



MANDELA INSTITUTE

INTRODUCTION TO LAW FOR NON-LAWYERS

Postgraduate Certificate Course

**R12 500
INCLUDING VAT**

**6
MORNINGS**

**SATURDAY
MORNINGS
09:00 – 13:30**

**23 JAN – 6 MAR
OR
8 MAY – 19 JUN**

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



WITS
SCHOOL OF LAW

INTRODUCTION TO LAW FOR NON-LAWYERS

Description	The Introduction to Law for Non-Lawyers certificate course is an introduction for students who wish to pursue postgraduate courses in law, but who do not have an undergraduate law degree or who are studying South African law for the first time. The main objective of the course is to lay a foundation from which further study of law can be pursued. The course will introduce students to the distinctive nature of thinking legally and the different sources of South African law, that is, sources that lawyers need to know about when looking for authority to argue a legal point or perspective.
Outcomes	At the end of the course, the student should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between law and other norm setting mechanisms in society • Identify the sources and branches of South African Law • Explain the operation of judicial precedent • Read, find and reference cases • Read and offer a basic interpretation of legislation and the Constitution • Distinguish between common law, custom and customary law • Conduct basic legal research using a range of sources and techniques.
Content	The course will focus on the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law and related concepts • History, sources and branches of South African law • Judicial precedent • How to read, find and reference cases • Procedure and jurisdiction of the courts • Legislation and the Constitution • Interpretation of legislation • The common law, custom and customary law • Legal writing skills • Conducting legal research using a range of sources and techniques.
Assessment	Research assignment, test and examination.
Certificate Criteria	One of the following certificates can be obtained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Certificate of Competence</i>: To obtain a certificate of competence, students are required to attend and participate in 75% of the lectures and to complete the assessments as required in the course. • Please note that a Certificate of Attendance is not available for this course.
Accreditation	This postgraduate certificate course is accredited by the university in accordance with its statutory mandate. It does not lead to a qualification registered on the National Qualifications Framework. No credit may be granted towards the PG Dip in Law or LLM degrees..
Course Dates	This is a block release course where participants attend Saturday morning lectures from 09:00 to 13:30 during the period 23 January to 6 March 2021 OR 8 May to 19 June 2021.
Venue	Chalsty Teaching and Conference Centre, Oliver Schreiner School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, West Campus, Wits.
Cost	R12 500 including VAT
Covid-19 Arrangements	Courses will be delivered through online lecturing should lockdown regulations prevent contact classes. Students are required to have basic computer skills and stable internet connection.

Detail	Information
Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A relevant <i>Bachelor of Laws</i> or <i>Bachelor of Commerce in Law</i> or <i>Bachelor of Arts in Law</i> or equivalent qualification is a prerequisite for admission to the postgraduate certificate courses; OR Applicants with any other undergraduate qualifications must complete the bridging course <i>Introduction to Law for Non- Lawyers</i> or equivalent courses first as well as have relevant legal work experience in the specific legal field before they would be considered for other courses. <p>You will be required to submit a copy of your Bachelors Degree, academic record as well as a copy of your identity document or passport. NB: ONLY applicants with an LLB qualification may apply for credit for MI short courses towards the Postgraduate Diploma or LLM degrees. Kindly note that all foreign qualifications must be submitted with a SAQA Evaluation Letter.</p> <p>Applications for the <i>Labour Dispute Resolution Practice</i> courses and applications based on <i>other undergraduate qualifications and work experience</i> need to include the following documents with the completed application form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed motivation on why the applicant wants to enrol for the courses A detailed Curriculum Vitae highlighting Certified copies of Qualifications and Academic Records Certified copy of Identity Document or Passport.
How to Apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Online Application Form on the website. Kindly ensure that you provide all the correct details on the online application form and should your employer be responsible for the payment please complete the relevant section before submitting, as invoices cannot be amended afterwards for employer details. Please also submit all supporting documents as stipulated in the entry requirements with application form.
Application Dates	<p>1st Semester courses: 5 September 2020 to 5 December 2020</p> <p>2nd Semester courses: 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021</p> <p>No late applications will be accepted</p>
Payment of Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL fees must be paid <u>10 days before</u> the start of the semester course or the start of the block release course. Registration is conditional on payment of full tuition fees. The tuition fees are the responsibility of the individual attending the course. For sponsored students, the individual need to ensure that the sponsor or sponsor organisation have enough time to process the payment. After the payment has been made, please ensure that the proof of payment is send.
Cancellation of Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancellation by registrant less than 10 calendar days before the start of the semester/course will result in liability for full payment of the fees. Cancellation by registrant more than 30 calendar days before commencement of the semester/course will result in an administration fee of 15% of the total course fee. Cancellation by registrant after commencement of the semester/course will result in liability for the full amount and forfeiture of all fees paid. The Mandela Institute from the School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand reserves the right to postpone or cancel a course due to lack of demand. In the event of cancellation, or reasonable postponement time, all fees paid will be refunded to the person/entity that made the original payment. Cancellation of Registration can only be done on a Cancellation of Registration Form. Please e-mail us on Mandela.Institute@wits.ac.za to request a Cancellation of Registration Form.
Registration and Enquiries	<p>Senteni Nsibande E mandela.institute@wits.ac.za</p> <p>T +27 11 717 8435 W www.wits.ac.za/mandelainstitute/short-courses/</p>