Studying at SPU 2022 STUDENT AFFAIRS NANDBOOK

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#MySPU







Message from the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

I am pleased that you have chosen Sol Plaatje University as the next stop on your academic journey.

Being a relatively young institution means that we are ambitious, forward looking, vibrant, and optimistic, just like you. This exciting university is premised on the social justice ideals of equity and equality and has built its reputation on excellence, quality, access, inclusion and success.

You have each taken different roads to get here and those diverse experiences will enable you to have a rich educational experience as you learn from each other and with each other.

You have also traversed many challenges since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic so we hope that this year will bring some stability to your lives. I encourage you to embrace the opportunities available to you at Sol Plaatje University and to make full use of the resources that we have placed at your disposal to ensure your success.

I wish you well for your first year at Sol Plaatje University and look forward to seeing each of you become citizens who are competent and capable of realising the aspirations of society and who will lead the way in engaging critically with the key challenges of your generation.

PROFESSOR ANDREW M CROUCH VICE-CHANCELLOR





Message from the Dean of Student Affairs

I welcome you with great pride and admiration to Sol Plaatje University (SPU).

It surely has not been easy for you navigating the ever-changing terrain, you have shown resilience and embraced change with courage and humility. I stand before you today to firstly congratulate you for making it thus far and to reassure you, that SPU is a university of choice and that the Division of Student Affairs (DSA) will be here to support you all the way.

At SPU we pride ourselves with being a university where students from different backgrounds are welcomed and converge to form a true South African identity, for our strength as a people will always lie in our diversity. As a Division of Student Affairs, we seek to ensure that SPU is a transforming university, one that strives for social justice in everything it does. The foundational values entrenched in the constitution being equality, dignity and freedom are necessarily of importance to the university. Leading with care is always our fundamental philosophy as we seek to care for fellow humans, all other life forms, the natural environment and self, the very essence of UBUNTU.

Student Affairs will take care of YOU through an array of student support and development programmes to help you reach your full potential. Your academic success and wellbeing are our top priority more, especially in these trying times of hybrid learning that have changed the traditional learning and student life so that you have a sense of belonging and are kept connected to the institution.

Community is important at SPU and the Division of Student Affairs espouses what that is by creating opportunities for engagement with students beyond the classroom. We purposefully foster seamless collaboration with academic units to create a seamless integration between social life and academic performance. A balance between the academic responsibilities and the vibrant student life is achieved through strong student communities, our full sports offerings, co-curricular programmes and support and the Student Representative Council (SRC), which is the highest student governance body in respect to student governance at SPU and serves the interest of SPU and the student body without partiality, bias, or prejudice.

Welcome to #MySPU the best choice for a young driven individual and Student Affairs echoes the spirit of Sol Plaatje University and the beautiful city of Kimberley, here you will find a home away from home.

MS NICOLE MORRIS DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Affairs Handbook 2022

SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY



RA-THAGA HALL OF RESIDENCE

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Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje (9 October 1876 – 19 June 1932)

Sol Plaatje was a journalist, translator, writer and politician. He was a founding member of the South African Native Congress (SANNC), which became the African National Congress (ANC) where he served as the SANNC's first General Secretary. Sol Plaatje was fluent in seven languages and served as a court interpreter during the Siege of Mafeking. He is known for having translated the works of William Shakespeare into Setswana. Sol Plaatje was the editor and owner of the Bechuana Gazette (Koranta ea Becoana) in Mafeking; the Bechuana Friend (Tsala ea Becoana) and The Friend of the People (Tsala ea Batho) in Kimberley.

Sol Plaatje was the first black South African to write a novel in English – *Mhudi.* He wrote the novel in 1919 but it was only published in 1930. He also wrote *Native Life in South Africa* (1916).



Sol Plaatje University (SPU) was opened in 2014 and is one of two new universities (together with the University of Mpumalanga) to be established since the dawn of democracy in 1994. SPU currently offers qualifications in Education, Economic and Management Sciences, Humanities and Natural and Applied Sciences.

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To become an institution of higher learning uniquely positioned to:

- graduate citizens who are competent and capable of realising the aspirations of society.
 - produce new knowledge impacting on key challenges of the region.
 - engage critically with communities of discourse and communities of people in order to search out pathways to equitable development.

A university critically engaged in learning, research, and development – and enhancing democratic practice and social justice in society.

- Academic freedom.
- Independent intellectual endeavour.
- Depth and breadth of knowledge and critical thinking.
- Academic citizenship.
- National and international comparability of academic quality.
- Community engagement and social responsiveness.
- Intellectual integrity.

3. Graduate Attributes

SOL Plaatje University is committed to social justice, human development, interconnectivity, diversity, and inclusion. It seeks to develop young minds, such as yourselves, that are engaged and who work productively to bring about meaningful impact not only within the SPU community but also the places in which you find yourself working, living, and breathing. SPU looks forward to graduating students who embody the following characteristics:

- · In-depth knowledge of specialist discipline
- Innovative and critical thinking skills with commitment to continuous learning
- Strong sense of the ethics of scholarship and intellectual integrity
- Functional knowledge across broad range of disciplines and transferability
 of such knowledge to various contexts
- Global citizenship with the ability to confront life's ambiguities and complexities and solve problems
- Continuous development of cognitive and professional skills through lifelong learning
- Interpersonal skills and an ability to appreciate and embrace diversity
- Understanding of human rights, social justice and environmental sustainability imperatives
- Sense of public good and civic responsibility
- Respect for indigenous knowledge, values and cultures





The Student Representative Council (SRC) exists in terms of the Higher Education Act, 1997, Act No. 101 of 1997 (as amended). It is the highest decision-making body of student governance. It represents all students and their overall interest and social well-being in the university. It is responsible for contributing effectively to the policy-making discourse of the university to enhance teaching and learning, research, and community engagement. The SRC is a very important stakeholder within the Sol Plaatje University, as no decision can be taken without the student's voice, and its role is to be the voice of the students on campus. The SRC represents students on several important university committees, like Council, Senate, Institutional Forum, and regularly meets with the Vice-Chancellor (VC) and the Senior Management Team (SMT) to try and resolve student issues and propose ways to resolve these issues.

