A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. For admission to the MB, ChB 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 60% (level 5) for Mathematics, 50% (level 4) for Physical Sciences and Life Sciences.

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

2. Since approximately 25-30% of the selected applicants do not accept the selection offer, more applicants are selected initially in order to compensate and eventually reach the goal of 290 students 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 admission requirements.

4. A maximum of two places 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. Only South African citizens, applicants with proof of permanent residency status or those with proof of refugee status will be considered for selection.
8. Candidates cannot defer their selection from one year to another. If an applicant is successful, but does not take up their selection, such an applicant will normally have to apply anew to be considered for selection in future.

B. GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF MB,ChB STUDENTS

Applicants are considered in one of the three categories as set out below.

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

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 (excluding Life Orientation).

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 (excluding Life Orientation).

1.3.1.3 Preference will be given to applicants who obtained an average of at least 75% (excluding Life Orientation) 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 (NAM), 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.

**NON-ACADEMIC MERIT (NAM) SCORING GUIDE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAM Considerations</th>
<th>Maximum Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community service</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural activities</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other extraordinary achievements</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural origin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language proficiency (in SA languages)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association with SU (parents/sibling(s) are alumni/staff)</td>
<td>2 current students or staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time or after-hours employment</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 of and including the application year 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 (SF) is calculated by adding the Grade 11/Grade 12 aggregate (excluding Life Orientation), NBT average and NAM 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 120 applicants who are SA citizens, have permanent residency status or refugee status are selected in order of priority according to the selection factor, irrespective of any other considerations.

1.5.2 Then Indian and 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 290 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 Grade 11/12 percentage between 70% and 74.9% may be admitted to the programme, if they had passed at least 2 of the NBT tests on the proficient level.

1.5.5 If the programme cannot be filled according to the process mentioned above (in 1.5.1 to 1.5.4), white applicants and Indian and Asian applicants, who have not yet been selected, 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 (SF).
- As soon as the final National Senior Certificate marks (or equivalent) become available in January of the following year, these marks (NSC average, excluding Life Orientation) and/or the improved NBT results are used instead of the Grade 11 average (excluding Life Orientation) 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 Approximately 7% of the class is filled according to merit by applicants with a socio-economic status (SES) factor of 6 or higher. Socio-economic disadvantage is assessed by calculating a 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). The cut-off score for the SES factor can, however, be adjusted in accordance with the profile of the application pool.

2. REGISTERED STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

2.1 Places are reserved for Stellenbosch University students who are SA citizens, have permanent residency status or refugee status 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 A final selection is made after applicants on the shortlist have been further assessed by means of a personal interview.

3.6 Invitation to an interview is by no means a guarantee that an applicant will be selected.
C. SELECTION OF BLACK AFRICAN, COLOURED, INDIAN AND 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 non-academic achievements.

D. APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT HAVE SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP, A PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT OR REFUGEE STATUS 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 average (excluding Life Orientation) 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 Stellenbosch 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.1.3.3. 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 SciMathUS 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. SELECTION COMMITTEE

Selection of prospective students is done by a selection panel, compiled by the Strategic Committee on Recruitment, Selection and Admissions, which is chaired by the Dean of the faculty. All decisions regarding selection are approved by the Dean prior to communication with the candidates and decisions are final. All enquiries regarding the selection process should be directed to the Selection Office located in the Centre for Student Administration (Tygerberg Campus).

April 2018