

3.2. MPhil in Defence Studies

Offering of this degree programme is subject to the availability of staff and the number of students.

Admission Requirements

- An appropriate honours degree, a PG diploma at NQF level 8 or a professional degree; OR
- a B degree with applicable experience assessed by means of SU's recognition of prior learning (RPL) process as outlined in the *SU Policy for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) (2017)*.

Duration of Programme

The programme stretches over at least one year for full-time students, and two years for part-time students.

Programme Content

Compulsory modules

Defence and International Politics	14274 844(30)
Defence Policy and Strategy	14275 844(30)
The History of Defence in South Africa	14276 844(30)
Research Assignment	14277 844(60)

Elective modules

Choose two of the modules (= 30 credits) from the table below.

Defence Management	14278 844(15)
Military Sociology	14279 844(15)
Defence Economics	11700 844(15)
Defence and Geography	14282 844(15)
Military Organisational Behaviour	14280 844(15)
International Law: From Human Rights to Humanitarian Law	14283 844(15)

3. Master's degrees

3.1. Master of Military Science (MMil)

To apply for this degree, you have to possess one of the following:

- a BMilHons degree at Stellenbosch University, or any other honours degree approved by Senate for this purpose;
- upon written request, you have been allowed by Senate (or the Executive Committee acting on Senate's behalf) to register for the MMil programme;
- an approved research curriculum and/or advanced study of at least one year (after having obtained the above-mentioned honours degree) at Stellenbosch University or any other institution approved by Senate; and
- submission of a satisfactory thesis.

General information

1. History and functions of the Faculty

1.1. History

The Military Academy was established on 1 April 1950 under the auspices of the University of Pretoria, as a branch of the SA Military College (now the SA Army College) at Voortrekkerhoogte (now Thaba Tshwane). In 1953, the Military Academy would move to Saldanha, under the trusteeship of Stellenbosch University, from which institution successful candidates would receive a BMil degree. In January 1961, the Academy became a faculty in its own right – the Faculty of Military Science of Stellenbosch University.

1.2. Functions

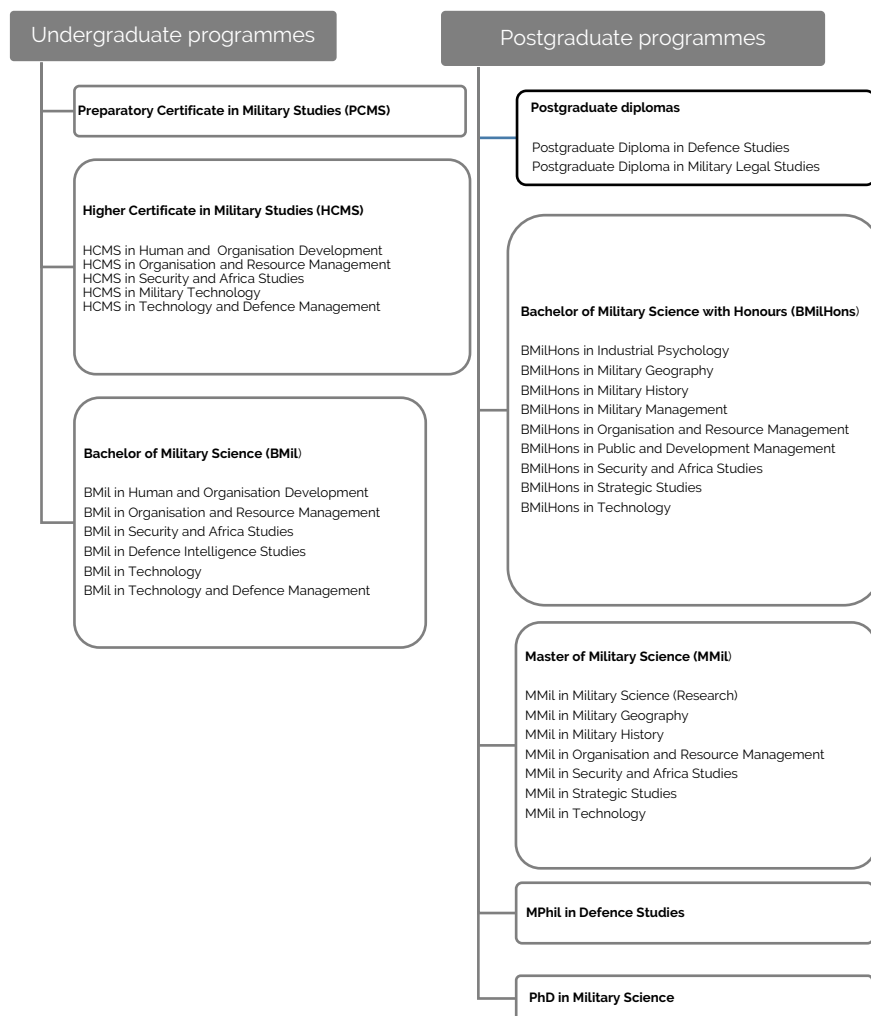
Stellenbosch University is the custodian of the Faculty of Military Science through a contractual agreement with the South African Department of Defence (DoD). The Faculty is located within the SA Military Academy in Saldanha Bay on the West Coast of South Africa. On our Campus, civilian and uniform members work together and learners are members of SA Army, SA Navy, SA Air Force, SA Military Health Services and members of the broader DoD. We develop the future military leaders of South Africa and our international partners such as Botswana, France, Mozambique and Namibia.

We are the only Faculty of Military Science in South Africa and our Faculty members have the opportunity to develop expert knowledge in their respective academic disciplines. Our academic programmes are fully accredited by the Council for Higher Education and we own an accredited research journal (*Scientia Militaria*). Our Faculty members are engaged in teaching, conducting security-related research and being involved in community interaction with the DoD, academic institutions and civil society.

The Faculty of Military Science has five academic schools:

- the School for Security and Africa Studies;
- the School for Defence Organisation and Resource Management;
- the School for Human Resource Development;
- the School of Science and Technology; and
- the School for Geo-spatial Studies and Information Systems.

2. Qualifications offered at the Faculty



3. Other services offered by Faculty

3.1. Academic development

- study and career guidance;
- life skills development;
- psychotherapeutic services; and
- academic support services.

3.2. Language service

Informal isiXhosa, isiZulu, SeSotho, French and German courses are available on request to staff and students.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 Military Science Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Military Science Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **1. *Postgraduate diplomas.***