



SMU PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES FOR FORENSIC PATHOLOGY OFFICERS IN FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

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Name of School: ***MEDICINE***

Name of Department: ***Forensic Pathology***

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**SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY**

SMU PROPOSED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES for FPOs

- **6 months Short Learning Programme (SLP) for FPO:** Approved by SMU. Does not need external accreditation. The benefit for FPO is preparation for Higher Certificate, supports trainees and in-service learning, part of a structured probationary induction, CPD points program, and a community outreach initiative. Tuition fee is R6500 per student. Department is waiting for finalization of administrative processes – we can start any time – process at Dean's Office. Number of student intake is capped at 30 - provincial representation will be determined by NFPSC if we have many applications.
- **One year Higher Certificate in Forensic Pathology Postmortem Care – NQF Level 5:** supported and approved by HPCSA February 2026. submitted to department of Higher Education. **Awaits external support/approval/accreditation (i.e. DHET, CHE, SAQA). Some few admin issues sorted – now submitting / submitted to DHET. Targeting to start 2028 / 2029.**
- **Three year Diploma in Forensic Pathology Postmortem Practice – NQF Level 6:** Awaits internal approval SMU Academic technical committees and external accreditation. Preparing submission to HPCSA. Program will probably start 2030.
- **Four year Professional Bachelors degree in Forensic Pathology Postmortem Management** (Fourth year represents the Honours year) – NQF level 8: Awaits internal approval and external accreditation. Will probably start around 2035.

SLP for FPOs

- **Faculty/department offering the programme:**
 - Department: Department of Forensic Pathology
 - School: School of Medicine
 - Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
- **Duration of program:** six (6) months
- **Delivery mode:** Blended / Hybrid mode (Workplace, online, Contact at SMU).
- **Application closing date: 30 November 2026.**
- **Course commencement date: 21 January 2027.**
- **Tuition Fee: R6500 per student** (This fee excludes any other applicable expenses such as books, literature, internet literature, computer and internet connectivity, data, participation off-campus online access to SMU virtual media, printer and printing paper, expenses related to their WIP participation at a workplace, any related travel including an once-off travel to SMU and accommodation).



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Working closely with communities on health issues

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