

## **Grade 11: Frequently asked questions**

*Disclaimer: This document contains the most current information (April 2023) from [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) and will be updated frequently. However, it remains the responsibility of prospective students, parents and/or teachers to keep abreast of the latest developments.*

- **How does Stellenbosch University (SU) rank internationally?**

SU is among South Africa's leading tertiary institutions and continues to hold its own in the competitive global higher education landscape as well. Having improved its position on the latest **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings**, SU continues to be regarded as one of the world's top 500 tertiary institutions.

For the latest news article on this topic, go to:

<https://www.sun.ac.za/english/Lists/news/DispForm.aspx?ID=9814>

- **What are the minimum requirements (admission point score (APS)) to gain admission to the University?**

Different Stellenbosch University programmes have different minimum requirements. However, it is important to note that meeting the minimum requirements does not necessarily guarantee you entry. Our faculties have only a fixed number of spots available, so conditional acceptance will be granted to the top candidates. In addition, some programmes are selection programmes, which means that other factors will also be considered.

- For more information on programme requirements, visit:  
[www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > What can I study > Undergraduates (select the faculty you're interested in)
- Download our latest publications:
  - Grade 9 subject and grade 11 career guidance booklet:  
ENG: [https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/grade9-11\\_eng/](https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/grade9-11_eng/)  
XHO: [https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/grade-9-11\\_xha/](https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/grade-9-11_xha/)
  - Minimum requirements booklet:  
Eng: [https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/admission-booklet\\_2024/](https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/admission-booklet_2024/)  
Xho: [https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/admission-booklet\\_2024\\_xho/](https://console.vpaper.ca/stellenbosch-university/admission-booklet_2024_xho/)

- **How many first-year students does Stellenbosch University accept?**

When considering the number of first-year students accepted per year, please keep in mind the following background information. Faculties have an overbooking system to ensure that they meet their targets each year. At the same time, they must still apply rigorous quality control so that they accept only the best students into their programmes.

In 2022, for instance, we received 73 000 applications, and roughly 10 000 students usually accept a conditional offer. As in previous years, we hope to finally register 5 500 first-year students.



Faculty	Average number of first-years
AgriSciences	460
Science	700
Engineering	715
Medicine and Health Sciences	434
Economic and Management Sciences	1 560
Arts and Social Sciences	1 050
Education	235
Law	120
Theology	67
Military Sciences	100

- **How does applying to Stellenbosch University work?**

Prospective students apply to us in their grade 12 year, using their final grade 11 results. Applications for the 2025 academic year will open on 1 April 2024 and close on 31 July 2024. Remember, we can only consider complete applications. Therefore, please follow all the steps to complete your application and upload all the documents requested.

Prospective students may apply for up to three programmes and will be considered for all three. This also means that an applicant may receive up to three conditional offers.

Applicants wanting to study at the University in 2025 must accept a conditional offer by 30 September 2024.

Also take note of the important resources below:

- **How to apply** – including which documents to submit and how many programmes you may apply for:  
[www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Apply > How to apply  
[www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Apply > Application documents
- **Can you apply for more than one programme in the same faculty?**  
[www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Apply > Select your programme

- **Are there any additional selection requirements to take note of?**

National Benchmark Test (NBT)

Applicants wishing to study in the Faculty of Law (LLB, BCom Law, BAccLLB, BA Law) are required to write the NBTs before 30 July to be considered for selection.

With a view to the 2025 academic year, all School of Tomorrow applicants must write the NBTs before the end of 2024 to ensure that their results are available before registration in 2025.

For more information on additional selection requirements:

- [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Apply > National Benchmark Tests

- **What is the difference between conditional/provisional and final acceptance?**

Students are conditionally accepted based on their final grade 11 results. This provisional acceptance process takes place during your grade 12 year. Your final admission will be subject to your final grade 12 results. Therefore, final admission can only be granted once the results of the final exam have been released in January of your first year of study.

- **What funding options do I have available?**

Students have various funding options available. Please start researching this well in advance, as the different options have different application processes and closing dates. Application for bursaries must be made during your grade 12 year.

