1 General information regarding selection

A selection procedure is followed in order to meet the target of nearly 680 for new first year student intake, of which 40% have to be diversity candidates by 2020. This selection process is in accordance with the Admission Policy of Stellenbosch University. Selection takes place per programme for the various programmes in the Biological Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Physical Sciences. The admissions number is divided as follows (these numbers are revised annually on the basis of applications and needs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences*</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NB Selection for the BSc Human Life Sciences stream (Biology) and stream (Biology with Psychology); and Molecular Biology and Biotechnology could possibly be more strict and the admission threshold higher as a result of the large number of applicants. Therefore applications where these programmes are listed as third choice will possibly not be considered.

- The principle of overbooking is applied to allow for the fact that not all applicants who are provisionally selected turn up, or qualify for final admission. The overbooking rate is reviewed annually to incorporate changing application and registration trends.

- The results of the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) are not used in calculating the selection mark but to support the selection process (eg. especially in borderline cases to identify the more suitable candidates; applicants who apply to a programme in Science after more than three years of completing school; and for allocating students into tutorial groups).

- Applicants who do not study directly after completing grade 12 often experience difficulties with Mathematics in their first year. Please keep in mind that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that he/she is prepared for Mathematics on university level. There is no additional support from the faculty available to catch up with school work.

- If an applicant has studied previously at another tertiary institution (not a new entry student), additional admission criteria apply (contact scienceadmin@sun.ac.za).

2 Minimum admission requirements (take note of requirements for various school systems).

2.1 The minimum admission requirements for mainstream programmes are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Minimum admission requirements - National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An average performance level of at least 65% (excluding Life Orientation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A performance level of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. PROGRAMMES IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

1.1 Biodiversity and Ecology
1.2 Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
1.3 Human Life Sciences
1.3.1 Stream: Biology
1.3.2 Stream: Biology with Psychology
1.4 Sport Science

- Physical Sciences 4 (50%)
- Mathematics 5 (60%)

2. PROGRAMMES IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

2.1 Chemistry
2.1.1 Stream: Chemistry and Polymer Science
2.1.2 Stream: Chemical Biology
2.1.3 Stream: Textile and Polymer Science
2.2 Physics
2.2.1 Stream: Laser Physics (Physical), Nuclear Physics, Radiation and Health Physics
2.2.2 Stream: Laser Physics (Biological)
2.2.3 Stream: Theoretical Physics

- Physical Sciences 4 (50%)
- Mathematics 6 (70%)
Programmes | Minimum admission requirements - National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB)
---|---
2.3 Earth Science*  
2.4 Geoinformatics* | *Earth Science and Geoinformatics also offers the option for admission with:  
• Mathematics 5 (60%)

3. PROGRAM IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
3.1 Mathematical Sciences  
3.1.1 Stream: Financial Mathematics  
3.1.2 Stream: Computer Science  
3.1.3 Stream: Applied Mathematics  
3.1.4 Stream: Mathematics  
3.1.5 Stream: Mathematical Statistics  
3.1.6 Stream: Operational Research  
3.1.7 Stream: Abstract Mathematics  
3.1.8.1 Stream: Biomathematics  
3.1.8.2 Stream: Biomathematics  
(Option 1: Molecular Biology)  
(Option 2: Ecology) | • Mathematics 6 (70%)  
AND  
If Physics or Chemistry is taken:  
• Physical Sciences 4 (50%)

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

| An average performance level of at least 65%  
A performance level of at least 50% in Afrikaans or English | Minimum admission requirements |
---|---
HIGCSE and Namibian NSSC |  
If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:  
• Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics  
If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:  
• Mathematics  
If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:  
• Mathematics |

AS-level |  
If physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:  
• Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics  
If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics T14, 144 are taken:  
• Mathematics  
If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:  
• Mathematics |

A-level |  
If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:  
• Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics  
If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics T14, 144 are taken:  
• Mathematics  
If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:  
• Mathematics |

IB HL |  
If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:  
• Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics  
If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics T14, 144 are taken:  
• Mathematics  
If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:  
• Mathematics |

IB SL |  
If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:  
• Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics  
If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics T14, 144 are taken:  
• Mathematics  
If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:  
• Mathematics |

*Thus, Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics on IGSCE/GCSE/NSSC OL Gr 11 level, does not qualify for admission
Contact the International Office ([http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/contact-us.html](http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/contact-us.html)) for the minimum admission requirements for school leaving qualifications not listed in the table above.

