



POSTGRADUATE
DIPLOMA AND
MPHIL IN LAND
AND AGRARIAN
STUDIES



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE

A place of quality, a place to grow, from hope to action through knowledge

PLAAS

Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies



Land and Agrarian Studies at UWC

Are you interested in a key policy issue, i.e. the redistribution of land and the restructuring of agrarian social relations in southern Africa? Would you like to study land reform and agrarian change from a multi-disciplinary perspective, and enhance your capacity to critically analyse policies and programmes?

If you are, apply for admission to a unique programme of postgraduate study which draws on academic expertise from a variety of disciplines.

This programme is housed within the School of Government at the University of the Western Cape, and administered by the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS). Academics from the University of Cape Town's History Department and the practitioners from the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) contribute to teaching on the programme.

Programme Objectives

The purpose of the programme is to enhance the capacity of government and civil society organisations to develop and implement policies and programmes of land and agrarian reform that seek to achieve both the redistribution of productive assets and sustainable development.

The specific objective is to develop appropriate knowledge and skills which will enable policy makers, planners, managers, researchers and fieldworkers in the sector to:

- conceptualise key policy issues of land and agrarian reform
- analyse problems of policy formulation and programme design
- plan effective programmes and projects
- undertake research on important questions of policy and practice.

Target Group

The Postgraduate (PG) Diploma aims to provide training in conceptual and policy analysis skills to policy makers, planners, managers and fieldworkers who work in land reform and rural development. These could work for government departments, local government bodies, non-governmental organisations, or private sector companies and consultancies.

Course Structure

Successful applicants may study towards a PG Diploma in Land and Agrarian Studies, and a MPhil (Coursework) in Land and Agrarian Studies.

Students registering for the PG Diploma or MPhil (Coursework) will be required to complete six taught coursework modules in their first year. Students who successfully complete these



modules may graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma. Alternatively, students who complete the modules with an average mark of 65% or above, may apply to be upgraded to an MPhil (Coursework) in their second year. The MPhil (Coursework) Programme in turn will require the completion of a mini-thesis on an appropriate topic to be agreed upon by the course coordinator.

Approach to Teaching and Learning

The curriculum is multi-disciplinary. It analyses policy questions in historical and comparative perspectives, drawing on experiences in southern Africa and elsewhere. It facilitates an active approach to learning through small group discussions, debates, and structured exercises as well as reading and writing assignments. These methods are aimed at developing students' abilities to problem-solve creatively, and to think critically and independently.

MPhil students will learn to conduct independent research (either of a theoretical or an applied nature), on aspects of land and agrarian reform. This will involve design and implementation of a research project around a specific topic. This research project should be completed within twelve months.

Course Outline

1. Postgraduate Diploma Students

- PG Diploma students must complete six modules, each worth 20 National Qualifications Framework (NQF) credits.
- Each of the six modules is comprised of a pre-contact assignment, structured teaching over a two week period, and a post-contact assignment.

- There are three on-campus teaching blocks every year: February/March, May and August. Two modules are completed per teaching block.
- The 3 teaching blocks consist of lectures and classroom discussion and debate, informed by relevant reading.

2. MPhil (Coursework) Students

- The mini thesis is worth 60 NQF credits.
- Students must complete the coursework programme outlined above in their first year.
- Students must complete a mini-thesis in their second year.

3. Research Methodology

- Students continuing with MPhil (Coursework) will be required to attend the research methodology week
- Students should complete a concept note and work towards a proposal

Admission Criteria

For admission to the Postgraduate Diploma in Land and Agrarian Studies, applicants must have obtained an undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline (eg. sociology, history, economics, political science, agriculture, geographical and environmental studies) and demonstrate an interest in land reform issues.

For those applicants without a first degree, recognition of prior learning (RPL) procedures would apply. The most likely candidates for RPL applications are experienced practitioners who have not had the opportunity to engage in higher education, or have only a Diploma or Certificate qualification.

COURSE MODULES

LAS 701: The history of the land question in South Africa

- Conquest and dispossession, 1652-1795: a survey
- Forms of dispossession and modes of acquisition, 1795-1900s
- The making of the reserves
- Urban segregation: locations and townships
- Urban segregation: Group Areas
- Grand apartheid: the Bantustans
- Case studies of removals
- Traditional authorities and land rights
- Black political organisations and the Land Question
- Resettlement sites
- Land restitution

LAS 702: The agrarian question in Southern Africa

- Land reform debates in southern Africa: historical and contemporary
- The political economy of land and agrarian reform in South Africa
- Restitution in South Africa
- Redistribution in South Africa
- Tenure reform in South Africa
- Overview of recent land reforms in Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe
- Agriculture policies and post-settlement support

LAS 703: Land and agrarian reform in contemporary Africa: Comparative perspectives and policy debates

