



The National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) at Stellenbosch University

2019-intake

1. What are the NBTs?

The National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) are an assessment test for first-year applicants to higher education. The NBTs are designed to measure a writer's ability to transfer understanding of academic literacy (language skills), quantitative literacy (numerical skills) and Mathematics to the demands of tertiary (higher education) coursework.

There are two tests. The AQL combines Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy in one multiple-choice test. There are seven timed sections, requiring three hours writing time. The second test is Mathematics (MAT), which is also multiple-choice with three hours allowed.

The NBTs are managed by the *Alternative Admissions Research Project* at the University of Cape Town. More information on the NBTs are available on their website at www.nbt.ac.za.

2. Who needs to write the NBTs for Stellenbosch University and how will the results be used?

It is compulsory for prospective first-year applicants to SU, regardless of the matriculation year, studies at another higher education institution, or examination system followed, to write the National Benchmark Tests. The only applicants who need NOT write the NBTs are students applying for admission to a second university degree as well as students with a B Tech degree. The NBT results will be used for both selection and placement purposes at Stellenbosch University as set in the table below:

Faculty or school system	Specification
Medicine and Health Sciences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All applicants must write the NBTs.• The NBT results will be used for selection purposes for all programmes in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.• To be considered for these programmes, all applicants need to write the NBTs by 1 July 2018 at the latest.
Law programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All applicants must write the NBTs.• The NBT results will also be used for selection purposes for all programmes in Law. This includes the following programmes: BA (Law), BComm (Law), BAccLLB and LLB (four-year programme).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applicants must write the NBTs before the end of June in order for the Faculty of Law to take the results into consideration when compiling their selection lists.
Arts and Social Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applicants with an average application mark of between 60% and 69% (excluding Life Orientation) will be required to take the NBTs. The NBT results will be used for additional information with regards to placement in extended degree programmes, as well as decisions regarding transfers from the extended degree programmes to mainstream programmes.
Theology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applicants with an average application mark of between 55% and 59% (excluding Life Orientation) will be required to take the NBTs. The NBT results will be used for making decision regarding placement.
AgriSciences, Science, Engineering and Economic and Management Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applicants applying for a programme in these faculties need to write the NBTs. The NBT results will be used for additional information for applicants to both mainstream and extended degree applications.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants are not required to write the NBTs for placement in the Faculty of Education
School of Tomorrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All School of Tomorrow candidates need to write the NBTs. The NBT results will be used for the selection and placement.

For more information about the use of NBT results, refer to the respective faculties' selection guidelines on www.maties.com (go to "Admission" and "Faculty selection guidelines").

3. Stellenbosch University specific NBT requirements

- For application to Stellenbosch University **you can write the NBTs twice** in one application year, but it is the prerogative of the faculty you apply to, to determine which results will be taken into account.
- It is compulsory for all applicants to write the AQL test (Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy). If the programme you apply for requires **Mathematics** as an admission requirement, you need to also write the Mathematics test (MAT) regardless of what year you matriculated in.
- The NBTs are available in both Afrikaans and English. For study at SU, you can write the NBTs in **Afrikaans OR English**. During the registration process for your test session, you will have the opportunity to indicate which of these two languages you prefer to write in.
- NBT results are valid for **three intake years**. If you wrote the NBTs in 2016 or 2017 you need NOT write NBTs again for the 2019 intake year. If you wrote the NBTs in the **previous two application years**, you need to check whether your marks are available on www.maties.com.
- If you cannot write the NBTs in the year before your studies (if, for example, you are overseas), you may write them in January before the start of the academic year. Bear in mind, however, that you do expose yourself to specific risks and practical implications in terms of placement and selection if you write the tests at such a late stage. It is therefore strongly recommended that you write the NBTs in your matric year.
- Approximately four weeks after the test session, you can **obtain your results** from the official NBT website (www.nbt.ac.za), by logging in with your ID.
- Remember, It is your responsibility to check whether your **NBT results have been loaded** on www.maties.com. If not loaded, send your NBT test number, ID number, SU student number and official results to the SU Client Services Centre, at e-mail info@sun.ac.za. SU will then verify these results for correctness and upload them on the system.
- Dependent on the required test combination, the **NBT average** is calculated as follows:

- **For programmes that do not require Mathematics:** The average performance in the Academic Literacy test component and the Quantitative Literacy test component
- **For programmes that require Mathematics:** The average performance in the Academic Literacy test component, the Quantitative Literacy test component and the Mathematics test
- If you failed to write one of the required tests, it will be taken into account as a zero mark.