### School of Tomorrow*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Admission requirements</th>
<th>NBT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All programmes</td>
<td>As for NSC/IEB</td>
<td>Academic Literacy 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quantitative Literacy 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics 55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Applicants from the “School of Tomorrow” school system can only obtain an university exemption certificate on recommendation of the faculty. Selection of these candidates is thus dependent on meeting the programme specific admission requirements, as well as performance in the NBTs (unless the candidate sits the NSC exams in which case these results will apply.)

### 2.2 Minimum admission requirements for extended degree programmes (EDP)

Applicants who are provisionally admitted to mainstream programmes, but whose final results do not meet the minimum admission requirements of the specific mainstream programme, can direct a request for admission to a EDP. Preference is given to candidates from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, who meet the minimum admission requirements of the specific EDP and admission is subject to the availability of places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Minimum admission requirements – National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A final mark of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) AND Comply with <strong>one</strong> of the following three combinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td><strong>Combination 1 minimum requirements</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics 5 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>4 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average (without LO¹)</td>
<td>≥55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Physical and Mathematical Sciences  | **Combination 1 minimum requirements** | **Combination 2 minimum requirements** | **Combination 3 minimum requirements** |
| Mathematics                         | Mathematics 6 (70%)                    | Mathematics 5 (60%)                   | Mathematics 6 (70%)                   |
| Physical Science                    | 4 (50%)                                | Physical Science 4 (50%)              | Physical Science 3 (40%)              |
| Average (without LO¹)               | ≥55%                                    | Average (without LO¹)                 | ≥65%                                   |

3 Selection

- Selection takes place on the basis of academic merit only.

¹ Life Orientation

p 3 of 6
• Meeting the minimum requirements of the programme applied for does NOT guarantee selection.

• Only fully completed applications, which include the required supporting documents, will be considered in the selection process. (Please keep proof of submission of supporting documents). Closing date for applications is 30 June of the preceding year.

• Keep in mind that an applicant can only be granted provisional admission, or final admission if grade 12 has already been completed successfully, into one programme applied for. E.g. if an applicant was initially accepted for his/her 2nd choice, this provisional admission (for the 2nd choice) lapses should the applicant’s first choice be successful as well.

• Grade 11 applicants
Selection and provisional admission is based on the final grade 11 promotion marks. The selection mark for provisional admission is calculated as explained below (3.2.1).

• Applicants who have already successfully completed their school leaving examinations
The results of the final school leaving examination are used to calculate the selection mark as explained below (3.2.1). If the application is successful, final admission is immediately granted.

• Applicants who better their grade 12 marks in the following year
Applicants will be placed on a waiting list until the improved school leaving examination results are available. These improved school leaving examination results are subject to the same selection criteria as applicable to all applicants for the specific year. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the improved marks to the Admissions Division (info@sun.ac.za) as soon as these marks are available, TOGETHER with the request for admission by completing the request form (see 4.5).

3.1 Selection committee
The selection of prospective students is done by a selection committee of the Faculty of Science as compiled by the dean of the faculty. All decisions regarding selection are approved by the dean prior to communication with the candidates and decisions are therefore final.

If you are provisionally admitted to a programme but wish to change programmes to another programme in the Faculty of Science, permission has to be obtained from the selection committee. Such requests will only be considered if there are places available in the specific programme. Direct the request to scienceadmin@sun.ac.za by 15 January in the year of study.

3.2 Selection criteria

• A selection mark (SM) is calculated for each applicant as follows:
  \[ \frac{(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark} + \text{the marks of the other five subjects}^* \text{ (excluding Life Orientation)})}{7} \]

Important: The exact marks are used. When applicants take more than six school subjects, the Mathematics mark, plus five other highest marks are used, of which at least one of these five needs to be Afrikaans or English. Physical Sciences as school subject must be included in the abovementioned five school subjects if you want to follow a programme in the Physical or Biological Sciences.

