

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

This information letter is intended for Stellenbosch University students who want to register for one of the School of Accountancy's Postgraduate programmes in Accountancy in 2021.

1. 2021 POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN ACCOUNTANCY

The School of Accountancy (SoA) will offer, commencing in 2021, a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA) alongside the BAccHons programme. Both programmes are SAICA accredited, and the successful completion of either programme will allow the graduate entry to the SAICA Initial Test of Competency (ITC) examination *en route* to the Chartered Accountant (CA) South Africa (SA) qualification.

1.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA) programme

The objectives of any SAICA accredited Postgraduate programme is the education of students in four specific Accountancy-related fields, to enable them to qualify as CAs (SA) ultimately. These fields are Financial Accounting, Management Accounting and Finance, Auditing (including Governance and Information Systems) and Taxation. SAICA does not require a programme to have a research component. Since not all CA students are interested in a research component, a Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA) is the preferred programme as it does not require a research component.

The SoA PGDA programme is accredited by SAICA and aligned to Postgraduate Programmes as specified by the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework (HEQSF) of the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The structure of the SU Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy programme (NQF level 8) is as follows:

Module Name	Credits
Financial Accounting	40
Management Accounting and Finance	32
Auditing, Governance and Information Systems	24
Taxation	24
Total credits	120

1.2 BAccHons programme

The HEQSF of the CHE requires that any honours programme includes a research component. The BAccHons programme is therefore aligned explicitly for this purpose, while still adhering to the requirements of SAICA in terms of the four specific Accountancy-related fields. In addition to the same four Accountancy-related subject areas of the PGDA programme, the BAccHons programme includes a research module of 30 credits, equating to 300 notional hours that should be devoted to the module.

Due to research supervision capacity constraints, the School of Accountancy will only admit 20 students to the BAccHons programme for 2021. The structure of the BAccHons programme (NQF level 8) is as follows:

Module Name	Credits
Financial Accounting	40
Management Accounting and Finance	32
Auditing, Governance and Information Systems	24
Taxation	24
Research assignment: Accountancy	30
Total credits	150

1.3 Articulation possibilities

Both the PGA (NQF level 8) and the BAccHons (NQF level 8) will allow a graduate, subject to the selection requirements of the particular institution, entry to a Master's Degree or a Professional Master's Degree in Accounting or a cognate discipline, such as Management Accounting, Auditing and Taxation.

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students from **other universities** should contact one of the programme leaders for the applicable admission requirements.

The admission requirements for students who completed their undergraduate studies **at Stellenbosch University** are shown below. Please note that all the subjects need not be passed in one year, but subjects must be passed within two years at the time that you apply for the programme. In other words, when applying for entry to a 2021 programme, the earliest date that a professional subject could be passed is 2018. Moreover, admission requirements are minimum requirements. There is no additional admission opportunity.

2.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy (PGDA)

With respect to the modules in the BAcc or BAccLLB programme, any of the following two alternative selection criteria can apply:

Selection alternative 1:	Selection alternative 2:
60% weighted average for four professional subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Accounting 379 (4) • Management Accounting 378 (4) • Taxation 399 (3) • Auditing 378 (3) <i>(Weightings used in the calculation of the weighted average are shown in brackets)</i>	55% weighted average for the four professional subjects <i>(The same weightings as for Selection alternative 1 are used in the calculation of the weighted average)</i> AND 55% for Financial Accounting 379

Please note the requirement in respect of Company Law as noted in section 2.5 below.

2.2 BAccHons

Weighted average performance mark of at least 75% for the following modules in the BAcc or BAccLLB programme:

- Financial Accounting 379 (4)
- Management Accounting 378 (4)
- Taxation 399 (3)
- Auditing 378 (3)

(Weightings used in the calculation of the weighted average are shown in brackets)

Please note the requirement in respect of Company Law as noted in section 2.5 below.

2.3 Marks used in the selection process

Percentages are based on final marks as they appear on the university's central systems. In 2020 the Covid 19 EMS Flexible Undergraduate Assessment Regulation will apply. A copy of the regulation can be found at:

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/Pages/Students.aspx>

The following selection principles will apply:

- To obtain a final mark a student must complete at least three main assessments. Students will be allowed to complete A2S2 **and** A3S2. If students choose to complete both **A2S2** and **A3S2**, both will be used to determine the final mark.
- If the final mark after A2S2 was less than 50, the final mark after A3S2 may be more than 50.
- All students automatically qualify to write A4 in January 2021 in a particular year module if they did not pass the module after A3S2. A4 will be a main assessment.

2.4 Students registered as special students

Students registered as special students to bridge from BCom (Management Accounting) or BCom (Financial Accounting) in order to apply for admission to the PGDA programme in 2021, may present Management Accounting 388, instead of Management Accounting 378, for selection purposes if the former was passed with a minimum performance mark of 60%. The two-year rule referred to above also applies in this case.

2.5 Requirement in respect of Company Law

All students (including those registered as special students for bridging purposes referred to above) applying for entry to the PDGA or BAccHons programmes are required to have passed a Mercantile Law module in which the 'new' 2008 Companies Act was *covered in detail*. If not, you must first register and pass Mercantile Law 292 in order to be eligible for admission to the PGDA or BAccHons. Please note that Mercantile Law 284 is not sufficient.

2.6 Dean's concession examination

As there will be A4 for Year modules, there will not be Dean's concession examinations in 2021.

3. CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2020. No late applications will be considered.

4. NOTICE OF SELECTION

Three main rounds of selections will take place: the first round after the A2S2 results are available, the second round after the A3S2 results are available, and the third round after the A4 results are available. Students who met the admission criteria mentioned above will be selected. Students who were unsuccessful in a particular round of selections, will still be considered in the subsequent round of selections.

Once selected, you may commence with the respective postgraduate programme even if your graduation is in March/April of 2021.

A notice will be sent to all unsuccessful candidates after the selection process has been concluded.

5. MARKS IMPROVEMENT YEAR

Unsuccessful students are encouraged to, if it is in any way possible for them, register as special students and repeat all modules, even if only one of the modules marks was too low. The SOA will use the best mark for that subject in the selection process.

6. BURSARY APPLICATIONS

Should a student require a departmental recommendation for a Post-Graduate Merit bursary, please contact Ms Liesl De Villiers: ldevilliers@sun.ac.za

7. ENQUIRIES

Programme enquiries: Prof CJ van Schalkwyk cjvs1@sun.ac.za /
Dr C Lamprecht clam@sun.ac.za

Research module enquiries: Mrs G Steenkamp gvn@sun.ac.za /
Dr G Nel gfn@sun.ac.za