

UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN
LANGUAGES

BECOME A SOUGHT-AFTER
PROFESSIONAL

**LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION
HONOURS, MASTER'S AND
PHD DEGREES PROGRAMMES
BY ON-CAMPUS OR OFF-
CAMPUS (ONLINE) LEARNING**

Obtain a qualification that can equip
you with the academic knowledge
and professional skills to
BE A LEADER

The first choice of study for professionals
who put excellence first

- **PREPARE FOR AN EXCITING
CAREER IN LANGUAGE AND
COMMUNICATION**
- **PREPARE TO BECOME A
SOUGHT-AFTER
PROFESSIONAL
CHARACTERISED BY**

- LEADERSHIP
- INSPIRATION
- INNOVATION AND
- FORESIGHT

Application for the B.A. Honours- and
Masters degrees in African Languages
are done online or on hard copy forms
, Information can be obtained from:

Mrs Karin de Wet,
The Course Co-ordinator
Department of African Languages
University of Stellenbosch
Private Bag X1
Matieland, 7602

E-mail: Mrs Karin de Wet

ktdw@sun.ac.za

Or

afrika@sun.ac.za

**MULTILINGUALISM IS A CENTRAL
FEATURE OF A PROSPEROUS
AFRICA: WHAT WILL YOUR
CONTRIBUTION TO IT BE?**

The promotion of multilingualism must
involve a **key role for the African
Languages**. The main objective of the
Honours and Masters degree programmes
is to empower students to contribute to the
African Renaissance through expert

knowledge and professional work in
language teaching or language and
communication services in the government
or business sector.

**FACE THE FUTURE WITH
CONFIDENCE AS A LANGUAGE
TEACHER, LANGUAGE
PRACTITIONER, OR COMMUNICATION
MANAGER**

In today's fast-changing world language
professionals and teachers have to keep
up with the latest developments in their
fields to be leaders who can inspire and
motivate their colleagues to aim for
excellence in their tasks. The field of
language and communication is a dynamic
field of study and research all over the
world because effective language teaching
in education, and language and
communication services in the government
and business sector are crucial to success
in many other areas of these sectors.

All over the African continent the
promotion of the status and use of the
African languages has become a priority.
Language teachers, practitioners and
communication managers need to have
state-of-the-art knowledge and skills to
advance the African languages in a
multilingual environment alongside
dominant languages like English. The
Department of African languages at the
University of Stellenbosch has a proud

tradition of more than twenty years in producing leaders in the field of language teaching and language and communication services. As a student of this institution, you can be sure that you will experience study at the cutting-edge of international research in language and communication that will provide you with the tools to be in high demand as a leader and a top performer.

PROMOTING AFRICAN LANGUAGES

At Stellenbosch University we are committed to elevate the status and advance the use of the African Languages in South Africa. We are convinced that the cultural advancement and economic and social development of all (South) Africa's people are only possible by harnessing the African Languages.

For this purpose we have introduced the Honours and Masters degrees which make provision for the study of all the African Languages in South Africa, i.e. isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, siSwati and isiNdebele as well as African languages of other countries on the continent.

The B.A. Honours and Masters degree programmes are designed to suit professional people from diverse backgrounds.

Wherever you are, we will have something to suit your academic needs in a variety of specialist areas, including **literature, linguistics, communication and language teaching.**

HOW THE B.A. HONOURS AND MASTER'S DEGREE CAN BE OF BENEFIT TO YOUR CAREER

To be in high demand in one's career in the 21st century will require from a professional person expert knowledge and skills that equip you for life-long learning.