The SRC runs several projects and programmes, adding significantly to the development of vibrant student life. The SRC approves and oversees the operations of all student clubs and societies.

The SRC is elected annually by the students and consists of 10 members.

The SRC offices are located on the first floor of the Moroka residence, Student Affairs Division. The SRC can be contacted by emailing them at <a href="sciences.scie

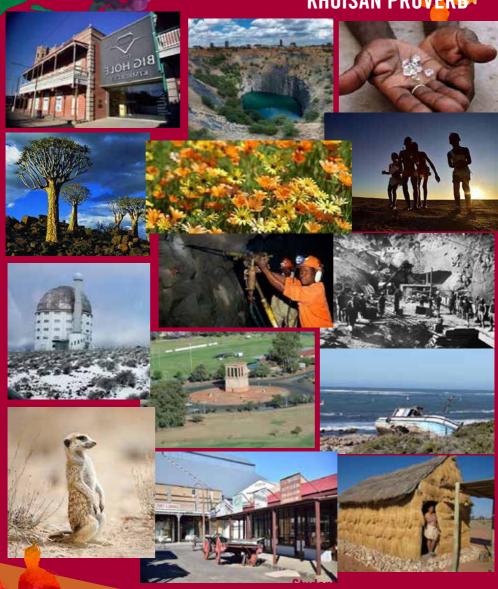


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Kimberley/Northern Cape fun-facts

"You can't sow seeds of discord and expect to harvest different. You will always reap what you have sown and that is the law of the universe."

KHOISAN PROVERB





We understand that for you to succeed academically, and to go on to become an active and fully engaged citizen in the world beyond the university, that you will need a range of support and development and opportunities. services Much of the support services are located in the Student Affairs Department, situated in Moroka Hall of Residences, Block C003, Central Campus. Student Affairs is your first port of call for assistance, especially



Office of the Dean

for non-academic issues you may face. This department deals with a vast range of student life, wellness, career support, and development issues and opportunities. We urge you to make the most of your time at SPU, and to seek assistance, should there be a need.

We are also active on social media, and you can find us on Facebook @spustudentaffairs where we share key information and insights on various topics, events, vacancies, and activities happening on and around campus.



Student Life and Development Team

5.1 Student Life and Development

The office is headed by the Student Development Officer (SDO), who is responsible for all student governance related affairs (support and development) and co-curricular activities. It serves to coordinate and organise all cocurricular opportunities geared towards enhancing the holistic



student experiences at SPU, and to provide a conducive environment for students' creativity, independent thinking, and social exchanges and appreciation. The service offering ranges from formal leadership development courses, citizenship development initiatives, volunteer opportunities, arts and culture opportunities, student leadership induction and training programmes, amongst others. These development and training programme seeks to enhance and maximise students' leadership potential and to create a vibrant student.

In the student life and development area, we work closely with students, and student leaders, on implementing and designing programmes set to prepare them for service to the SPU community, and also for the world beyond the university. We believe that each student bring capacity to the development process. That you are able to do things for yourself, and that our role is to guide your development appropriately, and to empower you with information and skills development opportunities on this path. Development is thus a partnership between you and us.

5.1.1 Clubs and Societies

Several clubs and societies at SPU reflect a wide range of interests, including academic, religious, cultural, and political activities. Clubs and societies allow students to enjoy activities at the University that are generally not part of the academic curricula. Clubs and Societies enable students to enjoy being part of a community on campus that is stimulating and opens up new challenges and opportunities for them. Students run each club and society, and any student may be a member.



Students can join the following clubs and societies that affiliated with SRC:

Name of the club/society Category		Category	Contact details	
1.	Black Management Forum Student.	Leadership and Entrepreneurship	Name: Emmanuel Brandon Ramphabana Email: <u>202101775@spu.ac.za</u> Secretary	
2.	Cristian Revival Church Students Ministry	Religious	Name: Thulisile Lumeza Email address: <u>201903001@spu.ac.za</u> Co-ordinator	
3.	Democratic Alliance Student Organisation	Political	Name: Aotlotlwe Itumeleng Email Address: <u>201901259@spu.ac.za</u> Chairperson	
4.	Economic Freedom Fighters Student Command	Political	Names: Lisenyane Matshidisho Email: <u>202001010@spu.ac.za</u>	
5.	Engineers Without Boarders of SPU.	Academic	Names: Galaletsang Tlhompo Email: <u>201902714@spu.ac.za;</u> Secretary	
6.	Geekulcha Student Society	Academic	Melvin Kisten 201700476@spu.ac.za Chairperson	
7.	SISBROS'KEEPER	Social Development	Zintle Xakeka: Email: <u>202003863@spu.ac.za</u> Chairperson	
8.	SPU Studentpreneur Community of Practice (SCP)	Business	Names: Chad Lucas Email: <u>201902505@spu.ac.za</u> Chairperson	
9.	South Africa Student Congress	Political	Names: Moepeng Refilwe Email: <u>201902251@spu.ac.za</u> Deputy Secretary	
10.	Association of Catholic Tertiary Students (ACTS)	Religious	Names: Kutlwano Chelechele Email: <u>201902661@spu.ac.za</u>	
11.	SPU DRAMA CLUB	Cultural	Names: Oratile Mokwa Email: 201723417@spu.ac.za Secretary	
12.	Let's Eat Together	Charity	Names: KAONE MAECO LOSELO Email: <u>201902516@spu.ac.za</u> Chairperson	
13.	Kgomotso Thomas Book Club	Academic	Names: Munei Patience Mahada Email: <u>201902538@spu.ac.za</u> Coordinator	
14.	Zion Christian Church Student Fellowship	Religious	Names: Peter Ramollo Email: <u>201903130@spu.ac.za/ ramollopp@gmail.com</u> Chairperson	





Students can become members of societies throughout the academic year. Student clubs and societies showcase themselves at the central campus quad during the annual O-week. Here students can sign-up with the club or society that interests them. If students miss the O-week sign-up period, they can contact each club or society.