- Our website offers a summary of various opportunities: <https://finaid.sun.ac.za/>
- Also consult the bursaries resource page on the GoStudy website: <https://www.gostudy.net/bursaries>
- All major banks have study loan schemes, and many private companies such as FUNDI also specialise in student loans: <https://fundi.co.za/>
- Finally, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) is available to students from households with a joint gross annual income of less than R350 000: <https://www.nsfas.org.za/content/bursary-scheme.html>

- **What about my housing options?**

Our undergraduate residences place 2 000 first-year students annually (1 000 men and 1 000 women). The remainder of the first-year students (3 500) choose either to live privately or to commute.

So, who gets to stay in residence, and what is the academic cut-off point? The cut-off varies, as it is determined by the academic strength of the application pool of the particular year. Generally, applying with an A average should give you a relatively good chance of securing place in residence, but is not a guarantee. The best advice to get a residence spot is to study as hard as you can to increase your average.

However, thanks to Stellenbosch University's cluster system, ending up in private accommodation or commuting does not mean you cannot be part of the student community. The cluster system creates physical, on-campus spaces for private students to meet and integrate with their peers in residence. We call these spaces "hubs" – where students can study and eat together. We already have two dedicated hubs, and we're planning to build a hub in each of our eight clusters.

- For more information on our residences: [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Accommodation > University residences
- Placement for prospective students: [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Accommodation > Placement for prospective students
- For more information on private accommodation: [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) > Accommodation > Private accommodation

- **What is our language policy?**

Stellenbosch University strives to attract outstanding students, employ talented staff and make the institution inclusive and diverse. One way to achieve this is by using more than one language. As a research-intensive university, we create opportunities for students to develop their academic literacy, and we advance individual, institutional and societal multilingualism.

Stellenbosch University is a national asset with a global reach, and our students and staff represent most of the language groups in South Africa. Without disregarding the value of other South African and international languages, our institution chooses to focus on the use of Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa, which are the three official languages of the Western Cape, where we are located. This we do in the spirit of collaboration, especially with regional stakeholders. By applying and enhancing the academic value of Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa, we empower large and diverse communities.

- For a more detailed explanation of our language policy:  
<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/about-us/language>

- **Is Stellenbosch campus safe?**

As everywhere else in South Africa and the rest of the world, vigilance is key to ensure your personal safety. Keep valuables out of sight, remain aware of your surroundings, and try not to walk alone at night.

Campus Security is a service division of the University that helps all students, staff and visitors create a safe environment. Security officers patrol the University grounds and are trained to assist in the event of an emergency.

Some security services on offer:

- **Safety escort at night**

If you need to move between campus buildings or from a building to your car between the hours of 20:00 and 05:00, consider asking a security officer to escort you.

- **Campus shuttle service**

A campus shuttle service is available on central campus. This service focuses on the following needs:

- Transport between the general parking areas on the edge of campus and central campus during the day.
- Transport between the long-term parking area and central points at the residences at specific times during the day and night.
- Transport to and from service divisions and departments on the edge of campus (e.g. Food Science and Welgevallen), to and from central campus.

- **Safest routes**

Always choose the safest route, even if it is not the shortest. Ideally, stick to Victoria and Bosman streets, as these are patrolled at all times. At night, a security officer is on duty in the mobile security kiosk. View security tips and services here: [Your security](#)

- **Which co-curricular (non-academic) opportunities does Stellenbosch University offer?**

- **Maties Sport**

Maties Sport trains student athletes and also offers other exciting opportunities for those who simply want to lead an active life.

There are various options to consider:

- Taking part in one of the ten high-performance or 20 other sport codes on offer: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/sport/sport-clubs>
- Playing sport as part of recreation and an active lifestyle, with residences and Private Student Organisations competing against one another
- Joining the Maties Gymnasium, a fully equipped gym within walking distance from residences and central campus: <https://matiesgym.co.za/>

- **Other activities**

- SU has more than 60 student societies to choose from: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/students/student-societies>
- The SU Choir is currently ranked number one on the Interkultur World Rankings of the world's top 1 000 choirs: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/entities/choir/about-the-choir>  
If you haven't heard this award-winning choir perform, do take a listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoOyjlMefLw>
- Die Matie is the University's official student newspaper since 1941. It appears every second Wednesday of the academic term. The entire production of the paper – from photos, articles and advertisements to page layout and distribution – is managed by the editorial staff, who are all students.
- MFM 92.6 is the campus and community radio station and is on a mission to make you "Move to the music". For more information: [MFM](#)
- The Students' Representative Council (SRC) is the highest representative structure for our students. They fulfil their mandate through various portfolios allocated to a team of elected SRC members and appointed SRC managers. For more information: [SRC](#)

