



MANDELA INSTITUTE

PENSION FUNDS LAW I

Postgraduate Certificate Course

**R14 750
INCLUDING VAT**

**12
WEEKS**

**EVENING
LECTURES
17:30 – 19:00**

**8 MARCH –
17 JUNE**

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



WITS
SCHOOL OF LAW

PENSION FUNDS LAW I

Description	The Pension Funds Law I postgraduate certificate course will focus primarily on the legal nature of occupational retirement funds, the relationships between members of retirement funds, those funds and the members' employers and the rights and obligations of each toward the others.
Outcomes	<p>The general objectives of the course are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain an in-depth understanding of the history and current context in which the pension fund laws operate • To gain an appreciation of the issues arising within the functioning of pension funds focusing on contentious issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the nature of an occupational retirement fund b) the legal nature of the relationships between such a fund and its members and employers which contribute to it c) restrictions on changes to the rules of the fund, and thus address some of the deficiencies that arise from the contentious issues. • Encourage research that contributes to the development of pension fund law.
Content	<p>Specific topics to be covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course • Pension funds in South Africa – Why have pension funds at all? (the origins of pension funds including social, political, economic background) • The advent of black unions, the BD/DC shift and its effect on fund surpluses, and the impact of political changes in early 1990s on the funding of defined benefit funds • Overview of the relevant legislation • Changes to the statutory governance requirements • Death benefits • Disability benefits • Withdrawal benefits • Transfer of benefits • Divorce benefits • The tripartite relationship, and the duties owed by the fund, the employer and the employee/member • The enforcement of s197 of the Labour Relations Act in relation to the occupational retirement funding rights and obligations of transferring employees • Discrimination and occupational retirement funding • The Office of the Pension Fund Adjudicator.
Assessment	Research assignment and examination.
Certificate Criteria	<p>One of the following certificates can be obtained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Certificate of Attendance</i>: To obtain a certificate of attendance, students are required to attend and participate in 75% of the lectures. • <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.
Accreditation	This course is regarded as NQF Level 8 equivalent and may be credited, subject to university policies, towards the PG Dip in Law or LLM degrees.
Course Dates	This is a semester-long course where participants attend evening lectures from 17:30 to 19:00 once a week during the period 8 March to 17 June 2021.
Venue	Chalsty Teaching and Conference Centre, Oliver Schreiner School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, West Campus, Wits.
Cost	R14 750 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 29 January 2021 2nd Semester courses: 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021 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>