

Postgraduate News

2025 – ISSUE 6

Department of Enrolment and Student Administration
International and Postgraduate Recruitment



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Make today matter

Postgraduate and International Recruitment Unit

Welcome to Issue 6 of PG News, where we celebrate the spirit of resilience, ambition, and purpose that defines the postgraduate journey at the University of Pretoria.

In this edition, we are proud to spotlight the incredible stories of graduates and current students who have not only pursued academic excellence but have also made meaningful contributions to their professions, communities, and society at large. From strategic communicators and operational leaders to theologians serving on the frontlines of care, each story reflects the transformative power of postgraduate education.

We are particularly inspired by those who balanced demanding careers with their studies, those who found purpose beyond the classroom, and those whose research is helping to shape our world ethically, strategically, and compassionately. Their journeys are reminders that postgraduate study is not just about earning a degree, but about becoming a more impactful version of oneself.

As the Manager for International and Postgraduate Recruitment, I invite all prospective students from South Africa and around the globe to see yourselves in these stories. The University of Pretoria is more than a place of learning, it is a launchpad for those who want to lead, innovate, and serve.

We hope this issue ignites your curiosity, strengthens your resolve, and affirms that UP is the right place to take your next academic step.



Mr Sylvester Siboto
Manager, Postgraduate and International Recruitment Unit

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Mastering the art of balance

Author: Botshabelo Billy Monama

Sindisiwe Kubeka, a seasoned marketing and communications professional, mastered the art of balancing ambition when she recently graduated with a master's in Strategic Communication Management from the University of Pretoria (UP). Kubeka achieved this accolade while working as Head of Marketing and Communications in UP's Faculty of Health Sciences.

Although balancing full-time employment with rigorous academic commitments presented significant challenges, "it required discipline, time management and intentional planning," she says.

Now armed with a master's, she is now using the knowledge gained to strengthen her role and optimise her responsibilities.

"I now approach my work with a more strategic lens, whether it's positioning the faculty's brand, managing reputational risks or aligning our messaging with broader university objectives. It has also helped me to improve stakeholder engagement, internal communication processes and how we measure the impact of our communication initiatives," says Kubeka.

[Read more.](#)



Sindisiwe Kubeka



Raphuti Mathekgane

Tech should empower, not replace people

Author: Nontobeko Mtshali

Raphuti Mathekgane, Deputy-Director at the University of Pretoria's (UP) Department of Enrolment and Student Administration pursued postgraduate studies at UP to complement his years of experience in operational leadership with relevant knowledge.

For Mathekgane, who has occupied several leadership positions in his career, leadership is a responsibility to leave processes and systems in better shape than he found them in. He recently graduated with a Master of Philosophy in Strategic Management from UP's Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, which perfectly enhanced his strategic management and leadership skills.

"My journey into strategic management and leadership grew organically from solving real-world challenges across banking and higher education," he explains.

Passionate about operational strategy and developing efficient systems that improve service delivery, his master's research examined how emerging technologies such as AI, mobile payments and automation are transforming retail operations.

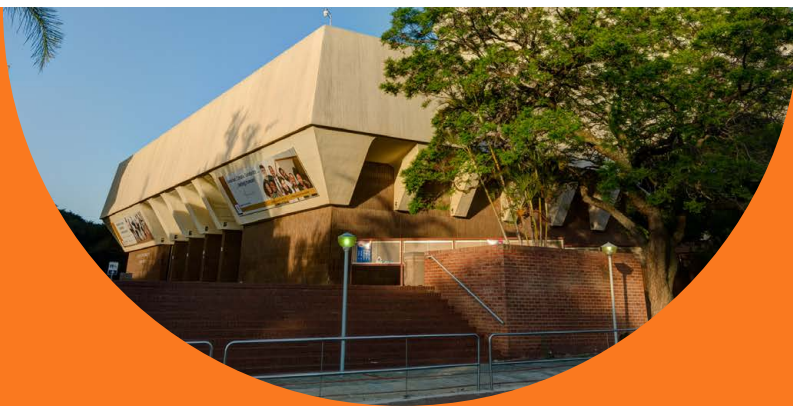
Looking ahead, Mathekgane now has his sights set on roles in which he can broaden his impact.

