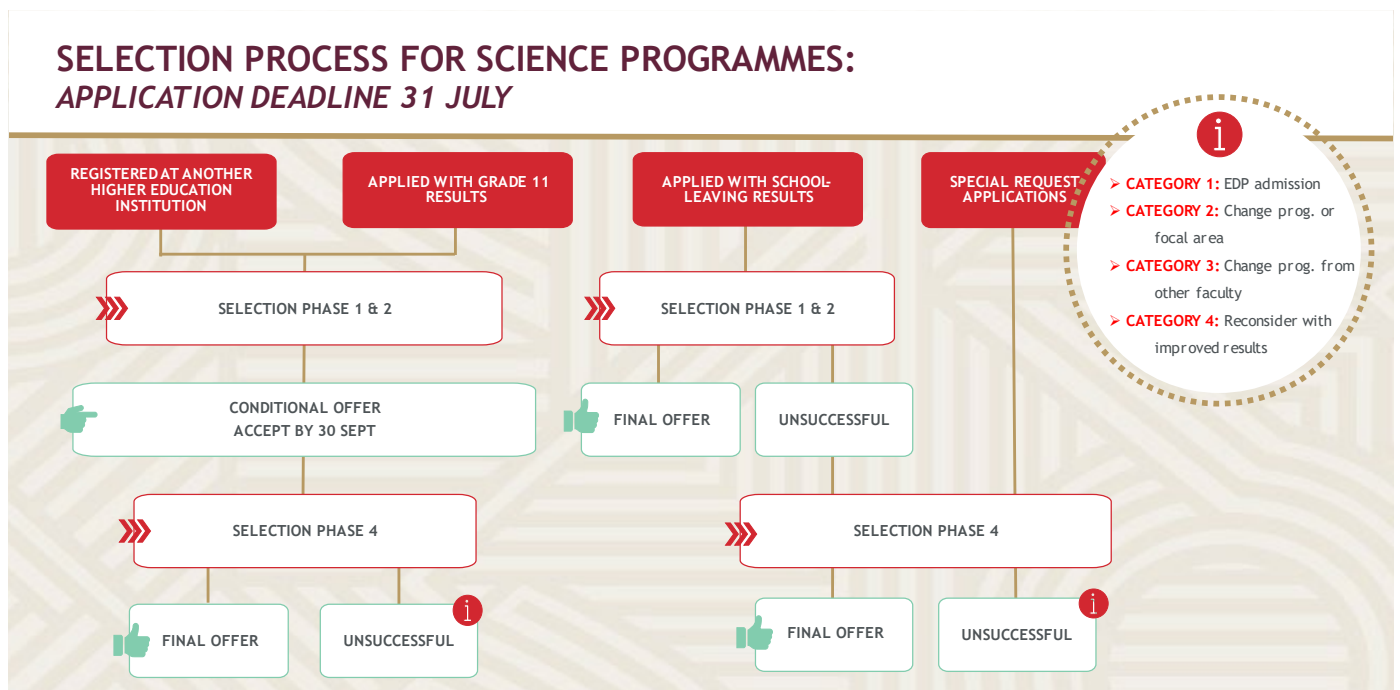




IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: SELECTION AND ADMISSION FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

1. PURPOSE

This document provides the guidelines used in the application, selection, and admission procedures for undergraduate programmes offered by the Faculty of Science. The selection and admission procedures are followed in accordance with the [Admission Policy of Stellenbosch University \(SU\)](#).



2. PROVISIONS

- 2.1 Prospective new first-year students have to apply for three undergraduate programmes (not necessarily all in the same faculty) and **should not apply** for more than one focal area in any particular programme in the Faculty of Science (since the same admission and selection requirements apply to all focal areas within a given programme).
- 2.2 All degree programmes are subject to a selection process based on minimum admission requirements, selection criteria and the number of students that can be accommodated per programme.
- **Admission requirements** (in [Appendices 1 and 2](#)) are the minimum requirements an applicant must meet to be considered for selection and admission.
 - **Selection criteria** (based on a selection mark) are set at higher thresholds depending on the number of applications received and are used for selection.
- 2.3 You will be considered for, and receive a conditional offer for each chosen programme, if you meet the **selection criteria**. These conditional offers might not be issued at the same time. Any request to change the three programme choices must be submitted to info@sun.ac.za but no changes can be made after an unsuccessful status has been received. No late applications will be considered.
- 2.4 It is your responsibility as an applicant to check your application status regularly and respond to any potential conditional offers before the due dates.
- 2.5 Conditional offers that expired will **not** be re-issued. Applicants whose final offers expired, must submit a request ([Special request application](#)) for reconsideration.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Application

- 3.1.1 Fully completed applications must be submitted online **by 31 July** of the year preceding the intended year of study.
- 3.1.2 A **FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATION** means that all the steps of the application process have been finalised and that all relevant documents have been submitted. You will receive confirmation of your application via email.