• Applicants have to meet all the minimum admission requirements of the programme applying for.

• Applicants are encouraged to take the NBT tests prior to the selection process. These results are not used in the selection formula but can be taken into account at the discretion of the selection committee in borderline cases.

3.3 Timeframe of the selection process

• Closing date for applications is 30 June of the preceding year.

• Selection will take place until the end of August. These applications are ranked based on the selection marks. Selection is done subject to the availability of places per specific programme, taking the diversity composition into account until the target for new student first year intake is met. Remaining eligible candidates could possibly still be considered, (potentially until after registration) should it become evident that the registration targets per specific programme will not be met.

• As soon as provisional admission is granted, the applicant will receive a letter in this regard. Please keep in mind that this letter of provisional acceptance lapses when the applicant receives provisional acceptance hereafter for another programme.
3.4 Selection for extended degree programmes (EDP)

3.4.1 Selection process
The selection process for these programmes aims to admit a maximum of 70 students, of which 75% should be diversity candidates, into these programmes.

Admission criteria for EDP:
- The final grade 12 marks do not comply with admission requirements for the mainstream programmes
- The socio-economic status of applicant

3.4.2 Timeframe of the selection process (EDP)
- Candidates who have been provisionally accepted for mainstream but their final grade 12 results do not meet the minimum requirements.
  Candidates can request admission to the EDP by completing the applicable form at the following link http://bit.ly/2mjAEqZ as soon as the final NSC/grade 12 marks are made available. The closing date for requests is 15 January of the planned year of study. Selection takes place directly after this closing date and the status of the application will be available at http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties approximately one week before registration.
- Candidates who have already obtained a final school leaving certificate
  The closing date for applications is 30 June of the year preceding the year of study and if the application is successful, final admission is then already granted.

4 Waiting list status
Applicants can obtain waiting list status in the following cases:

4.1 Improving school leaving marks
**Only a limited number can be admitted.** The selection requirements for mainstream programmes as implemented in a specific year of study, will apply. If your improved mark comply with the minimum requirements, admission is still not guaranteed. The extent to which the marks are improved, will be used. Admission can only be finalised after final improved marks are made available.

4.2 Taking Mathematics and/or Physical Science (Chemistry and/or Physics) additionally as school subjects
**Only a limited number can be admitted.** The selection requirements for mainstream programmes will apply as implemented in a specific year of study. Admission can only be finalised after final additional marks are made available.

4.3 Transfer from another academic institution
**Only a limited number can be admitted.** The selection requirements for mainstream programmes will apply. Admission will only be finalised after the most recent final marks from the academic institution are made available. Should students from this group be selected, they may only register for the programmes if they passed all their modules in the previous academic year.

4.4 Non-readmission status
Students who have to apply for readmission, must apply officially before 30 June of the year preceding year of study. In addition, a readmission form have to be completed and submitted in accordance with SU regulations. Such an application can only be considered by the readmission committee of the Faculty at specific times as scheduled in the General Calendar, Part 1 of SU.

4.5 Selection process for applicant with waiting list status
- As soon as your final/improved marks are available, you have to complete the form at the following link http://bit.ly/2l3gcPH in order to confirm your request for final admission
- Only candidates who complete this form will be considered for final admission
- After completion of the selection process, the status of this application will be available at http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties approximately one week before registration.
5 Final admission and registration

- Conditional admission status becomes final admission if the results of school leaving examination meet the admission requirements of the programme for which provisional admission was granted. Applicants are responsible to check whether they meet the admission requirements and are eligible to register as students.

- Registration can be done from middle January electronically or otherwise this must be done on the specific registration day in the registration venue.

- Applicants will only be allowed to register if proof of the school leaving qualification can be provided.

- **A limited number** of students on the waiting list will be considered for final admission as soon as outstanding marks are submitted to the selection committee and the applicant has confirmed the request for final admission as set out in 4.5.

Contact: [scienceadmin@sun.ac.za](mailto:scienceadmin@sun.ac.za) or 021 808 3063