[Read more.](#)

HUMANITIES 7TH POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE 22 OCTOBER 2025



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



**You are invited to the 7th Humanities
Postgraduate Conference hosted by the
Faculty of Humanities**

All honours, masters and doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in the faculty are invited to present papers and posters.

- Abstracts must be not more than 250 words long
- Submissions must focus on current research
- The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 August 2025
- The deadline for the submission of draft posters is 5 September 2025

**PLEASE REGISTER AND SUBMIT ABSTRACTS USING THIS LINK
[HTTPS://WWW.UP.AC.ZA/CF-HUMPGC2025](https://www.up.ac.za/cf-humpgc2025)**

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

[FOR QUERIES CONTACT PGHUMANITIES@UP.AC.ZA](mailto:PGHUMANITIES@UP.AC.ZA)



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Faculty of Humanities

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FACULTY OF LAW

UP Law graduate Ronewa Khakhu named among SA's brightest legal rising stars

Author: Prudence Minyuku

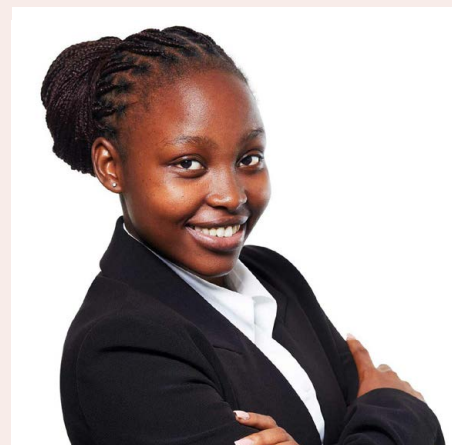
The youngest and only woman recognised by Inside Education in her category was Ms. Ronewa Khakhu, who obtained her LLB from UP Law in 2024. It's a tremendous honour. As she weighed in on this milestone, she remarked,

"I feel very proud to have represented and validated the dreams of young females in my and other communities, coming from a strong patriarchal background."

Being recognised as one of Africa's top 100 Shining Stars is no small feat. South Africa is abundant with young, gifted people who thrive in their numerous fields of competence and make unique contributions to the betterment of their communities.

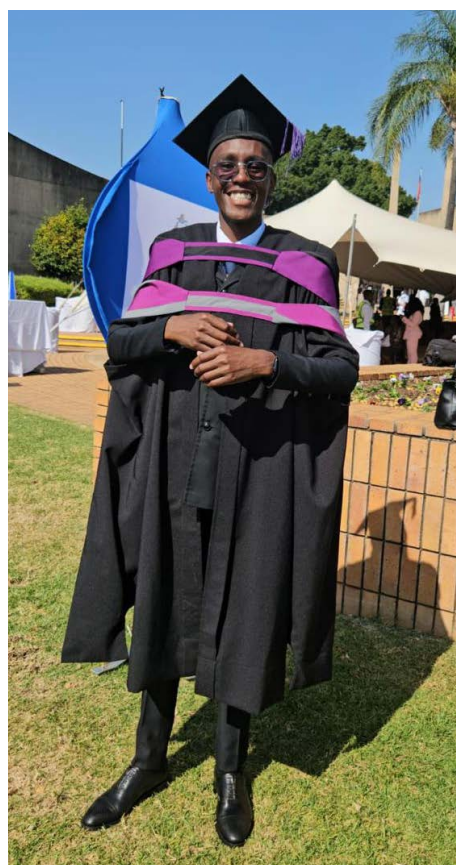
The Faculty of Law is proud to have Ms Khakhu, an alumna, recognised as an outstanding emerging figure in the Law & Justice field.

[Read more.](#)



Ronewa Khakhu

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



Benedict Nkambule

A letter to UP

Author: Benedict Nkambule – BTh, BThHons, MTh (UP)

Upon completing my Bachelor of Theology Honours in New Testament Studies in 2021 at the University of Pretoria, I became a cadet (seminarian) at the College for Officership Training of The Salvation Army in Southern Africa. I dedicated two years as a seminarian, concluding in my commissioning and ordination in December 2022. Following my ordination, The Salvation Army appointed me as the corps officer (minister) of Mahhashini Circuit, located in the northern region of KwaZulu Natal, with the rank of Lieutenant.

