A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. For admission to the MB,ChB degree programme (mainstream and extended degree programme) an applicant shall hold the National Senior Certificate (NSC) with university admission, endorsed by Umalusi, or an equivalent qualification with an aggregate of at least 70% (level 6) (excluding Life Orientation), and with at least 50% (level 4) for Mathematics, as well as Physical Sciences and Life Sciences.

   On account of the outstanding merit of most applicants, satisfying the minimum admission requirements is by no means a guarantee for successful selection.

2. Since approximately 25-30% of the selected applicants do no accept the selection offer, more applicants are selected initially in order to compensate and eventually reach the goal of more or less 270 (mainstream programme) in total.

3. During the selection process, an effort is made to ensure that the gender profile of the group of selected applicants is an accurate reflection of the gender profile of applicants who satisfy the minimum entrance requirements.

4. Two places at the most are reserved for applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements, and are admitted at the request of the Rector on account of extraordinary considerations (as determined by the Rector).

5. The annual revision of the number of students admitted to the programme depends on:
   - Training capacity in terms of human resources, infrastructure and the clinical training platform
   - Regional and national needs
   - Enrollment planning of the University

6. Only applicants who have indicated MB,ChB as a first choice on their application will be considered.

7. Candidates cannot defer their selection from one year to another. If an applicant is successful, but does not take up his/her selection, such an applicant will normally have to apply anew to be considered for selection in future.

8. As soon as the final National Senior Certificate marks (or equivalent) become available in January of the following year, these marks and/or the improved NBT results are used
instead of the Grade 11 marks and the original NBT results respectively, and the merit list order is adjusted accordingly.

B. GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MB, ChB STUDENTS

Applicants are considered in the three categories explained below.

B1. Current learners (grade 12) and applicants who have completed school (p 2 – 4);
B2. Registered Stellenbosch University students (p 5 – 6);
B3. Applicants with tertiary qualifications and/or work experience (p. 6 – 7).

1. CURRENT LEARNERS (GRADE 12) AND APPLICANTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED SCHOOL

1.1 Selection of this group takes place at the first selection opportunity during the second semester of the preceding year.

1.2 Applicants who had matriculated longer than three years ago, cannot be considered within this category and it is recommended that they prepare themselves to be considered within category B2 or B3. Please note that selection within these categories can still not be guaranteed.

1.3 Applicants within this category are selected as follows on the basis of academic as well as non-academic merit:

1.3.1 Academic performance at school, which comprises 45% of the selection factor.

1.3.1.1 In the case of Grade 12 learners, their aggregate in the Grade 11 final examination is used.

1.3.1.2 In the case of applicants who have completed school, their aggregate in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination or equivalent is used.

1.3.1.3 For selection to the mainstream programme, preference will be given to applicants who obtained an average of at least 75% in the mentioned examination.

1.3.2 National Benchmark Test (NBT), which comprises 30% of the selection factor. The average percentage obtained in the tests will be used.

1.3.3 Non-academic merit, which comprises 25% of the selection factor.

1.3.3.1 The non-academic merit mark is calculated on the basis of the following scale. Information is gathered by means of a structured questionnaire. The accuracy of the information must be verified by the school principal. The onus rests upon the applicant, as well as the principal, to ensure that the information is complete and correct.
INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO MAXIMUM SCORE

- Leadership 5
- Community service 4
- Cultural activities 4
- Sport 4
- Other Extraordinary achievements 4
- Rural origin 4
- Language proficiency (in SA languages) 3
- Association with SU (parents/sibling(s) are alumni/current students or staff) 2
- Part-time or after-hours employment 1

1.3.3.2 The score for each of the items is the maximum possible score. The marks are calculated according to specific and consistent criteria. Only achievements during the last 3 years at high school level are taken into consideration.

1.3.3.3 No additions or other changes will be permitted to the non-academic merit form after it has been received by the selection office. The only permissible exception will be accomplishments achieved after the form has been forwarded that have been verified by the principal concerned, but only if it is received by the selection office no later than the end of June of the year concerned.