- 3.1.3 Applicants who are completing their final school year are selected for a particular programme on the basis of their final Grade 11 results, and will receive a **conditional** offer for admission to that programme when meeting the selection criteria. This conditional offer must be accepted by 30 September. Conditional offers that are issued after 30 September, will be valid for 3 days.
- 3.1.4 Applicants whose school-leaving results also meet the selection criteria for the programme for which they have accepted a conditional offer, will receive a final offer to study at SU. This final offer must be accepted within 3 days.
- 3.1.5 Applicants who are already in possession of a school-leaving certificate, will be selected based on those results unless they indicate that they are improving their school-leaving results.
- 3.1.6 Applicants who do not meet the selection criteria, but are improving their Grade 12 results will receive Waitlist status and should submit a special request ([Special request application](#)) for consideration after submitting the improved marks to the Central Applications Office (info@sun.ac.za).
- 3.1.7 Applicants currently/previously enrolled at another Higher Education Institute, who want to transfer to a programme in the Faculty of Science:
- must submit an application with their final school-leaving results and most recent academic transcript.
 - Such applicants will receive Waiting list status until their final end-of-year results from the other Higher Education Institute have been captured by the Central Applications Office (info@sun.ac.za).
 - These applicants should submit a special request ([Special request application](#)) and will be considered during Phase 4.
- 3.1.8 Applicants with a **disability** must ALSO complete the [Student Support form](#) from the [Centre for Student Counselling and Development](#) and contact the [Disability Unit](#) to arrange a meeting, before 30 September with the Faculty of Science to determine the type of support required, as well as what the Faculty can offer. Hereafter the feasibility of completing the programme will be determined before these applicants will be considered for selection.
- 3.1.9 Applicants with a concession for special needs at school must ALSO complete the [Student Support form](#) from the [Centre for Student Counselling and Development](#) and contact the [Disability Unit](#) to arrange a meeting, before 30

September with the Faculty of Science to determine the type of support required, as well as what the Faculty can offer.

3.2 Selection

The selection process is done by the Selection Committee of the Faculty of Science in accordance with the [Admission Policy of Stellenbosch University](#). The Selection Committee is composed of the Dean, Vice-Dean: Teaching & Learning, the Director: Faculty Management, the Faculty Administrator, and the Coordinator: Academic and Student Affairs. Decisions of the committee are therefore final.

3.3 Selection for Programmes

3.3.1 The Faculty has an enrolment target of 750 new first-year students, of which at least 40% should comprise diversity candidates by 2025. For each programme there is also an enrolment target.

3.3.2 Selection Mark

Applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements ([Appendices 1 and 2](#)) are ranked according to a **Selection Mark (SM)**, which is the main selection mechanism and calculated as follows:

NSC & IEB	$[(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark}) + \text{the marks of five other subjects}] \div 7$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Life Orientation mark is excluded in the calculation of the selection mark. English/Afrikaans as Home or First Additional Language will be included in the calculation of the selection mark.
NSC & IEB (more than six school subjects)	$[(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark} + \text{the marks of the five best subjects}] \div 7$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Life Orientation mark is excluded in the calculation of the selection mark. English/Afrikaans as Home- or First Additional Language will be included in the calculation of the selection mark.
International School-leaving Qualifications	$[(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark} + \text{marks of other subjects}(n))] \div (n+1)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Physical Sciences is a requirement of the programme, Physics AND Chemistry should be included. English as subject will be included in the calculation of the selection mark

3.3.3 If you are in your final school year, the final Grade 11 results are used to calculate the selection mark.

3.3.4 If you are already in possession of a final school-leaving certificate the final school results are used to calculate the selection mark.

4. Selection phases

There are four selection phases for each programme, depending on the available spaces in the programme.