Each club and society have its own elected student leadership and is responsible for organizing their functions and monitoring their budgets. Clubs and Societies are required to regularly report to the SRC, reflect on their activities, account for how they use funding allocated to them, and contribute to student life growth and development. The SRC is currently considering a few proposed student societies. These expand the variety of student life and recreational opportunities available to students. The SRC will communicate the renewal of existing and application of new clubs and societies.

The SRC offices are located on the third floor of the Located currently at Moroka Hall of Residences on Central Campus in the Student Affairs Block. You can also contact the SRC by emailing the SRC President at <u>srcpresident@spu.ac.za</u> or the SRC Secretary at <u>srcsecretary@spu.ac.za</u>. **5.2 Student Health and Wellness**



Health and Wellness Team

The Student Health and Wellness Centre is located on the ground floor of the New Academic Building on Central Campus. The student counsellor and a primary health care nurse are available at the Student Health and Wellness centre to offer free services to registered SPU students. Please call 053 491 0496, email: mpho.setlhabi@spu.ac.za or come in to book an appointment with Ms. Mpho Setlhabi.



5.2.1 Counselling Services

The counselling services are offered by the Student Counsellor, Ms. Nthabiseng Afrika, who is a registered psychologist. Student counselling service aims to help students minimize the impact of their psychological problems on their academic studies. We offer both virtual and face-to-face counselling sessions. The counselling services are also operated from a holistic wellness model that supports students in terms of their physical, academic, social, emotional, and spiritual functioning.

How does counselling work?

• Proactive:	Working closely with academics and other support services to identify problems early. Providing counselling and workshops before problems become acute.	
Reactive:	Dealing with current/ existing problems that student brings to the counselling service.	
Developmental:	Providing training workshops/dialogues on various topics.	

The Student Counsellor offers the following services for registered SPU students at **NO COST**:

Individual Counselling:

The Student Counsellor provides psychological counselling for a variety of personal and academic related problems, e.g., difficulty adjusting to student life, depression, anxiety, grief, trauma, relationship concerns, issues related to sexuality,

self-harming, low self-esteem. A session lasts from 45 minutes to one hour. Follow-up sessions may be needed. Waiting times for appointments vary according to demand. In some cases, referral to other medical specialists (such as general practitioners, psychiatrists, and neurologists) are made. All sessions are confidential unless you are at risks of harming yourself and/others.

• Group Counselling:

Various workshops are on offer at the Health and Wellness Centre, e.g., Learning styles, self-discovery, stress management.

Resource Room:

The Resource Room at the Health and Wellness Centre contains up-to-date information on self-help materials. Access to the material is free of charge.

• Welfare Services:

The Student Counsellor is dedicated to your welfare needs. In cases of real need, we can provide food vouchers.

Academic Support and Advocacy:

The Student Counsellor works to assist students with disabilities, e.g., extra time concessions.

• Wellness Development: The Student Counsellor conducts a number of wellness dialogues/ activities relating to personal, academic, and leadership development, e.g., Substance abuse, cultural diversity, living a healthy lifestyle, mental health issues and gender-based violence.

• Psychosocial Wellness Programme: Is a programme centred on social and mental wellbeing and aids in addressing the psychosocial challenges faced when bridging the gap between high school

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and university. The programme is also uniquely packaged to allow for successful transitioning through the different levels of university including to

5.2.2. Student Primary Health Care Services

A qualified Primary Health Care Nursing Sister, Sr. Danelia McCarthy is available per appointment to **registered SPU students ONLY**. Emergencies will receive preference. **Services are available Monday to Friday, between 08h30 and 16h00 excluding lunch hour which is from 13h00-14h00 daily**.

Please take note of notices that may be advertised from time to time with regards to any changes in services and or initiatives from the Student Health and Wellness Centre.

Services offered include the following:

- Minor Ailments e.g., flu, earache etc.
- Minor injuries
- Management and treatment of infectious diseases like Chicken pox
- Emergency assessment and possible referral/ treatment
- HIV/AIDS management and treatment
- Voluntary HIV counselling and testing
- Screening services e.g., Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) screening, Tuberculosis (TB) screening
- Family Planning services including pregnancy tests
- Crises Management like Sexual Assault, psychotic episodes
- Referral to services not available on campus like dentist

Referral services

Students will be referred, **if necessary**, to the relevant services/ specialised services not available on campus. These services include dentists, psychiatrists, Thuthuzela Rape centre, CANSA, Robert Sobukwe Hospital, City clinic, West End Hospital, social workers, counsellors, Caritas.

HIV Counselling and Testing



HIV counselling and testing is offered at the Health and Wellness Centre daily as a walk-in service. There is no need to schedule an appointment. This is a voluntary testing service, with preand postcounselling. The procedure takes about 30 minutes where a student will receive results immediately. It is free of charge and students

can be assured of confidentiality being maintained at all times. Students testing positive for HIV will be referred to PHC nursing Sister to start on Antiretroviral (ARV's) after extensive counselling is done.

NB: Students <u>will not</u> receive letter for missing classes in the event of HIV counselling and testing OR Pregnancy testing.

 Peer Mentoring: Senior students are trained as mentors to help fellow students. Peer Mentors can make a difference in a students' living and learning life at the university and are a bridge between staff and students. Peer Mentors also run a number of outreach activities.



5.3 SPU Sport



Sport Team

SPU Sports contributes to the development and overall wellbeing of students by embracing diversity and providing the students with the necessary opportunities and resources. Our aim is to develop a holistic student, fostering their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing. We provide the desired student experience, by maximizing sport participation both recreationally and competitively.

SPU Sports are rooted in the fact that physical activity is vital in the holistic development of students, thus we aim to strike the right balance between academics and sports in providing students' academic guidance, life skills, monitoring, and support.

As SPU Sports we strive to be one of the top sport universities in the country when it comes to providing an environment that is conducive for elite athletes. The SPU Sport Office is currently located at Moroka Hall of Residences on Central Campus in the Student Affairs Block.