- **Which programmes are unique to Stellenbosch University?**

- AgriSciences Faculty offers 3 unique programme areas:
  - Viticulture and Oenology
  - Forestry and Wood Sciences

- Only Horticultural Sciences Department at a University in SA focusing on Deciduous, Citrus and Subtropical fruit as well as Cape Flora and Berries.
- o Economic and Management Sciences Faculty offer these unique programme areas:
  - Diploma in Sustainable Development
  - BAccLLB
  - BCom International Business, a combination of the BCom Management Sciences and the BA International Studies programmes. This four-year programme includes a six-month exchange.
- o The country's first specialised School for Data Science and Computational Thinking, offering an interdisciplinary programme that comprises eight focus areas across four faculties. Its first intake was in 2021.
  - Analytics and Optimisation (Economic and Management Sciences)
  - Behavioural Economics (Economic and Management Sciences)
  - Statistical Learning (Economic and Management Sciences)
  - Applied Mathematics (Science)
  - Computer Science (Science)
  - Statistical Physics (Science)
  - Statistical Genetics (AgriSciences)
  - Geoinformatics (Arts and Social Sciences)
- o All Engineering programmes, except the new Data Engineering stream, follow the same first year, which is unique and allows students some leeway to change their focal area, after successfully completing all the first-year modules.
- o BSc in Polymer Sciences
- o Leading the field in the move towards a carbon-neutral university, Stellenbosch University has launched a new School for Climate Studies in 2021. This is the first school of its kind in South Africa that has the status of a faculty.
- **Which programmes are not offered at Stellenbosch University?**
  - o Architecture and programmes in the Built Environment
  - o Dentistry
  - o Veterinary Sciences
  - o Marine Biology
  - o Hospitality Studies

However, if you have a specific career in mind, please ask. One of our programmes may very well serve as a route to that career, even though the programme name doesn't sound like it.

- **What other guidance and resources are on offer?**
  - o View useful downloadable (Stellenbosch University-specific) resources, including faculty brochures, residence placement brochures and more: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/Pages/Content/Teacher.aspx>

- Other resource pages:  
FundiConnect: <https://fundiconnect.co.za/useful-resources/>  
PACE Careers: <http://www.pacecareers.com/services.html>
  - Free programme choice guidance (complete an online questionnaire to see which of our programmes best suit your profile):  
<https://www.gostudy.net/maties>
  - **I have more questions ...**
    - I. Book an ONLINE SESSION.  
  
Not able to visit campus? We've got you covered! One of our advisors will lead you in an online information session. This session will be structured to give you an overview of our application process, admission criteria, financial aid system and student life.  
  
Platforms used include Zoom, MS Teams, WhatsApp, Skype and Facebook Messenger. A good old telephone call will also do the trick!
      - **For bookings, please contact:**  
  
Email: [csr@sun.ac.za](mailto:csr@sun.ac.za)  
Telephone: 021 808 4709
    - 2. Book a PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENT.
      - **Costs:**  
  
Mondays to Fridays: R2 650 per client | Saturdays: R3 050 per client  
  
The fee is payable within 48 hours after booking. Costs apply to both in-office and online assessments.  
  
\*Keep an eye on the [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) website and our Facebook page for special offers!
      - **For bookings, please contact:**  
  
Email: [csr@sun.ac.za](mailto:csr@sun.ac.za)  
Telephone: 021 808 4709  
<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/maties/Pages/Career-CareerAdvice.aspx>
- Please note:*
- We are open during school holidays.
  - Assessments are done by appointment only.
  - Other services (such as career counselling at schools, or special projects and/or workshops) are also available. Costs will depend on the nature of the project.
  - We only assess persons aged 15 to 21.



**Stellenbosch**

UNIVERSITY  
IYUNIVESITHI  
UNIVERSITEIT

forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe

- Grade 10 learners are only assessed if they are considering changing their subjects.