1.4 The selection factor is calculated by adding the academic school mark, NBT result and non-academic merit mark in a 45:30:25 ratio. All applicants are then placed on a merit list according to their selection factor, which forms the basis for the selection of these students.

1.5 The selection process takes place as follows:

1.5.1 The top **110** applicants who are SA citizens, are selected in order of priority according to the selection factor, irrespective of any other considerations.

1.5.2 Then Indian or Asian applicants from the Western and Northern Cape, and Black African and Coloured applicants from all the provinces are selected, provided that they meet the minimum admission requirements, until 270 places have been filled.

1.5.3 An additional 40 Black African applicants are selected, provided that they meet the minimum admission requirements of an average percentage of 70%.

1.5.4 Applicants who have obtained an average percentage between 70% and 74.9% may be admitted to the mainstream programme, if they passed at least 2 of the NBT tests on the proficient level.

1.5.5 If the mainstream programme cannot be filled according to the process mentioned above (in 1.5.1 to 1.5.4), white and Indian or Asian students will be considered according to merit and attention to the gender profile, until all the available places have been filled.
1.5.6 When all available places are filled, the remaining applicants on the merit list are considered as waiting list candidates.

- The order is still determined by the calculated selection factor.
- As soon as the final National Senior Certificate marks (or equivalent) become available in January of the following year, these marks and/or the improved NBT results are used instead of the Grade 11 marks and the original NBT results respectively, and the merit list- (waiting list-) order is adjusted accordingly.
- Cancellations are replaced from the merit list, based on the selection factor and consideration of the demographic profile of the first-year intake, provided that there is place in the programme.

1.5.7 The goal of the MBChB extended degree programme (EDP) route is to improve access to students from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds to the medical training programme.

Socio-economic disadvantage is assessed by calculating a socio-economic status (SES) factor which takes into account the following indicators: educational disadvantage (based on school quintiles and school fees), economic disadvantage (based on social or disability grants) and first-generation status (based on the educational level of the parents). The SES factor ranges from 10 (most disadvantaged) to 0 (least disadvantaged).

Black African and Coloured applicants, and white, Indian or Asian applicants from the Western and Northern Cape, who have not yet been selected for the mainstream programme, are considered for admission to the EDP. This group therefore does not form part of the mainstream programme. There are 20 places available every year for admission to the EDP. Places are filled according to merit by applicants with a SES factor of 6 or higher. The cut-off score for the SES factor can, however, be adjusted in accordance with the profile of the application pool. Preference will be given to applicants who passed at least 2 of the NBT tests on intermediate (or higher) level.

When all available places in the EDP have been filled, the remaining applicants on the merit list, who qualify for the EDP are considered as waiting list candidates for the EDP.

- As soon as the final National Senior Certificate marks (or equivalent) become available in January of the following year, these marks and/or the improved NBT results are used instead of the Grade 11 marks and the original NBT results respectively, and the merit list order is adjusted accordingly.
- Cancellations are replaced from the merit list, based on the selection factor, provided that there is place in the programme.

2. REGISTERED STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

2.1 Places are reserved for SU students who are SA citizens and who pursue relevant fields of study (preferably related to the natural sciences). Due to the limited number
of places in the programme, no students who are enrolled at another institution at the
time of application, can be considered for selection.

2.2 The following groupings of registered students are considered in this category:
- First-year Bachelor’s students (see 2.3 for exception)
- Final-year Bachelor’s students (in a 3-year Bachelor’s degree) (see 2.3 for
  exception)
- Postgraduate students:
  - Honours students and final year students (in a 4-year Bachelor’s degree)
    (see 2.3 for exception)
  - Final-year Master’s students
  - Doctoral students completing their doctoral studies in the year in which they
    have applied

The selection ratio of the above-mentioned groupings will reflect the ratio of the
applicants who meet the requirements for the groupings in this category (see 2.6).

2.3 Registered students who follow another selection programme in Health Sciences will
not be considered for selection.

2.4 Applications close on 30 September and are considered early in December, after the
final results have become available. Students who do not utilise the first
examination opportunity, cannot be considered.