Our current developing codes are Esports, Marshall Arts, Campus gym, Staff sports (wellness programs).

Below we have information pertaining to our existing sporting codes and some achievements. We look forward to you signing up and joining one or more of our teams.

1. Aerobics and Dance sport

Our instructor is well trained in different types of aerobic exercise and SPU is proud of the USSA champion achievements for the year 2018.

2. Athletics

SPU Athletics Is a registered club at the Griqualand West Provincial structure. Our events Is spilt as track and field and cross country. The team participate at league meetings and annual USSA Championships.

3. Basketball

The university promotes players for both male and female teams and players participate in the Kimberley local basketball league and schools league.

4. Chess

The Chess club is ranked as the No.1 club in the province. Of our male and female teams, we currently have 6 Northern Cape provincial players. Our coach has also recently been declared as the South African Youth Champion of 2018.

5. Cricket

Being the host of the USSA Cricket 2017 games was a huge privilege for SPU. Our team holds the title of current Northern Cape reserve league champion and proudly have 2 provincial players in our team.

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6. Hockey

Our hockey clubs (male and female) regularly compete in the provincial leagues and USSA tournaments.

7. Netball

SPU has 4 provincial players including 1 team member in the Brutal Fruit Super league. The team competes in the Frances Baard league as well as the USSA championships. We are proud to have a trainer who is also the Provincial Brutal Fruit Coach.

8. Rugby

Rugby players compete in the local Frances Baard leagues; formats 7s and 15. The team also recently competed in the USSA Rugby 7s championships.

9. Soccer/ Football

Our football club constitutes of both male and female teams. The male team is ranked 10th at USSA in the A Section. Our female team is at the present, the local league champions. We also have 10 teams competing in our campus leagues and inter-res leagues.

10. Table Tennis

The Table Tennis club has competed in the provincial table tennis association, campus leagues and the USSA championships.

11. Tennis

Due to the lack of a provincial structure, our tennis players (males and females) often have friendly games with local clubs and nearby universities.

12. Volleyball

Our volleyball teams compete in the Free State volleyball leagues and the USSA championships for both, indoor and beach volleyball.

13. Golf

Our Golf team competes at tournaments during the year and the USSA Champions that also takes place annually.

14. Karate

SPU Karate team participates in local leagues as well as provincial and National Karate tournaments. USSA tournament Is also an annual event for Karate.

Facebook @spustudentaffairs

5.4 Career Services

The Career Services at Sol Plaatje University aims to provide our students and alumni with the necessary support programs and resources to enable them to transition into the world of work.

Career development is a crucial part of university life, and it is a journey that should not be taken lightly. The first step towards career development is taking ownership, being present and exploring all opportunities available within the University from first year right up to your final year of graduating. The earlier you start preparing yourself, the easier the process becomes.

Self-reflection is key. Not only will you begin to see personal growth, but you will also gain a much deeper understanding of the working world and the expectations it holds on to a young graduate. This includes how job searches work and the importance of knowing what your particular preferences and deal breakers (non-negotiables) are. Career development allows you to be ready and willing to grasp each opportunity that comes your way confidently.



The good news is that we are here to help!

The Career Service provides on-going professional developmental support to **ALL students** throughout their career journey. Students get exposed to career events and series of workshops relating to the world of work. The world of work is constantly evolving, and the ownership is on **YOU** to ensure that you make the most of the resources at your disposal. Students are therefore encouraged to:

- Visit the Career Office early
- Gather general information, handouts, and resources from the office
- Participate in workshops and other programmes to clarify career goals
- Enquire about individual and group career planning and development

By participating in these events, you will enhance:

- Your Self-Confidence
- Your Image
- · Your Networking Opportunity and
- Your Employment Possibilities

Our Services include:

- Assistance with CV and Cover Letter Writing
- Interview Preparations
- Personal Branding Workshops
- Motivational Talks
- On-campus recruiting
- Graduate Job/ Internship database
- Career Service Resources
- Employer Connections (Career Fairs, Company Presentations, etc)
- Financial Planning Sessions
- Alumni Networking

These services are **FREE** and available only to SPU students and alumni. For any further information and/ or assistance, visit the Career Services Office at Student Affairs (Moroka Hall of Residences, Student Affairs Block), Room C304 or schedule an appointment with Ms Zipho Msimango via e-mail, studentaffairs.enquiries@spu.ac.za or call 053-4910043.

The Career Service helps pioneers kick-start their career journey.

Seize the opportunity!

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5.5 Living and Learning Community

SPU is keenly aware of the strong relationship that exists between the way in which students are accommodated and the quality of learning experienced, which is why our living and learning environment is the basis for our residence culture. While the University cannot provide residence accommodation to all its needy students, we are committed to managing our own residences in a manner that ensures enhanced quality of living and learning. Our residences are more than mere spaces of sleeping and eating, and because of the nature of communal living respecting the rights of others and inhibiting a broad mind encapsulated by diversity is essential.

SPU has two types of students accommodation, namely, university owned and off-campus accommodation.

For further enquiries send to <u>residence.enquiries@</u> <u>spu.ac.za / off-campus@spu.ac.za</u>





MEET THE TEAM



Residence Team

FACILITIES

All SPU residences:

- have academic, recreational, and social spaces available
- are equipped with Wi-Fi
- have 24-hour on-site security
- · Laundry room
- Dining hall with a Meal Management system requiring students to book for their meals.

Smoking within the SPU residence buildings is prohibited; however, SPU has designated smoking zones.

All resident students are provided with a set of rules and guidelines pertaining to matters of governance and management of SPU Residences. This is known as the **Residence Rules**. The rules are directed by a primary consideration of the welfare of our students and creating a residential environment that is at all times, conducive to learning and intellectual engagement as well as personal and social development. SPU expects that all who live and work in our residences will use these values to guide their behaviour at all times. Students who will be residing in a residence will be expected to signoff on these conditions and will be held liable for transgressions if any.

Residences close during the mid-year and end-of-year vacation periods. Students will be expected to vacate their rooms, 48 hours after their last examination.

