

# BDatSci application process in 2020

June 2020

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Current grade 12 students apply for BCom Mathematical Sciences in 2021 due to no South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) approval of BDatSci currently.
- All BDatSci first-year modules will be possible module options under BCom Mathematical Sciences for 2021.
- Once BDatSci is SAQA approved, students will be allowed to change their programme from BCom Mathematical Sciences to BDatSci.
- The process of 2021 registrations will be manually administered by the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS).
- BDatSci will be phased-in from 2021, and modules can only be presented for the first time in the year stipulated in the proposed programme plan.
- No student is allowed to register for Data Science 141 in 2020, except for the current first year B.Eng (E&E) students, a compulsory module in the Data Engineering specialist area.

## Application for 2021

The online application process for 2021 studies, opens on **1 March 2020** and closes on **30 June 2020**.

The BDatSci programme is currently awaiting approval from SAQA. This means that Stellenbosch University may not officially advertise or present it as an option for 2021.

Prospective students who wish to apply for BDatSci studies in 2021 will therefore not see the programme on the online menu during the application process.

To ensure students will still be able to apply and register eventually for BDatSci in 2021, all prospective BDatSci students should apply for the **BCom Mathematical Sciences programme** (which is a degree programme in the **Faculty of EMS**) – not BSc or any other degree.

All prospective students and not currently registered for any module in 2020, who apply for BCom Mathematical Sciences will be followed-up during 2020 and be informed as soon as the BDatSci programme receives SAQA approval. Once SAQA approval is granted, the prospective students will be offered the opportunity to change their applications to BDatSci (with focal area of choice). The programme coordinator and the EMS faculty officer for admissions will manually administer this process. All these students will be regularly updated with emails and information on the BDatSci website: [www.sun.ac.za/datascience](http://www.sun.ac.za/datascience). A link on the website will offer all students the opportunity to submit their information (link at Contact us). A dedicated page on the website will explain the process of applications and registrations for BDatSci.

### **Current registered Stellenbosch University students who wish to register for BDatSci in 2021**

This applies to all students who are currently registered for another degree programme at Stellenbosch University. Students who wish to apply for BDatSci in 2021 will be able to do so after completing the 2020 academic year. Since BDatSci is not SAQA approved yet, no student will be allowed to register in 2020 for any modules in the BDatSci degree that are not currently been offered in their existing programme. The current rules of combination for current degree programmes still apply. For example, if a student is currently registered for BCom Actuarial Science or BSc/BCom Mathematical Sciences, the student is not allowed to deregister for any of the compulsory first year modules and then register (replace them) in the second semester for any modules that are aligned with BDatSci. This means, specifically, that no current student will be allowed to register for Data Science 141 in the second semester. Current students may also not register for Data Science 141 as an additional module in the second semester of 2020. The only students who may register for Data Science 141 in 2020 are B.Eng (E&E) students as part of their specialist area in Data Engineering.

BDatSci will be phased in as degree programme, meaning all module(s) in the programme will be presented in a synchronised manner. The new module on the first year level of BDatSci will only be presented in 2021, new second year modules for BDatSci only in 2022, third year modules in 2023 and fourth year modules in 2024, with first graduation of BDatSci only at the end of 2024. These are specifically new core and compulsory modules in BDatSci, named *Data Science* on all 4 year levels.

### **Registration in 2021 for current Grade 12 students and who are not currently registered at Stellenbosch University**

If SAQA approval is received before January 2021, students can register for the BDatSci programme in one of the four participating faculties, provided they meet the minimum requirements.

If SAQA approval is only received during the 2021 academic year, students will remain in the BCom Mathematical Sciences programme until they can officially change to the BDatSci programme (either during March or September of 2021). Students will be able to register for all the modules in any particular focal area of BDatSci in 2021, but part of BCom Mathematical Sciences programme, a process that will be administered manually.

Note: Students who apply for BCom Actuarial Science will also be contacted to offer them the opportunity to apply for BDatSci once SAQA approval it is obtained. Actuarial Science and BDatSci share the same minimum Grade 12 requirements.

**(Contact us) on the website: [www.sun.ac.za/datascience](http://www.sun.ac.za/datascience)**