4. How do I register to write the NBTs?

- Access the NBT website: www.nbt.ac.za, click on “Book a Test” and then follow the prompts. You can also register via the internet on your cell phone.
- A letter confirming your registration and containing an EasyPay barcode will be available for you to download and print after you click on “submit”. You must take your registration letter to an EasyPay Paypoint to pay the testing fees.
- **The cost are as follow: AQL: R90 / AQL and MAT:R180**
- You may also pay on the EasyPay website: www.easypay.co.za. It is not necessary to bring these to the test site, but you should print out and keep copies. Results are released only for paid tests.
- Registration is date and site specific. If you miss your scheduled writing session, or wish to write a second time, you must register and pay again.

5. Test dates and venues

- You may write the NBTs at any test center; all universities to which you apply can receive your results. It is your choice on which date and at which centre you want to write the test(s), but take note that certain selection programmes require you to write before a certain date.
- A complete schedule with all the test locations is on the NBT website (www.nbt.ac.za). If there are no tests near to where you live, send an e-mail to nbt@uct.ac.za, or phone us on 021 650 3523 and we will try to schedule a special site for your test.

Registration for all NBT sessions opens 1 April 2018.

NBT Test Dates	Register	Last Day to Pay Fees	Results Available to Institutions	Results Available to Writers
26-May	06-May	13-May	18-Jun	25-Jun
2-Jun	13-May	20-May	25-Jun	02-Jul
*03 June	13-May	20-May	25-Jun	02-Jul
23-Jun	03-Jun	10-Jun	16-Jul	23-Jul
*24-Jun	03-Jun	10-Jun	16-Jul	23-Jul
**29 June	10-Jun	17-Jun	23-Jul	30-Jul
30-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	23-Jul	30-Jul
7-Jul	17-Jun	24-Jun	30-Jul	06-Aug
14-Jul	24-Jun	01-Jul	06-Aug	13-Aug
*15-Jul	24-Jun	01-Jul	06-Aug	13-Aug
28-Jul	08-Jul	15-Jul	20-Aug	27-Aug
**10 Aug	22-Jul	29-Jul	03-Sep	10-Sep
11-Aug	22-Jul	29-Jul	03-Sep	10-Sep
25-Aug	05-Aug	12-Aug	17-Sep	24-Sep
8-Sep	19-Aug	26-Aug	01-Oct	08-Oct
15-Sep	26-Aug	02-Sep	08-Oct	15-Oct
29-Sep	09-Sep	16-Sep	22-Oct	29-Oct

6-Oct	16-Sep	23-Sep	29-Oct	05-Nov
*07 Oct	16-Sep	23-Sep	29-Oct	05-Nov
13-Oct	23-Sep	30-Sep	05-Nov	12-Nov
24-Nov	04-Nov	11-Nov	17-Dec	17-Dec
1-Dec	11-Nov	18-Nov	18-Dec	18-Dec
*02-Dec	11-Nov	18-Nov	18-Dec	18-Dec
**4-Jan-19	16-Dec	16-Dec	28-Jan-19	4-Feb-19
5-Jan-19	16-Dec	16-Dec	28-Jan-19	4-Feb-19
*Sunday test session				
**Friday test session				

Please note: Students **who live abroad** (excluding Namibia) and are writing an **international final year exam** will be able to write the NBTs in the week when all first-years arrive in Stellenbosch in 2019.

6. Enquiries

For enquiries about the writing of the NBTs and release of NBT results	For enquiries about the NBT results at SU
NBT Client Services Centre (University of Cape Town) Telephone: 021 650 3523 Website: www.nbt.ac.za	SU Client Services Centre (Stellenbosch University) Telephone: 021 808 9111 Website: www.maties.com E-mail: info@sun.ac.za