Facebook @SolPlaatjeUniversityResidences

Sol Plaatje University campus - Sol Plaatje University (spu.ac.za)

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ACCOMMODATION ADDRESS	LANDLORE DETAILS
06 Angel Street, Albertyshof	0810497077
2 Custom Road, Belgravia	0823145792
13 Meyer Street, New Park	0828263618
19 Truter Street, New Park	0828261618
27 Waterworks, New Park	0714923413
4 Steward Street, New Park	0784949432
3 Saga Street, New Park	0784949432
43 Law Street, New Park	0839585255
11 Hunt Street, New Park	0839585255
76 Waterworks, New Park	0626343115
38 Kekewich, Monument Heights	0626343115
35 Law Street, New Park	0614932361
1 Angel Street, New Park	0614932361
46 Law Street, New Park	0820758445
803 Mount Curtis, 104 Du Toitspan Road	0820758445
44 De Beers	0716271464
36 Black Street, New Park	0164054269
5 Foggit Street	0736992615
1 Pienaar Street, New Park	0823044215
54A Black Street, New Park	0713593965
01 Harhof Street, New Park	0713593965
05 Welgevonden, New Park	0835320099
17 Bishops Street, New Park	0835320099
1 Cohen Street, New Park	0835320099
3 Cohen Street, New Park	0835320099
105 Waterworks, New Park	0835320099
37 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
38 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
39 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
41 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
42 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
44 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
46 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
50 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
92 Lawson Street, New Park	0835320099
31 Holland Street, New Park	0835320099
20 Scanlan Street, New Park	0835320099

Qualifying Kimberley -based students who require offcampus accommodation must undergo a home evaluation conducted by a Social Worker.

For more information kindly contact Mr Adonis Shikwambana @ adonis.shikwambana@spu.ac.za

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2022 ACCREDITED OFF-CAMPU ACCOMMODATION LIST

6.1 Student Discipline

6.1.1 University Protocols and Policies

Please familiarize yourself with the student disciplinary codes. These include the General Rules and Policies, the Conditions for Accommodation, and the various academic rules applicable to your area of study, the SRC Constitution, the Code of Conduct for Student Leaders, and such university policies as may be adopted and published from time to time. These will be available on the student portal, Moodle as well as on the SPU website.

Whilst our approach is developmental, and our aim is for discipline to be educational and corrective, there are instances where the Disciplinary Committee will take serious action against you for serious breaches or for repeat offences. Please note that ignorance of a rule, will not be regarded as a sufficient excuse for action not to be taken against you.

At SPU we place high value on diversity, and on welcoming people with different lifestyle choices, backgrounds, origins, gender, sex, sexuality, race, language groups, etc. onto our campus. We believe that this diversity contributes significantly to your learning and will assist in preparing for you helping us build the kind of South Africa as envisaged in the Bill of Rights. We will as such, not such tolerate discrimination against anyone on the basis of their perceived or real difference. Should you feel that you are being discriminated against, you are requested to immediately report this to your Head of School, the University Registrar, or the Dean of Student Affairs.

Please note that the university does not provide legal services for students who stand accused of breaking the law. The university will however assist with informing your family and making sure that you are aware of your basic rights, through the services of the Student Counsellor.

6.1.2 Academic Support

Academic work is challenging, and the standard is often much higher than you might feel capable of. This will probably be a feeling shared by your peers. However, if you are missing deadlines, falling behind in lectures, or getting poor mark. **SEEK HELP!**

- First approach your lecturer(s) and speak to them about your difficulties. Your school will be able to provide you with guidance and academic support.
- If you stay in a university residence, you can approach your residence warden for guidance. SPU has appointed academic wardens to ensure that academic support and guidance is available to you at residence level. Your warden will thus be able to appropriately refer you.
- Speak to the Student Counsellor in the Student Affairs Department. The Student Counsellor works on an advice and referral service and will be able to ensure that you are guided towards the necessary support needed and or required.



6.1.3 Substance Abuse, Alcohol and Smoking

All SPU buildings are smoke free zones, and no alcohol is allowed onto the SPU campus, including residences. The use, possession, and supply of any substances and/or drugs prohibited in terms of the South African law, are prohibited on the SPU campus. The university will take disciplinary action against any student found to be in breach of the SPU disciplinary and the South African code. Penalties might include expulsion from residences or even from the university.

SPU however also acknowledge that in some cases, substance abuse can become a medical problem, or might be as a result of a host of psychological and other issues. We take specific note of our context, and as such are committed to providing support to students who may need assistance. For further information and/or support, please consult the Student Counsellor on the ground floor of the New Academic Building, Central Campus.

6.2 Changing courses or cancelling your studies

Please note that should you wish to change your course, that you can only do this up to two weeks after registration. Consult with your respective School Academic Administrator first, so that you can get a sense of the applicable rules and also the impact this change may have on your curriculum. They will then provide you with the necessary forms required.

Please also note that you may also need to discuss this with your funder if you are on a bursary.

There may come a time when given certain circumstances, you wish to cancel your studies at

SPU. Often students cancel because of a change in their personal circumstances, or because they have decided to pursue other life goals. Not formally cancelling your studies, and just staying away, will result in you being charged the full fee for the year. If you are a residence student, then please also formally withdraw from residence. The Residence Administrator and Residence Manager will assist you with this.

6.3 Managing your Finances

Many of you, will for the first time in your life, have to manage your own finances. This might be managing your bursary or scholarship money, or money given to you be your parents or family for you to buy essentials. This can be a daunting task. Please get into the habit of drawing up a budget. Detail all your expenses, starting with the most important or the essentials, and working your way to hobbies or student life activities you may wish you get involved in. Remember to prioritise expenses towards your academic commitments, like books and study materials, and personal hygiene items.

A few of you, will have opted for the self-catering option. Whilst this may sound easy, it requires careful planning to stretch your budget so as to ensure that you have enough food and supplies to last monthly. Buying food for one person is often more expensive than buying in bulk. Consider partnering with students in your commune or with friends who are also on self-catering, to help stretch your budget. Please remember that you have opted for the self-catering option because you want to manage your own finances and life, be responsible and take ownership of the choice you made!