The B.A. Honours and Masters degrees will be of benefit to any person already involved in a career, or who plans a career in education or language and communication services for African Languages in the government or private sector. The course provides a choice from four electives which each has a focus of specialisation, namely **literature, linguistics, communication or language teaching.** The contents of each of these study electives is designed to equip students with state-of-the-art expertise in African Languages which can contribute to making you a leader in your career. Specific professional people that will benefit from the B.A. Honours and Masters degree include **language teachers, authors, translators, communication officers, and professionals in language services, public**

relations and publishing for African Languages. The insights, knowledge and skills that you will acquire in the study of the B.A. Honours and Masters degrees will contribute to improve the quality of your work as a professional in African Languages. This Honours and Masters degree study can help you to advance your career in language and communication and to become an influential role-player in your institution.

Be a leader in the National Curriculum Statement and the teaching of African Languages

The B.A. Honours courses in African Languages will equip students with the kind of academic knowledge and applied research capabilities which will be crucial in future to teachers of African Languages who have to implement the Revised National Curriculum Statement (RNCS) for language teaching. The knowledge and skills obtained will also be highly relevant to the teaching of other languages.

To be a successful language teacher in the implementation of the National Curriculum statement requires knowledge and skills in the latest developments in the applied linguistic fields of reading, writing, speaking and listening in all fields on which extensive research has been produced internationally, and which relates

to the fields of text-linguistic and discourse analysis. Effective language teaching in their home language of learners is crucial to their successful learning across the Curriculum in that effective writing and reading skills are vital to understanding and writing arguments in other language subjects and content subjects. Language teachers who are familiar with the latest developments in research on language teaching are in high-demand in educational contexts.

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS SECTOR

Language practitioners, like translators, lexicographers, and communication officers and managers in the government sector and private sector will find options of study in the linguistics fields offered that will greatly enhance their abilities to manage language policy and planning and language and communication services. The study options offered equip these professionals with the latest insights in research.

THE B.A. HONOURS PROGRAMME IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

All these courses can be done by **full-time** study, **part-time** study or by **distance learning** through correspondence. Our B.A. Honours programme comprises the following attractive course options or specialisation areas. You should choose **one**:

1. B.A. Honours option in literature

**Please note that the literature stream will not be offered in 2022.

This course is geared to students whose main interest lies in the field of literature. All the main genres of literature are covered in this course:

- ❖ NOVEL
- ❖ SHORT STORY AND ESSAY
- ❖ POETRY
- ❖ DRAMA, including stage, radio and television drama
- ❖ ORAL ART, including praise poetry and prose narratives

The above modules include a theoretical study of literature as well as an application to the literature of a specific African

language. Attention is also given to comparative literature with other African Languages and African literature in English.

Furthermore, each module will have a threefold aim: a critical analysis of literary works, creative writing of your own and a teaching methodology for literature.

2. B.A. Honours option in linguistics

The main areas of linguistics receive prominence in this study option:

- SYNTAX: Students will gain an insight into the properties of language structures in the African Languages. The approach invokes theoretical assumptions in syntax with an application to issues in the African Languages.
- SOCIOLINGUISTICS: The main areas of sociolinguistics are covered in this module. Issues such as language contact and variation code switching and language planning are included.
- MORPHOLOGY: Lexemes and morphemes form the basis of study in this module and attention is given to derivation, inflection, compounds, affixation and reduplication.
- SEMANTICS: This module deals with the problem of meaning in language and develops a theory of meaning that

accounts for a formal treatment of semantic intuitions.

- **PRAGMATICS:** In the broadest sense, pragmatics is concerned with the study of linguistic communication in context. Words can mean more – or something other than what they say, depending on factors such as familiarity with the context, cultural assumptions, and intonational clues. The same phrase may have different meanings on different occasions, and the same intention may be expressed by different linguistic means.

3. B.A. Honours option in Communication

Various communication contexts are explored within theories of communication, discourse and pragmatics. The following contexts receive special attention with reference to the African Languages:

- **INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION** is a two-person context where only two people are involved. You will learn the requirements for such communication to be successful.
- **INTERVIEWS** serve a number of functions and this component will teach the student the basics of interview objectives.
- **SMALL-GROUP COMMUNICATION** focuses on meetings where problems should be

solved. You will learn how to solve communication problems.

