

# Glossary

## Getting to grips with university jargon

As you start university so you will be confronted with a whole new vocabulary – words like semester, DP and VC. To make things easier, we've compiled a glossary of terms to help you understand what's happening around you.

For a more comprehensive list please go to Information and Tools on the student portal.

<b>APS</b>	Admission Point Score – points allocated to your school subjects for admission to tertiary institutions
<b>BA</b>	Bachelor of Arts degree
<b>BCom</b>	Bachelor of Commerce degree
<b>BSc</b>	Bachelor of Science degree
<b>BTech</b>	Bachelor of Technology degree
<b>Credit</b>	The recognition obtained when a student passes examinations or tests to comply with conditions needed for completion of a qualification
<b>Dean</b>	Head of a faculty
<b>DP</b>	Duly performed certificate – some academic departments have minimum requirements for course work and class marks, before you are allowed to write the exam. If you have achieved these minimum requirements, you “get” a DP – usually indicated on a class list posted on a notice board before exams start.
<b>DVC</b>	Deputy Vice-Chancellor - those who are second in charge. NMMU has three of them.
<b>Faculty</b>	A collection of schools and departments focusing on similar fields of study e.g. Faculty of Science
<b>Faculty administrator</b>	Assists with registration, cancellation of modules
<b>HOD</b>	Head of Department – in charge of a specific academic department
<b>MBA</b>	Master's degree in Business Administration
<b>Module</b>	A self-contained unit of learning that forms part of the course
<b>NSFAS</b>	National Student Financial Aid Scheme, a loan scheme to enable students to borrow money for their studies
<b>Orientation</b>	A period that gives newcomers an opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new university
<b>Postgraduate</b>	What you become when you complete your degree
<b>Registrar</b>	Responsible for student administration and institutional governance.
<b>RPL</b>	Recognition of Prior Learning, the acknowledgement of the knowledge a student possesses as a result of prior learning
<b>Senate</b>	The body that governs academic policies and procedures in respect of teaching, learning, research and academic functions
<b>Semester</b>	First half of the academic year
<b>SRC</b>	Student Representative Council
<b>Undergraduate</b>	If you are doing your first degree, diploma or certificate
<b>VC</b>	Vice-Chancellor, the highest managerial position of a tertiary institution