Students are often lured into opening accounts with clothing stores, or to open cell phone contracts, which at first seems attractive, but which might

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get you into trouble if you are unable to service the debt. Rather get into the culture of saving money and buying these items cash. Many stores offer student discounts, always keep your student card on you, and enquire about these student deals. When booking your tickets to go home for the university vacations, enquire about student discounts especially, from bus companies. The key here is to plan, plan, plan!

To supplement your income, you may want to think about part-time jobs. It is common across the world for students to work part-time as waiters, shop assistants or even to work in call centres. Be on the lookout for student assistant opportunities on campus. The Student Affairs Department will work close with SPU departments and offcampus partners, to try and secure students' work opportunities. Be on the look-out for these! Remember that the SPU rule is for 50% of the money earned through work on campus, to be paid into your fees account. You will only be exempt from this if you have a full bursary or scholarship, or if your fees are already paid in full. While we encourage you to find ways of supplementing your income through part-time jobs, please do not allow this to compromise you academically. Your academic success comes first, alwavs!

An important point to remember:

Before planning on using money expected to from a bursar/ funder, check what the funding rules applicable to you allow. The Finance Department will not be able to reimburse you any funding left in your student account if your bursar or funder does not allow this.

Student Funding Office:

The student funding office is located at the North Campus in Luka Jantjie House. This is an important

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service to assist you on your journey to find a bursary or scholarship, or in fully understanding the rules applicable to your particular funding arrangement. Remember, the student funding office merely facilitates this relationship between you and the funder. It remains your responsibility to ensure that you understand the funding rules, and that you adhere to the conditions.

The Student Funding Office, offers the following services:

- Provide students with information regarding bursaries, scholarships.
- Assist students to complete and sign bursary agreements.
- Submit claims to funders.
- Assist with general financial enquiries.

For assistance, please feel free to consult Ms Chrizelle Mally at <u>chrizelle.mally@spu.ac.za</u> or call 053 491 0102.

FEENIX

Feenix is an exciting crowd sourcing initiative for students which was launched in June 2017. This is a platform that enables all South Africans to get involved in solving the tertiary education funding crisis and is a community-assisted fundraising solution. Feenix provides a unique opportunity for students to take their higher education funding goals into their own hands by raising the funds they require through their immediate networks and communities. It is crucially important to note that funding is not guaranteed however, the more active a student is in promoting and sharing their profile, the more likely they are to receive assistance from their network or community. For more information visit www.feenix.org

7.1 Certification of documents

So, every now and again, you may need to certify documents. This might be in support of a bursary or scholarship application, or in support of a student development opportunity. You can have your documents certified at the local police station, the magistrate's court, or the high court. For certifying your documents on campus, you can go to the Office of the Registrar. Please make sure that you note the consulting times for this service.

7.2 ICT Services (laptops, Moodle, and Student Cards)

Student Cards

Once registered and paid for your registration fee you can proceed to the SPU – TSS located on Central Campus at Moroka Hall of Residences, Ground Floor, Room 041 to have a student card made for you.

Laptops

Upon registration, SPU students are issued with a laptop. The costs for the laptops will be charged to your fees account. Laptops are provided to ensure that all students are able to access online learning materials, and able to log onto Moodle and other platforms in support of the academic requirements of their programmes. These laptops are issued by the university's Information Technology Department, which also provides ongoing software and hardware support services.

Laptop theft is a reality. Please note that laptops are not insured by the University. You are advised to take out insurance on your laptop (at your own expense). You are also encouraged to make use of web storages to save your data, for example, iCloud, One Drive, Evernote, etc. Be responsible by ensuring that your laptop is safely secured at all times and to keep it locked away when not in use. Do not openly display your laptop when walking or traveling off campus. Remember: You will be responsible for replacing your laptop, should it get stolen or damaged.

Process that will be followed by student to purchase laptop:

- The student needs to provide proof (sworn statement and a police case number) in cases where the laptop has been stolen.
- The request is sent to the University Registrar for approval
- Once we have approval and there is a laptop available, I.T. will communicate the price.
- The student is required to make an upfront payment depending on the cost of the laptop and settle the outstanding amount within six months.
- The student has to provide proof of the upfront payment and sign an Acknowledgement of debt.
- If the student has funding and the Funder agrees to pay for the laptop, the process is different. The Finance Department will need communication from the Funder in this regard if applicable.

For assistance, please feel free to consult **Ms Nthabiseng Afrika** at <u>nthabiseng.afrika@spu.ac.za</u> or call 053 491 0293.



7.3 Facilities (SPU Bicycles and Venue Use)

7.3.1 Bicycles

This is an initiative by Sol Plaatje University in support of both Student Services and the SPU Development Mobility Plan intended to encourage those who do not have access to transport to rent bicycles and be mobile. The SPU pedestrian and cycle routes, form part of the SPU Mobility Plan, and aims to encourage non-motorised access to campus.

The transport of SPU students and staff has been identified as a priority in terms of campus sustainability/greening and reducing SPU's carbon footprint. We have 390 standard bicycles, with the orange and blue SPU Bike branding, up for lease on an annual basis in support of the SPU Mobility Plan.

In order to promote a shift away from private car use the design and implementation of a cycling infrastructure has been included the overall Campus design this comprises at present limited car parking and bike parking racks throughout the campus. In due course marked cycle and pedestrian routes with relevant signage throughout the campus and on routes through the city with be installed. Cycle routes are shared with pedestrians, as would be indicated by the signage.

Bicycle Specification

The SPU Bike is a standard bicycle without gears. It is provided with a basket for transporting your laptop and books. Also supplied by SPU is a helmet and bicycle lock. The bicycles are branded and numbered.

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Parking racks

Bike parking racks are installed in groups around the campus where your bike can be securely locked. These racks have been carefully selected for security and robustness, with aesthetic appearance a further consideration.