2.5 This group is selected on the basis of academic performance and also a number of
other considerations (see 2.6):

The average academic achievement of registered students is calculated as follows:
- In the case of first-year students (BSc I and other programmes), the weighted
  average percentage of the first year is calculated.
- In the case of final-year students, the weighted average percentage of all the
  study years is calculated together.

In the case of postgraduate students (excluding doctoral students), the final mark for
the programme will be used.

2.6 For this category of applicants the following additional guidelines will also apply:

2.6.1 In the case of first-year students (mostly BSc I students) only students who pass all
their first-year subjects with a weighted average of at least 70% will be considered.

2.6.2 In the case of students who complete the undergraduate qualification in the year
concerned, preference will be given to students who complete the degree in the
prescribed time with a weighted average of at least 70% for the duration of the
programme.
2.6.3 In the case of postgraduate registered students, undergraduate performance is also considered. Preference will be given to students who had completed previous degrees with a weighted average of at least 60% and who obtain at least 70% for the postgraduate qualification enrolled for at the time of application and who have included a motivational letter with their application.

2.7 Undergraduate students are ranked in order of priority on the basis of the preceding considerations (2.6.1 and 2.6.2), and this serves as point of departure for the selection process.

2.8 Postgraduate applicants within this category are ranked in order of priority on the basis of the preceding considerations in 2.6.3, after which a shortlist of meritorious applicants is compiled. A final selection is made after applicants on the shortlist have been further assessed by means of a personal interview. Invitation to an interview is by no means a guarantee that an applicant will be selected.

2.9 When all the available places are filled, qualifying applicants are placed on a waiting list according to academic merit. Cancellations are filled from the waiting list according to merit, provided that there is place in the programme.

2.10 Students who are selected for MB,ChB I could be exempted from corresponding modules which they have passed, according to certain criteria, but all the modules from which they are not exempted must be passed in order for them to be promoted to MB,ChB II the following year.

3. APPLICANTS WITH TERTIARY QUALIFICATIONS AND/OR WORK EXPERIENCE

3.1 Selection of this group of applicants takes place at the first selection opportunity during the second semester of the preceding year.

3.2 Approximately 20 places will be reserved for persons with tertiary qualifications and/or work experience, and who are not enrolled for a further qualification at the time of application. Applicants who are registered for single modules at tertiary level for non-degree purposes at the time of application, may also be considered within this category.

3.4 Preference will be given to applicants who have already obtained a tertiary qualification (NQF level 7 and above) in the normal time with a weighted average of 60% or more and who have included a motivational letter with the application.

3.5 These applicants are selected according to academic merit, as well as non-academic factors. A short list of meritorious applicants is then compiled after the consideration of all applications within this category.

3.6 A final selection is made after applicants on the shortlist have been further assessed by means of a personal interview.
3.7 Invitation to an interview is by no means a guarantee that an applicant will be selected.

C. SELECTION OF BLACK AFRICAN, COLOURED, INDIAN OR ASIAN APPLICANTS

1. The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, in consultation with the Vice-Rector (Learning and Teaching), annually determines enrollment targets that are aligned with, inter alia, the guidelines of the National Department of Higher Education and Training for the transformation of the higher education sector and the subsequent institutional enrollment planning, as well as the University’s commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

2. In the case of school learners, the selection factor is calculated according to the formula as described in B1. It is taken into account that selection will not be based solely on the selection factor as some applicants may not have had the opportunity for academic as well as extra-mural achievements.

D. APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT HAVE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP OR A PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

1. Such applicants will not be considered.

2. Applicants with official refugee status must be considered according to law. Only SA citizens qualify for institutional bursaries and loans, as well as NSFAS funding. Applicants with refugee status therefore need to keep their financial position in mind when taking up a place in the MB,ChB programme.

E. TAKING THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK TESTS (NBT)

1. All current learners or applicants who have completed school (B1), who apply for admission to MB,ChB, irrespective of the percentage or total they obtained in the final Grade 11 or 12 examinations, must take the NBT. The average percentage of these tests counts towards 30% of the selection factor.

