

Short Programme for Service-Learning and Community Interaction

Presented by the Division for Community Interaction



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Gemeenskapsinteraksie
Community Interaction
Amaqhina Entsebenziswano

The Office for Service-Learning (OSL) in the Division for Community Interaction was established to promote and support Service-Learning at Stellenbosch University (SU).

Service-Learning (SL) is a teaching approach that integrates community interaction with academic learning programmes while addressing the needs of communities at the same time. What distinguishes SL from other forms of experiential learning is the equal importance of student learning and service to the community.

Why the need for this programme?

Over the past ten years, Community Interaction (CI) has gained substantial ground as a core function of higher education institutions in South Africa. In line with international trends, the meaning attached to CI is that universities interact with the rest of society through teaching, learning and research.

There is an increasing need for managers and practitioners who understand the political landscape of community interaction in higher education to:

- Participate in contemporary academic debates on community interaction in higher education.
- Contribute to the existing body of knowledge on this subject.
- *Implement and manage community engagement programmes in an institutional environment. This includes service-learning, other forms of curricular engagement and community-based research methodologies.*

The purpose of this programme is twofold:

- To equip service-learning practitioners with the know-how to explore, design, implement and assess a service-learning module in a particular academic programme, and
- To assist staff developers and community interaction managers to design a service-learning capacity-building programme for implementation at higher education institutions or faculties, based on independent intellectual consideration of key aspects of higher education community interaction.

This qualification will add significant value to any CV and the credits may contribute to admission to an applicable Masters' programme if passed with an average of 60%.

Who should attend this programme?

- Staff of higher education institutions who are interested in practising service-learning as a teaching approach.
- Managers and administrators who are responsible for faculty development programmes aimed at building capacity for community interaction and service-learning.
- Staff who are students in higher education studies who wish to specialise in service-learning and community interaction.

Admission requirements

- An honours degree or equivalent thereof, and
- Relevant working experience in higher or further education.

How will the course be presented?

- **Preparation:** The theoretical content of the course will be presented as a resource-based component where participants need to do a literature study to prepare them for the class contact sessions.
- **Assignments:** Participants will be given practical tasks linked to the literature study prior to the class contact sessions. They need to report on these tasks in the form of presentations and essays.
- **Class contact sessions:** These sessions will include oral interactive PowerPoint presentations based on readings by the presenters.

Who will present the course?

- Rona Newmark, Coordinator: Service-Learning and Sexuality Education, Faculty of Education, Stellenbosch University.
- Antoinette Smith-Tolken, Deputy Director: Community Interaction (Service-Learning and Community-based Research), Division for Community Interaction, Stellenbosch University.
- Guest lecturers from leading universities.

How will the programme be assessed?

Contemporary, authentic assessment methods will be used.

- **Formative:** Continuous assessment that includes a variety of tasks and activities.
- **Summative:** An exam or equivalent multimedia portfolio of evidence.

More about the programme

- **Duration of course:** Three blocks of two full days each, spread over one semester. Only one course is presented each year during the second semester.
- **Level:** HEQF Level 9.
- **Certification:** A Certificate of Competence will be awarded to students who pass the course with an average of 50%.

Registration and further information

To register or obtain more details, contact Antoinette Smith-Tolken:

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