



UNIVERSITEIT • IYUNIVESITHI • STELLENBOSCH • UNIVERSITY

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1918 - 2018

Welcoming new students and their parents to  
Stellenbosch University  
Coetzenburg, 18:00, 24 January 2019  
By Prof Wim de Villiers,  
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

Verwelkoming van nuwelingsstudente  
en ouers by die US  
Coetzenburg, 18:00, 24 Januarie 2019  
Deur prof Wim de Villiers,  
Rektor en Visekanselier

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*[As delivered. Complete English translation available at [www.sun.ac.za/rector](http://www.sun.ac.za/rector)]  
[Soos gelewer. Volledige Afrikaanse vertaling beskikbaar by [www.sun.ac.za/rector](http://www.sun.ac.za/rector)]*

Good evening. Goeienaand. Molweni. Welcome to Stellenbosch University, each and every one of you. We have quite a few VIPs in the audience, but the most important guests – the VVIP's – are our new first-year students. Welkom by Maties!

You are here today – from all corners of our country, and abroad – because you want to be here, and let me assure you, you've made the right choice. This is your dream destination.

This event is billed as a “dream launch”, so let's talk about that ... your dreams as a student; jou drome as 'n jongmens aan die begin van jou lewe as volwassene. Your dreams as parents and guardians and friends and family; julle drome vir ons studente, wat julle baie graag wil sien sukses behaal sodat hulle vooruit kan gaan in die lewe.

And let's talk about our dreams as University – a place where we share a commitment to knowledge and to common values; 'n plek waar ons omgee vir kennis én vir mense. And our dreams as a country, a continent, a planet ... die drome van 'n nasie, die drome van die mensdom. Hier word drome gekoester, word nuwe drome gebore, en kry jy die geleentheid om jou drome te bewaarheid.

Now, we are well prepared for your arrival – not only with the Welcoming Programme over the next 10 days, but also with an integrated teaching and learning process, and a comprehensive ecosystem of student support.

But ... you have to be an active partner and take charge of your life here at university. You have to take responsibility, to show accountability – like it says on the back of your T-shirt, listing the University's values.

This also applies to your health and safety. Please take care of yourself and each other, and look after your possessions. Kampussekuriteit is daar om te help, maar kyk in die eerste plek na jouself.

Ons weet julle is 'n uitgesoekte groep – topstudente van al nege ons provinsies en selfs van buite die landsgrense. Julle is talentvol, en julle het hard gewerk om hier te kom. Baie geluk!

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*saam vorentoe • masiye phambili • forward together*

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**KANTOOR VAN DIE REKTOR & VISEKANSELIER | OFFICE OF THE RECTOR & VICE-CHANCELLOR**

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Every year, Stellenbosch University attracts top achievers. Look around you – most of you have a matric aggregate of above 75%. Our surveys show that the No. 1 reason students give for coming to Stellenbosch is our academic reputation – and correctly so: The best students apply and the best are accepted. No wonder we are ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide.

Ons doen baie moeite om ondersteuning te bied, om 'n omgewing te skep waarbinne studente kan floreer. Elkeen van julle kry byvoorbeeld toegang tot 'n mentor. Dis maar een van talle ondersteuningsmeganismes – wat saam goed vrug dra.

According to the Department of Higher Education and Training, Stellenbosch University is the top performer in the country in terms of undergraduate student success. Maar, dit beteken nie alles gaan maklik wees nie – juis nie. Jy gaan hard moet werk, van Dag 1 af. En as jy sukkel, vra vir hulp, reik uit. This is the most important part – you must reach out and make use of the range of support services on offer. Because it is not going to be plain sailing at all.

You will be challenged, like never before – academically speaking, but also in other ways. You are going to be confronted with new ways of thinking and doing, a diversity of people and ideas. And that's how it's supposed to be. "An unexamined life is not worth living," Socrates said aeons ago already. And university is the best place to examine life and come to new insights ... together with others.

Stellenbosch is an inclusive university. It belongs to all of us. And we want everyone to feel at home here. All voices should be heard clearly.

Ons wil hê jy moet dink, diep dink, hard werk, nie inligting soos 'n papegaaï herhaal nie, maar ontleed, evalueer, nuwe kennis skep, uitnemendheid nastreef ... dis hoekom jy universiteit toe gekom het.

Maar dit moet binne die raamwerk van respek vir andere plaasvind – dis ook een van die Universiteit se waardes agter op jou T-hemp ... so ook deernis en billikheid.

The quest for excellence must be accompanied by respect for others, a sense of compassion, and a commitment to equity.

This is what we stand for. These are our values: excellence, compassion, accountability, respect and equity. And these values are lived at Maties – each day, even when you don't like someone or what they have to say. It is exactly then, when the going gets tough, that you have to be respectful and compassionate.

You are now part of a new community – the Matie community. Within this overarching community, you are in residence or a PSO group, and through these in a cluster. This is a purposeful design to ensure each one of you will be in a social network to enable you to learn collaboratively, live in diverse groups and be exposed to a range of voices.

One of the things that distinguishes us from other universities, is our level of internationalisation. You will benefit from our many international partnerships, and even get the opportunity to study abroad. And because we have many international students coming to Stellenbosch, you will be studying with them. Enjoy this diverse setting!

Ons is 'n gemeenskap want ons kom dalk van verskillende agtergronde, maar ons is almal Maties ... en ons bou ons gemeenskap saam. In our vision statement we say clearly that we "advance knowledge in service of society". We want to make a positive difference to people's lives – and our students share that commitment.



Komende Donderdag (2019/01/31) vind die Sosiale Impak-oggend plaas, waartydens jy aan verskeie projekte kan deelneem om 'n bydrae in die breër gemeenskap te lewer. Want ons is deel van ons dorp, ons provinsie, ons land, ons vasteland en die res van die wêreld.

Another example of how Maties make a difference, is the great success we have had so far with our [Move4Food campaign](#). This is a student-led initiative to combat student hunger on our campuses. Please support this worthy initiative.

There are also other ways to make a difference. Saving water is still a priority, despite the good rains we had during winter. Water restrictions are still in place. So please save water. The University is also on a big recycling drive. En ons probeer soveel moontlik krag spaar. Help ons asseblief daarmee.

Julle is 'n unieke groep nuwelingstudente – die eerste inname in Maties se tweede eeu as universiteit. Ons het in 1918 amptelik tot stand gekom, en deur die jare was daar al baie studente waar jy nou is – aan die begin van jou lewensreis, op pad om jou drome te verwesenlik.

Now it's your turn. We received 40 000 applications this year, but only had 5 300 places available. We chose *you* folks. Make the most of this opportunity to realise your dreams ... like those who came before you; people like:

- Ntsiki Biyela, who herded cattle as a young girl and became South Africa's first black female winemaker ... a Maties alumna;
- Elana Meyer, Olympic Games silver medallist ... and Maties alumna;
- Gerald Maarman, 'n outjie van Eersterivier wat sy doktorsgraad in kardiologiese fisiologie behaal het ... 'n Matie-alumnus; en
- Japie van Zyl, 'n ruimte-ingenieur by NASA ... en Matie-alumnus.

Klas van 2019, welkom by die wêreldwye Matie-gemeenskap. Your time has come! Welcome to the global Matie community!

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