2. The tests will be conducted countrywide at various centres.

3. Prospective Health Sciences students must write the NBT before the closing date which is determined annually (see www.maties.com), by registering (at least 3 weeks before the test date) at www.nbt.ac.za to secure a place at the relevant venue.

4. Prospective students must write all tests on the same day.
5. If a student makes use of more than one opportunity to write the NBT during the same year, the results available by the end of July will be considered for selection in the second semester; the NBT results available by the end of December will be used in January in conjunction with the NSC results for selection from the merit list.

6. Registered university students (B2) and applicants with tertiary qualifications and/or work experience (B3) are exempted from this requirement.

F. PROCEDURES THAT ARE FOLLOWED WITH REGARD TO THE SELECTION PROCESS

1. APPLICATION FORMS

1.1 Applicants can apply electronically at www.maties.com

1.2 The closing date for submitting applications, including the non-academic merit questionnaire for consideration during the initial selection process, is 31 May of the year that precedes registration.

2. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

2.1 A complete database of each prospective student is compiled based on the information captured by the applicant on the online application form. At the same time, the marks of learners or applicants who have matriculated (B1) are processed electronically.

2.2 The questionnaires about non-academic merit are marked and the marks are calculated as explained in B.1.2.3. These marks are also captured electronically and processed together with the school marks and NBT results in order to determine the selection mark. (This selection mark is used to determine an applicant’s position on the merit list.)

2.3 The academic records of registered students (B2) as well as those of graduates (B3) are processed by hand and an average percentage is calculated. These students are then considered on the basis of academic performance, although non-academic merit may also be taken into consideration in the case of graduates (B3).

2.4 It is expected of applicants to provide an undertaking that all information provided is accurate. In the event that it should be discovered that a selected applicant has provided false information or has withheld information, they might forfeit their selection.

3. SELECTION OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 The first selection takes place during the second semester of the preceding year. On this occasion, learners and applicants who have completed school (B1), as well as applicants with work experience and/or tertiary qualifications (B3) are considered. Selection of
the latter applicants (who have been placed on a short list) is only finalised after interviews with members of the Selection Committee (see B3.5 and B3.6).

3.2 Applications of registered students (B2) are considered only when their final university results become available in December.

3.3 Schimathus students are considered in January in the same category as applicants who have matriculated (B1) (on the basis of their new selection factor).

3.4 Further selection from the merit list takes place continuously, depending on cancellations received and available places in the programme.

3.5 Selection is finalised within 2 weeks after the commencement of the first-semester classes of MB,ChB I.

4. SENDING OUT SELECTION LETTERS

4.1 After the selection meetings, applicants are informed electronically of the selection results.

4.2 Selected applicants must reply within four weeks from mailing of the selection letters, stating whether or not they accept the offer.

4.3 If they accept the selection offer, the prescribed selection deposit is due. The amount will be to the student’s credit. Applicants who accept their selection offer, pay the prescribed selection deposit and afterwards cancel their selection of their own accord, will not be refunded the selection deposit.

4.4 The places of applicants who do not respond to the offer and cannot be reached administratively will be cancelled.

5. APPLICANTS WHO NO LONGER MEET THE SELECTION REQUIREMENTS AFTER THE FINAL NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS BECOME AVAILABLE

5.1 Applicants who obtained provisional acceptance during the first selection round and who do not meet the minimum requirements with their final matric results, will forfeit their selection and the selection deposit will be refunded.

G. COMPOSITION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee consists of the following members:

- Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Vice Dean: Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Vice Dean: Social Impact & Clinical Services, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
- MB.ChB Programme Coordinator (Chairperson)
- Six* members appointed by the Faculty Board, one of which must be from the pre-clinical and one from the primary health sciences.
- One member of the Allied Health Sciences Selection Committee, appointed by this committee.
- Director: Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health

* The number of members appointed to this committee is dependent on the approval of the Faculty Board (FMHS).

April 2017