While serving at Mahhashini Circuit, I enrolled in a Master of Theology program at the University of Pretoria. Completing the dissertation while engaged in full-time ministry proved to be challenging, requiring me to be adaptable and to appreciate the significance of equipping myself for the responsibilities entrusted to me.

As a minister within The Salvation Army, my appointment extends beyond the corps (church) to encompass the broader community; thus, my primary responsibility is to care for all individuals. I embody the hands and feet of Jesus, reaching out to the marginalized to bring hope to God's people. I am entrusted with the care of God's flock, nurturing and shepherding them. During my Officership training, I met my wonderful wife, Sinothile Nkambule, who was

also a cadet. We got married on the 20th of December 2024.

This year, my wife and I were appointed to Mountain View Settlements, as Corps Officers and Administrators of Mountain View Primary Health Care Clinic and William Booth Boys Hostel. Our clinic services at least 1200 people every month. We have a fixed clinic and a mobile clinic which visits 40 other communities. Serving in this rural area is immensely rewarding, yet it is a community facing significant challenges, including high unemployment rates, immense poverty and numerous child-headed households. Our mission to 'feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and befriend those who are alone' is of utmost importance.

As an NPO we are reliant on donations for all the work we do especially the operation of the clinic and soup kitchen. My wife and I plan to start a Feminine Hygiene Drive, in which we will collect sanitary towels, tooth paste, toothbrushes etc. which we will give to children in schools and underprivileged communities we visit with our mobile clinic vehicle. Assistance from the UP family and broader community is welcomed and will be highly appreciated. We consider ourselves fortunate to care for the spiritual and overall well-being of all patients, as well as the boys in the hostel and the church.



"I didn't want a thesis. I found a career instead."

Author: Matt Koster, GIBS Full-time PDBA Alumnus

Like many students finishing their undergrad, I felt lost. I had just completed my BCom in Business Management at the University of Pretoria, and while I knew I wanted to work in business, I did not have a clear path forward. I was not ready to dive into honours and write a thesis. I needed something more practical, something that would help me figure out where I belong. That is when I found the GIBS Full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration (PDBA).

This programme was not just about textbooks and lectures. It was about gaining clarity, building confidence, and discovering the professional version of myself. The interactive learning environment helped me engage with the content in a way that felt real. Modules like Financial Accounting were suddenly approachable because we were not just crunching numbers, we were having conversations about real business problems.

But the biggest impact came from Career Services. Until then, I did not know how to write a standout CV or present myself in an interview.

I thought "just being myself" would be enough. It was not. But thanks to the guidance I received, I secured an internship at Investec, an experience that gave me professional confidence and access to mentorship that changed everything.

Today, I work at IQ Business, where I'm currently supporting anti-money laundering projects for a major bank. The workplace no longer feels intimidating because GIBS gave me the tools to walk in with purpose. I have seen the difference between myself and peers who did not have that bridge between studying and working. The Full-time PDBA helped me make that transition with intention.

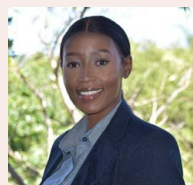
If you are uncertain about what is next after your degree, I understand. I have been there. But know that you do not have to figure it out alone. The GIBS PDBA gave me more than a qualification. It gave me direction.

Applications for the 2026 Full-time PDBA are now open. Visit gibs.co.za to apply. Limited bursaries available.



Matt Koster

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q: When do Applications for study in 2026 close?

A: Applications to study in 2026 are open and will close on different dates depending on the qualification you are applying for. Familiarise yourself with your faculty content to ensure you don't miss any important dates.

[What to study](#)
[Apply here](#)



Q: What funding opportunities are currently available to me to study at UP?

A: There are a number of funding opportunities currently open, go through the links below, familiarise yourself with the requirements of each funder and ensure you submit your funding applications as stated by each.

[Funding opportunities Listing](#)

[Graduate Support Hub Funding Opportunities](#)

[Postgraduate Support Office \(PSO\)](#)

[International Prospective Students](#)

[Student Fees](#)

Talk to us!

Mr Sylvester Siboto

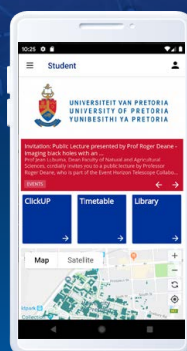
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