- Land, agriculture, poverty and rural livelihoods in Africa
- The agrarian question in Africa: analytical

and conceptual issues

- The variety of reform: case studies across Africa
- Intensive case study of land reform in South Africa (redistribution, restitution, tenure reform).
- Implementing policies: politics, ideology, state capacity

LAS 704: Economics of Agrarian Systems

- Different types of agrarian systems and their economic aspects
- Economic arguments for land and agrarian reform
- Impact of performance of different agrarian reform
- Economic literacy including understanding of economic concepts, economic terminology, and ability to interpret basic tables and charts

LAS 706: Sustainable rural livelihoods, and Integrated Development

- Understanding the concepts of poverty and rural livelihoods
- Development, planning approaches and critiques
- Poverty, food security and vulnerabilities (frameworks and in practice)
- Sustainable rural livelihoods (frameworks and critiques)
- HIV/AIDS, gender and poverty

LAS 707: Sustainable natural resource management in land and agrarian reform

- Natural resources and livelihoods in southern Africa
- Managing natural resources: conceptual frameworks and controversies
- Rangelands and the carrying capacity debate
- Forests and the gendered nature of resource tenure
- Wildlife and the devolution of authority debate
- Water catchments and conflict management: struggles over meaning
- Legal dimensions and the co-management debate

LAS 708: Legal and socio-legal dimensions of land and agrarian reform

- The law and its administration
- The evolution of land law
- Land reform laws in South Africa
- Law and development

LAS 805: Research methodology

- Development of concept notes and proposals
- Research process
- Research design and formulation
- Qualitative and quantitative research approaches



Course Fees

Estimated course fees ranges from R15 000 to R20 000 for students from South Africa and Southern African Development Community countries.

In addition, students must cover their own photocopying, travel and accommodation costs. Where course readers are provided, students will be expected to cover the costs.

Please check website for updated information about application dates, modules and fees.

Bursaries

Since 2005, the Belgian Embassy has been funding the students for course fees, travel and subsistence. PLAAS would like to thank the Belgian government for their continuous and invaluable support to the students and to the programme.

Students are encouraged to raise their own funding through employers or other sources.

Applications

Application forms can be obtained from Ms Carla Henry, the Postgraduate Programme Administrator:

Tel: +27 21 959 3727 / 3733

Fax: +27 21 959 3732

E-mail: chenry@uwc.ac.za

Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)

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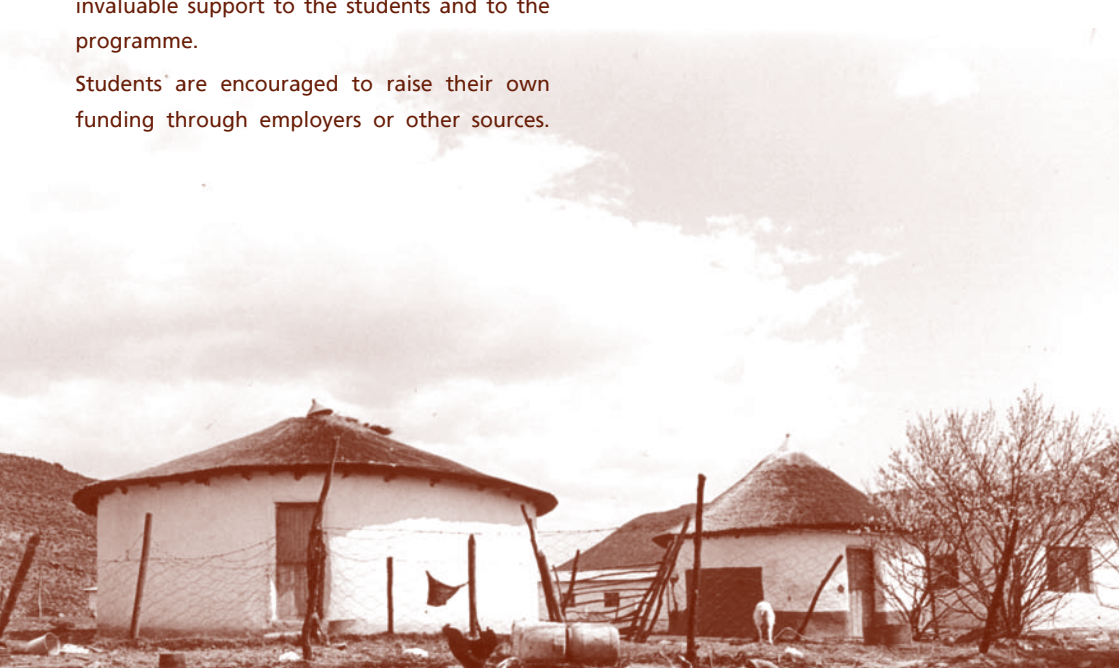
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