Rental Procedure

Any student who wishes to rent a bicycle will be required to enter into a contract agreement with SPU. The rental costs will be included in your student fee statements. Once the contract is signed and delivered to the Student Finance Office you will be issued a bicycle, helmet, and lock. When you receive your bike, you are required to sign a Bicycle Release Form which documents the serial number of your bicycle and the bicycle lock code.

Maintenance

SPU has a Bicycle Maintenance Assistant, stationed in the Luka Jantjie House basement who will help you attended to punctures etc.

Theft and Loss

It is required that any theft of your bicycle be reported to Campus Security immediately, thereafter, should you report to the SAPS and get a case number. Once you have obtained the case number, give a copy of the report to the Bicycle Assistant so that it can be recorded on your Bicycle Release Form.





7.4 Library Information Services (LIS)

Sol Plaatje University Library and Information Services is SPU's information centre. It offers students support and access to various information resources to support your learning and research needs.

7.4.1 Resources

Students are able to access books, journals, newspapers, magazines, and reference material, including online databases and electronic journals. Furthermore, the University subscribes to the following databases:

- Pressreader (www.pressreader.com), for newspapers and magazine;
- Ebscohost (www.ebscohost.com), multidisciplinary;
- Sabinet (journals.co.za), African research; and
- LexisNexis (https://www.mylexisnexis.co.za/ Index.aspx) for legal content.

7.4.2 Training

The Library and Information Service also offers various training for students on topics such as information literacy, copyright, referencing and plagiarism.

7.4.3 Facilities

The library has a 24-hour study section on the ground floor only. The first and second floor is designated study spaces which includes a training room and research common area on the second floor for group work.

Students are reminded to always carry their student cards when visiting the library facilities.

For more information, contact the library at: Room 107, Library Building, Central Campus or, E-mail: library@spu.ac.za Tel: 053 491 0236 Facebook: SPUlibrary

SPU Library and Information Services, Your doorway to academic excellence.

7.5 Photocopying and printing

Photocopying and printing facilities are available for students at the Academic Building, Block C003 on Central Campus, next to the security booth. Times for this service are published on the relevant notice boards. Please make sure that you know where these facilities are, and importantly, the times of operation so that you can plan your printing or photocopying needs accordingly.

7.6 Student Safety and Security

Your safety and security are important to us. It should be to you as well. It is important to remember that SPU is not an island, and that we are vulnerable to criminal elements in our society. Having noted this, it is important that you help us secure our campus.

All suspicious behaviour, incidences, accidents including thefts and theft of bicycles must be reported to Campus Security before the matter is reported to SAPS. Please do not try and resolve the matter yourself, or to confront strangers or criminal elements. Ask those without identification to report to campus security.

Please take special note of the following:



- Pay attention to your immediate environment, make sure residence doors are locked and do not let strangers into the residence.
- Remember to sign your visitors in, so that everyone entering your residence, is accounted for.
- Do not confront strangers or take the law into your own hand. If you or a fellow student had been the unfortunate victim of a crime, report it to campus security immediately.
- Do not leave your bags or other valuables unsupervised, whether in lecture theatres, laboratories, the cafeteria, etc.; and if living in a residence, please ensure that you keep your valuables locked away, far from windows and out of sight.
- Laptop theft is a reality. Be vigilant of your surroundings and do not openly display your valuables when walking in public.
- Try not to walk alone, especially at night. There is safety in numbers. Avoid dark places; and always make sure that your friends' or someone in authority know your movements, especially if you are going out at night.
- The University has deployed Pro-Guard Security at all off-campus residences including safe routes to residences.
- Make sure that you have key emergency numbers on your phone or memorize the number of a close friend or family.

Campus Security has an after-hours escort service available for staff and students on campus. This is useful if you are working late. If you require an escort, dial 053 491 0911 and provide the following information:

- Your name and staff/student number
- Your current location and your intended destination
- Call back number in case of delay.

Alternatively, go to any of our Control rooms, you are encouraged to inform Control Room at least at least 30 minutes before actual departing time.

For clarity and/or further information, please contact the Campus Security Client Centre is at

Block C001 on Central Campus or call 053 491 0365 for assistance.

The 24-hour Campus Security Control Room can be reached on 053 491 0911

7.7 Keeping our Campus Clean

There are colour coded wheelie bins throughout SPU that all SPU community is urged to use accordingly, each **coloured wheelie bin** quickly differentiates between paper, plastic, glass, food, hazardous or general waste, your waste is quickly separated and available for recycling. The GCI an SRC affiliated group assisted with labelling these

bins for easy reference. Let us all play our part in ensuring that we do not litter anywhere on and off SPU property as it is our responsibility to keep not only SPU clean, but our city clean as well.



8. Thriving at Univer



Thriving at university, is about more than passing your courses, it is about making the most of your time at university and ensuring that you graduate having taken full advantage of the opportunities available to you. Your time at university is thus precious. Remember, your academic success is your most important priority. Being at university, however, also affords you the opportunity to be exposed to other aspects of life. You may get involved in sport, in a club or society, in the drama group or the choir or by volunteering your time in a community development initiative.

Below, are some tips on how to thrive at university:

- Go to ALL orientation events, including the tour of Kimberley
- Get organized by buying an organizer, a big wall calendar, etc. to help you know when assignments are due
- Go to class and don't skip the early morning lecture. You will receive vital information about what to expect in tests, changes, and due dates
- · Seek a balance between social and academic life
- Get involved in campus life, like joining a society and making plenty of new friends
- Participate and engage in the various co-curricular events hosted by the Student Affairs Team
- Take advantage of the study resources, ask questions if you do not understand something in class, and form a study group
- · Take responsibility of yourself and your actions
- Keep your eye on the prize. That should be your getting your qualification
- · Keep track of your money by creating a budget
- If you are stuck or unsure about anything, ask for help!

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The following is a list of key contact details, which you may want to keep safe, in case you need to use them. This list is not exhaustive, and you may want to update it periodically for yourself.

