

The National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) at Stellenbosch University 2021-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?

The NBTs is applicable to **prospective first-year applicants to SU**, regardless of the matriculation year, studies at another higher education institution, or examination system followed. Applicants who are applying for admission to a second university degree as well as students with a B Tech degree, do not need to write the NBTs. Stellenbosch University uses the National Benchmark Tests for selection and/or placement purposes. The table below indicates **who needs to write** and **how faculties will be using the NBTs**:

Faculty or school system	Who needs to write?	How will NBT results be used selection and/or placement?
Medicine and Health Sciences	All first-year applicants	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 end of June at the latest.
Law programmes	All first-year applicants	The NBT results will also be used for selection purposes for all programmes in Law . This includes the following programmes: BA (Law), BCom (Law), BAccLLB and LLB (four-year programme). All applicants must write the NBT's 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	All first year-applicants with an average application mark of between 60% and 69% (excluding Life Orientation)	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 main stream programmes.
Theology	All first year-applicants with an average application mark of between 55% and 59% (excluding Life Orientation)	Applicants could write the NBTs to support an application for placement in the extended degree program .
Science	All first year-applicants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Faculty of Science do not use the NBT results for selection or placement in programmes. However, the Faculty do use the results to allocate first years into academic support groups • All prospective students should therefore write the NBT before registration.
Economic and Management Sciences	All first year-applicants with an average application mark of between 60% and 69% (excluding Life Orientation) and/or applicants with a Mathematics mark of between 50% and 59%	The NBT results will be used for additional information to give provisional acceptance to programmes.
AgriSciences	All first-year applicants	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 main stream programmes.
Engineering	All first-year applicants	The NBT results will be used for additional information for applicants to both mainstream and extended degree applications.
Education	Not applicable	Applicants are not required to write the NBTs for placement in the Faculty of Education
School of Tomorrow (all faculties)	All first year-applicants	All School of Tomorrow candidates need to write the NBTs before the end of June. 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 who need to take the NBTs as specified in the table above, 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 2018 or 2019 you need NOT write NBTs again for the 2021 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.
- Please note that you will need your official South African ID or passport to complete the registration.
- 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. You may also pay on the EasyPay website: www.easypay.co.za. Results are released only for paid tests.
- Test fees are non-refundable. Visit www.nbt.ac.za for more information on the fees.
- **The cost are as follow: AQL: R100 / AQL and MAT:R200**
- Registration is date and site specific and you need to book a session at least three weeks before the set date that you want to select. If you miss your scheduled writing session, or wish to write a second time, you must register and pay again.
- If you do not have internet access or struggled with the registration, please phone 021 650 3523 or send an e-mail to nbt@uct.ac.za.

5. Test dates and venues

- You may write the NBTs at any test centre; 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 2020**.
- **Please note:** Students who live abroad (excluding Namibia) and are writing an international final year exam abroad will be able to write the NBTs in the week when all first-years arrive in Stellenbosch in 2021.

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

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