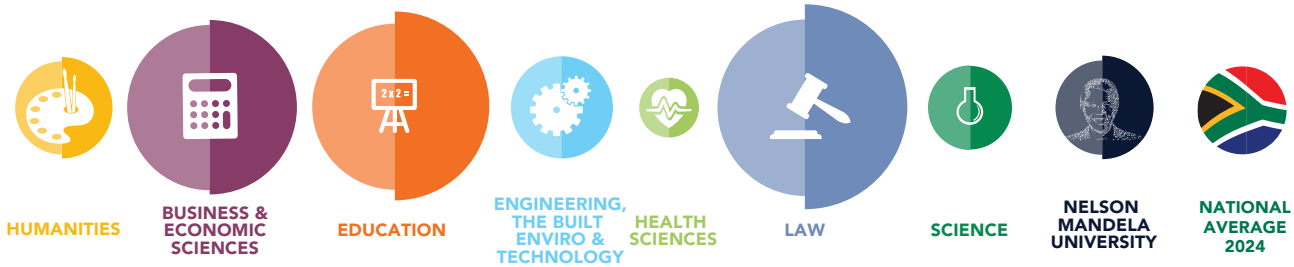
RESEARCH CHAIRS*	19
NRF-RATED RESEARCHERS	91
INSTITUTES	2
CENTRES	12
UNITS	9
TECHNOLOGY STATIONS	2
TOTAL	25

***RESEARCH CHAIRS:**
This includes all research chairs and not only those awarded by the NRF as South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI) chairs.

NOTE: South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) was established in 2006 by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation and the National Research Foundation (NRF).

ACADEMIC FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) STUDENT: STAFF RATIO 2024 - 2025

BY FACULTY COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE



	HUMANITIES	BUSINESS & ECONOMIC SCIENCES	EDUCATION	ENGINEERING, THE BUILT ENVIRO & TECHNOLOGY	HEALTH SCIENCES	LAW	SCIENCE	NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY	NATIONAL AVERAGE 2024
2024	29:1	45:1	42:1	34:1	17:1	49:1	22:1	29:1	32:1
2025	31:1	48:1	50:1	34:1	17:1	56:1	22:1	31:1	*

*2025 national data is not yet available