9.1 Schools or Academic Departments

School of Economic and Management Sciences

Head of School: Administrator: E-mail: Tel: Prof Pierre Joubert Ms Boitumelo Mabija boitumelo.mabija@spu.ac.za 053 491 0157

• School of Education Head of School: Administrator: E-mail: Tel:

Prof Amasa Ndofirepi Mr Patrick May patrick.may@spu.ac.za 053 491 0152

School of Humanities Acting Head of School: [Administrator: N E-mail: s Tel: 0

Dr Cobus Rademeyer Ms Sukayna Obaray sukayna.obaray@spu.ac.za 053 491 0218

School of Natural and Applied Sciences

Head of School: Administrator: E-mail: Tel: Prof Aifheli Gelebe Ms Kehilwe Lesiba kehilwe.lesiba@spu.ac.za 053 491 0154

9.2 Students' Representative Council (SRC)

- SRC President: Mr Solomon Mosiane, <u>srcpresident@spu.ac.za</u>
- SRC Secretary: Mr Israel Mulovhedzi, <u>srcsecretary@spu.ac.za</u>

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9. Key Conta

9.3 Student Affairs Department

- Dean of Student Affairs Ms Nicole Morris E-mail: <u>nicole.morris@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0040
- Student Affairs Projects Manager Mr Simon Phiri E-mail: <u>simon.phiri@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0866
- Student Development Officer (SDO) Mr Gobonamang Merahe

Mr Gobonamang Merahe E-mail: <u>gobonamang.merahe@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0305

- Sports Officer Ms Lusinda Bowers E-mail: <u>lusinda.bowers@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0555
- Campus Wellness Clinic Administrator Ms Mpho Setlhabi
 E-mail: <u>mpho.setlhabi@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0496
- Residence Manager Mr Adonis Shikwambana
 E-mail: adonis.shikwambana@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0062
- Residence Administrator Ms Mummy Letseleha E-mail: <u>mummy.letseleha@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0242
- Career Services
 Please contact the Student Affairs
 Administrator
 Email: studentaffairs.enquiries@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0043



Executive Secretary to Dean of Student Affairs Ms Yumna Moodaley Du-toit

E-mail: <u>yumna.mdutoit@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0120

- Student Affairs Administrator Ms Zipho Msimango
 E-mail: zipho.msimango@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0043
- Sports Officer
 Mr Tshepo Masoeu
 E-mail: tshepo.masoeu@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0217
- Student Counsellor
 Ms Nthabiseng Afrika
 E-mail: <u>nthabiseng.afrika@spu.ac.za</u>
 Tel: 053 491 0293

Primary Health Care Nurse Sr. Danelia McCarthy E-mail: <u>danelia.mccarthy@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0290

Residence Manager Mr Mbokodo Mbatha E-mail: <u>mbokodo.mbatha@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0050

Residence Administrator
 Ms Lorato Mayeng
 Email: lorato.mayeng@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0423





9.4 Residence Wardens

- Moroka Hall of Residence Mr Mbokodo Mbatha
 E-mail: <u>mbokodo.mbatha@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0050
- Moroka Hall of Residence Mr Thomas Masvosve
 E-mail: thomas.masvosve@spu.ac.za Tel: 053 491 0150
- Moroka Hall of Residence Dr Dimpho Mothibi E-mail: <u>dimpho.mothibi@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0128
- Tauana Residence
 Dr Jabulani Sibanda
 E-mail: jabulani.sibanda@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0142
- Ra-Thaga Hall of Residence Mr Adonis Shikwambana E-mail: <u>adonis.shikwambana@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0062

- Moroka Hall of Residence Mr Godfrey Rudolph
 E-mail: godfrey.rudolph@spu.ac.za Tel: 053 491 0128
- Moroka Hall of Residence Dr Patricia Ndamani
 Email: patricia.ndamani@spu.ac.za Tel: 053 491 0330
- Mhudi Hall of Residence Ms Fezile Matsebula
 E-mail: <u>fezile.matsebula@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0199
- Hannetjie Residence
 Colin Chibaya
 Email: colin.chibaya@spu.ac.za
 Tel: 053 491 0436
- Umnandi Residence
 Nyawo Gumede
 Email: <u>nyawo.gumede@spu.ac.za</u>
 Tel: 053 491 0312



9.5 Campus Security

- Control Room 053 491 0911
- Client Service Centre 053 491 0365

9.6 Student Funding Office

Mrs Chrizelle Mally E-mail: <u>chrizelle.mally@spu.ac.za</u> Tel: 053 491 0102

9.7 Emergency Services

- ER24 086 108 4124
- SAPS 10111 or 053 838 4200 /4342 /4331
- South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) 0800 567 567(www.sadag.org)
- COVID-19 National Crisis Helpline
 0800 029 999
- GBV (Gender Based Violence) Command Centre 0800 428 428 / *120*7867# (free from any cell phone) SMS Line: 32312
- Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual
 Offences Helpline 0800 150 150
- People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) Tel: 011 642 4345 After hours cell phone: 083 765 1235
- Child Line 0800 055 555
- Lifeline South Africa 0861 322 322 (free on mobile networks including landlines)
- FAMSA: Advice on family relationships -011 975 7107
- Human trafficking: Report cases of human trafficking - hotline operated by the Salvation Army and Be Heard - 08007 37283 (0 8000-rescue)
- National Human Trafficking Helpline
 0800 222 777
- Persons with Disabilities SMS 'help' to 31531
- AIDS Helpline 0800 012 322
- Suicide Helpline 0800 567 567 or 0800 456 789
- Stop Gender Violence: Anonymous, confidential, and accessible telephonic information, counselling, and referrals, in all 11 official languages - 0800 150 150
- Substance Abuse Helpline 0800 12 13 14

This resource was put together by the Student Affairs Department. In compiling this, we thank and acknowledge the generosity of the following institutions, in making information and resource material available to help inform and shape this booklet:

University of Cape Town's Language Development Group, Academic Development Programme in the Centre for Higher Education Development

> WITS University's Division for Student Affairs

Rhodes University's Division for Student Affairs

Sol Plaatje University Staff and Students

Any queries, comments, suggestions, etc. in relation to the information contained in this booklet, should be directed to the Student Affairs Administrator on 053-491 0043 or studentaffairs.enquiries@spu.ac.za

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