- **PUBLIC SPEAKING:** You will learn the functions of a speech in addressing an audience to inform, entertain or persuade listeners.
- **ORGANISATIONAL COMMUNICATION:** how can an organisation function more effectively? This component reflects on communication in business, schools, churches, clubs and so on.
- **INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION** between members of different cultures: You will learn how to communicate with people who have different languages, beliefs and values.
- **MASS COMMUNICATION** focuses on television, films, radio, newspapers, magazines and books. Learn how to communicate with large audiences.
- **PRAGMATICS:** In the broadest sense, pragmatics is concerned with the study of linguistic communication in context. Words can mean more – or something other than what they say, depending on factors such as familiarity with the context, cultural assumptions, and intonational clues. The same phrase may have different meanings on different occasions, and the same intention may be expressed by different linguistic means.

4. B.A. Honours option in Language Teaching and Learning

The need for language teachers of African Languages

The effective teaching of the African Languages has become a priority in education. To satisfy the demand for quality language learning and teaching of African Languages in education competent teachers are needed who have the kind of expertise required for successful language teaching of the African Languages.

This Honours option aims to prepare students to be effective language teachers of African Languages in the sense that they will be able to manage and perform successfully the comprehensive range of responsibilities and tasks required by language education. To achieve this aim, the B.A. Honours course in language learning and teaching includes the following modules:

- **LITERACY AND LANGUAGE TEACHING:** This module includes the study of influential theoretical approaches to language and literacy. The student will also study a range of non-fiction texts in African Languages that manifest how communicative purpose; ideology and power are expressed in language. Becoming

literate in the modern world means much more than just becoming able to read and write. Becoming literate means being empowered in such a manner as to become a participant in the larger world community. In the twenty-first century, being literate means having the intellectual tools and skills that give access to all sorts of meanings and possibilities that would otherwise remain out of reach. It means greater freedom, responsibility, and the power to participate in social, economic, education, political, and other activities of the larger world communities. In this broader sense, literacy (to which language use is central) is the **essence of a practical education for modern living**.

- **WRITING AND LANGUAGE TEACHING:** This module includes the study of the methodology for teaching writing (i.e. the study of language teaching practices, including theoretical underpinnings) and the analysis of written texts in African Languages. Teaching writing successfully requires appropriate methodological decisions to be taken by the teacher in order to maximise the learning of writing skills.
- **READING IN LANGUAGE TEACHING:** The emphasis in this module is on theoretical approaches to reading and on the issues relating to materials for teaching

reading. In this module extensive language-specific analysis and construction of language teaching materials for reading African Languages will be done.

- **PRAGMATICS:** In the broadest sense, pragmatics is concerned with the study of linguistic communication in context. Words can mean more – or something other than what they say, depending on factors such as familiarity with the context, cultural assumptions, and intonational clues. The same phrase may have different meanings on different occasions, and the same intention may be expressed by different linguistic means.
- **SOCIOLINGUISTICS:** The main areas of sociolinguistics are covered in this module. Issues such as language contact and variation, code switching and language planning are studied.

THE MASTERS PROGRAMME IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

After having completed an Honours degree, students can apply for the Masters degree, **specialising in study and research** in one of the fields described above for the Honours degree programme. The Masters degree programme includes a **coursework component** followed by the writing of a **smaller thesis** on a

specific research topic in **Literature, Linguistics, Language Teaching, or Communication**.

TUITION

FULL-TIME

Full-time students who are required to be resident in Stellenbosch can complete this course programme in one year.

PART-TIME

Students may attend lectures on a part-time basis at Stellenbosch in which case the course programme can be completed in **two years**.

DISTANCE TUITION THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE

Distance tuition is available to all the different B.A. Honours and Masters courses. Students who want to study through correspondence have opportunities to attend lectures at Stellenbosch. Such students receive personal supervision from all staff members. The Honours and Masters degrees through distance learning can be completed in **two years**.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

❖ For the B.A. Honours degree:

Applicants for this course must have a B.A. degree with an **African Language as a major subject**.

