

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

This information letter is intended for Stellenbosch University students who want to apply for one of the School of Accountancy's 2026 Postgraduate programmes in Accountancy.

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1. POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN ACCOUNTANCY

The School of Accountancy (SoA) offers a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA) alongside the BAccHons programme. Both programmes are accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), and the successful completion of either programme will allow the graduate entry to the SAICA Initial Assessment of Competency (IAC) examination *en route* to the Chartered Accountant (CA) South Africa (SA) designation.

1.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA) programme

The objective of any SAICA accredited Postgraduate programme is to educate students in four specific Accountancy-related fields to enable them to qualify as CAs (SA) ultimately. These fields are Financial Accounting, Management Accounting and Finance, Auditing (including Governance and Information Systems) and Taxation. SAICA does not require a programme to have a research component. Since not all CA students are interested in a research component, a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA) is the preferred programme as it does not require a research component.

The SoA PGDA programme is accredited by SAICA and aligned to Postgraduate Programmes as specified by the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The structure of the SU Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy programme (NQF level 8) is as follows:

Module Name	Credits
Financial Accounting	40
Management Accounting and Finance	32
Auditing, Governance and Information Systems	24
Taxation	24
Total credits	120

1.2 BAccHons programme

The HEQSF of the CHE requires that any honours programme includes a research component. The BAccHons programme is therefore aligned explicitly for this purpose while still adhering to the requirements of SAICA in terms of the four specific Accountancy-related subject areas. In addition to the same four Accountancy-related subject areas of the PGDA programme, the BAccHons programme includes a research module of 30 credits, equating to 300 notional hours that should be devoted to the module.

The structure of the BAccHons programme (NQF level 8) is as follows:

Module Name	Credits
Financial Accounting	40
Management Accounting and Finance	32
Auditing, Governance and Information Systems	24
Taxation	24
Research assignment: Accountancy	30
Total credits	150

2. ARTICULATION POSSIBILITIES

Both the PGDA (NQF level 8) and the BAccHons (NQF level 8) will allow a graduate, subject to the selection requirements of the particular institution, entry to a Master's Degree or a Professional Master's Degree in Accounting or a cognate discipline, such as Management Accounting, Auditing and Taxation.

3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The admission requirements for students who completed their undergraduate studies **at Stellenbosch University** are indicated in sections 3.1 and 3.2 and are the same for BAcc and BAccLLB students. Please note that all the modules need not be passed in one year, but modules must be passed within the two years prior to your application for the PGDA or BAccHons programme. In other words, when applying for entry to the 2026 PGDA or BAccHons programme, the earliest date that a professional module could be passed is 2023, i.e. two years prior to 2025, the year in which you apply for the PGDA or BAccHons programme. Moreover, admission requirements are minimum requirements. There is no additional admission opportunity.

3.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA)

Concerning the modules in the BAcc or BAccLLB programme, any of the following two alternative admission criteria can apply:

Admission alternative 1:	Admission alternative 2:
58% weighted average for four professional subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Accounting 379 (4)• Management Accounting 378 (4)• Taxation 399 (3)• Auditing 378 (3) <i>(Weightings used in the calculation of the weighted average are shown in parentheses)</i>	53% weighted average for four professional subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Accounting 379 (4)• Management Accounting 378 (4)• Taxation 399 (3)• Auditing 378 (3) <i>(Weightings used in the calculation of the weighted average are shown in parentheses)</i> AND 53% for Financial Accounting 379

3.2 BAccHons

Weighted average final mark of at least 70% for the following modules in the BAcc or BAccLLB programme:

- Financial Accounting 379 (4)
- Management Accounting 378 (4)
- Taxation 399 (3)
- Auditing 378 (3)

(Weightings used in the calculation of the weighted average are shown in parentheses)

3.3 Marks used in the selection process

Percentages are based on final marks as they appear on the university's central systems.

The following selection principles will apply:

- A student must complete at least three main assessments to obtain a final mark.
- If a student completes all assessments and still fails to obtain a final mark of 50 or above, they may use A3 as a supplementary assessment to improve their final mark. If the student uses A3 as a supplementary assessment (i.e., not as a missed assessment opportunity), a **maximum final mark of 50** can be awarded.
- If the student uses A3 because they missed a main assessment opportunity, a final mark of **more than 50** can be awarded.

3.4 Dean's concession assessment

A Dean's concession assessment (DCA) may only be written by students officially qualifying for it. Students who complete the DCA successfully will be considered for PGDA admission. A final mark of 50% will be used for admission purposes regarding that module.

4. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2025. No late applications will be considered. Apply at www.sun.ac.za/pgstudies. Students should note that applications to postgraduate programmes shall be permitted to **two** postgraduate programme choices. In addition, note that, when selecting a programme, the choice "PGDip (Accounting)" refers to the PGDA programme.

5. NOTICE OF SELECTION

Three rounds of selections will take place: the first round after the A2S2 results are available, the second round after the A3 results are available, and the third round only for students who wrote the DCA. Students who meet the admission criteria will be selected. Students who were unsuccessful in the first round of selections will still be considered in the second round of selections.

Once selected, you may commence with the respective postgraduate programme even if your graduation is in March/April of 2026. A notice will be sent to all unsuccessful candidates after the final selection process.

6. MARKS-IMPROVEMENT YEAR

Unsuccessful students from SU are encouraged to register as occasional students and repeat one or more of the modules. We recommend repeating all the modules even if only one of the modules' marks was too low. The SoA will use the best mark between the marks-improvement year and the final undergraduate year for that module in the following year's selection process.

7. BURSARY APPLICATIONS

Please contact the Bursary Office for available bursaries. Should a student require a recommendation from the SoA for a Postgraduate Merit bursary, please contact Ms Liesl de Villiers: ldevilliers@sun.ac.za

8. ENQUIRIES

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