❖ For the Masters degree:

Applicants must be in possession of a **B.A. Honours degree in African Languages**.

❖ Transition modules to fulfil the requirement of African languages for admission to Honours degree study

If you already have a BA degree but an African language was not one of your subjects up to third year level, you can study the required transition modules in African languages from the comfort of your home within a year that would qualify you for admission to Honours degree study. In other words you need not be full-time in Stellenbosch to study these transition modules in African languages – you will only be required to come to the Stellenbosch campus for one week to do examinations during November.

Should you want to study for the Honours degree (and subsequently perhaps the Master's degree) but need first to do the transition modules in African languages up to third year BA level, you can write a letter

to apply for admission to the department, as soon as possible, but before the end of November.

EVALUATION

HONOURS DEGREE PROGRAMME

The B.A. Honours in African Languages at Stellenbosch is a continuous evaluation course. This means that all assignments will count towards the final mark of the course. In this way students are able to see after each assignment what real progress they have made towards the attainment of the final mark. Students are also required to write an examination at a centre near their home or in Stellenbosch. Three modules are studied in the first year and two further modules in the second year.

THE MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMME

The Masters programme is evaluated through the seminars and assignments that students will complete in their coursework component and the research project or thesis that students will write.

Students will get study guidance to do original research for their Masters thesis on a topic relevant to their professional environments after completion of the coursework component that will provide the appropriate groundwork for doing the

research. Completing Masters degree qualification can be considered as a high-point in academic study.

PHD PROGRAMME IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

The specialization areas available for PhD study are similar, and/ or related to those described for the Master's degree Programme above. PhD study can be done on a full-time on campus, or part-time off-campus basis. Normally, extensive study is required for 6 – 12 months to prepare a doctoral proposal, once a prospective student has been allocated to a suitable study leader. Prospective students can send email enquiries and a preliminary concept proposal to the Department Secretary, Mrs de Wet at email address ktdw@sun.ac.za, or the Chair of Department, Prof M . Dlali, at email address mdl@sun.ac.za

BURSARIES

The student fees of **part-time** students are payable over two years: 50% in the first year of study and the other 50% in the second year of study. Students may apply for a bursary in their first and second year of study. Information about Honours and Master's bursaries is available on the

University website. Application forms for Honours degree bursaries are available from Mrs de Wet, the department secretary and **Course Coordinator** of the department at the following email address:

Email : ktdw@sun.ac.za

Students should return their application forms **without delay** in order to get a student number for reference purposes for the Bursary office. PLEASE APPLY FOR THE BURSARIES **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, since the allocation of a bursary will count towards your registration fees.

Postgraduate Bursary

This bursary is allocated on **ACADEMIC MERIT** (remember to include a certified copy of your academic record of your previous qualification) and in terms of individual **NEED**. It is not enough to pay tuition fees in full. The **closing date** for students who will register for the first time next year is 30 October, but students are urged to send their applications to the Course Co-ordinator **as soon as possible**. Students may apply for a bursary in their **first as well as second year** of study.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

Closing date for applications is:
30 November

Please apply as early as possible to qualify for a bursary.

Registration

Registration takes place during **February – March** in the **first and second year of study**. Students who succeed in obtaining a bursary from the University (or a loan) will have the amounts paid directly into their University accounts.

ENQUIRIES

Students who are interested in registering for B.A. Honours or Masters degree in African Languages should write a letter in which they give details of their previous B.A. or Honours degree course. They should also include the following information:

- ❖ **Which of the study options they are interested in**
- ❖ **The tuition they require:**
 - Full-time

- Part-time
- Distance tuition

An application form will then be e- mailed to students. All email letters should be addressed to:

**The Course Co-ordinator
Department of African Languages
University of Stellenbosch
Private Bag X1
Matieland, 7602**

E-mail: ktdw@sun.ac.za
afrika@sun.ac.za

or