Selection Phases	Description																					
Phase 1a 1 Apr - 31 May	Applicants with a Selection Mark (SM) >90% will receive a conditional offer within six weeks after the submission of their fully completed application. This conditional offer should be accepted by 30 September.																					
Phase 1b 1 Jun - 31 Jul	Applicants with a Selection Mark (SM) >80% will receive a conditional offer after the submission of their fully completed application. This conditional offer should be accepted by 30 September.																					
Phase 2 1 Aug - 30 Sept	Applicants with a Selection Mark (SM) within the specified range (or higher) for their chosen programme, as in the table below, will receive a conditional offer within two months after the submission of their fully completed application. This conditional offer should be accepted by 30 September. <table border="1" data-bbox="422 1523 1244 2051"> <thead> <tr> <th>Programmes</th> <th>Selection Mark (SM) Range</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Biological Sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Biodiversity and Ecology</td> <td>≥70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Human Life Sciences</td> <td>≥80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Sport Science</td> <td>≥70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Molecular Biology and Biotechnology</td> <td>≥75</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Physical Sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Chemistry</td> <td rowspan="4">≥70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Earth Sciences</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Geoinformatics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Physics</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Interdisciplinary</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Programmes	Selection Mark (SM) Range	Biological Sciences		• Biodiversity and Ecology	≥70	• Human Life Sciences	≥80	• Sport Science	≥70	• Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	≥75	Physical Sciences		• Chemistry	≥70	• Earth Sciences	• Geoinformatics	• Physics	Interdisciplinary	
Programmes	Selection Mark (SM) Range																					
Biological Sciences																						
• Biodiversity and Ecology	≥70																					
• Human Life Sciences	≥80																					
• Sport Science	≥70																					
• Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	≥75																					
Physical Sciences																						
• Chemistry	≥70																					
• Earth Sciences																						
• Geoinformatics																						
• Physics																						
Interdisciplinary																						

Selection Phases	Description	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomathematics • Biomedical Mathematical Sciences • Applied Medicinal Chemistry • Bioinformatics and Computational Biology 	≥75
	Mathematical Sciences	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Mathematics • Mathematics • Operations Research 	≥75
	Computer Science	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Computer Science • Data Science • Computer Systems 	≥80
	Data Science	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied Mathematics • Computer Science • Statistical Physics 	≥80
<p>Phase 3 Starts 1 October</p>	<p>Applicants who had accepted a conditional offer for a programme from ANOTHER faculty at SU and wish to change to a programme in the Faculty of Science, will be considered during this phase.</p> <p>Another round of selection may be conducted for programmes that have places available.</p>	
<p>Phase 4 This phase is conducted after school-leaving results are published.</p>	<p>Applicants who have accepted a conditional offer AND whose final school-leaving results meet the selection criteria of their specific programme, will receive a final offer to study at SU. This final offer should be accepted within 3 days.</p> <p>Applicants who accepted a conditional but whose final school-leaving results is not meeting the selection requirements, will receive Waiting list status</p> <p>Applicants who have Waiting list status will be considered during this phase.</p> <p>Applicants who have submitted a Special Admission Request (refer to Section 5 for categories), will be considered during this phase.</p>	

5. FINAL OFFER

- 5.1 Final offers are sent out after final school-leaving results have been considered.
- 5.2 Applicants whose final school-leaving results meet the selection criteria for the programme for which they have accepted a conditional offer, will receive a final offer to study at SU.
- 5.3 It is imperative for applicants who received a final offer to accept this within three days.
- 5.4 **Only** applicants who accept their final offer in time will obtain final admission status and be granted permission to register.
- 5.5 If applicant fail to accept their final offer in time, this will expire, and they will not be permitted to register. Expired offers will not be re-issued, and applicants have to submit a Special Admission Request, should they wish to be reconsidered.

6. SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

6.1 Submission of special requests for admission

Special requests for admission will be considered during Selection Phase 4. These should be **submitted online** via the [Special Request Form](#). This form will be active from 2 January until the last day for on-campus registration of first-year students. One of the following four categories may be chosen:

CATEGORY 1: Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP)

An applicant who accepted the conditional offer for a programme in the Faculty of Science, but whose school-leaving results do not meet the minimum admission requirements of the specific programme, may be considered for an Extended Curriculum Programme provided that the applicant:

- has not been previously registered at Stellenbosch University or at any other Higher Education Institution; and
- complies with the socio-economic status (SES) requirements of the University's Admission Policy; and
- comply with ONE of the following three combinations of minimum requirements.

Minimum admission requirements - National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB)

A final mark of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) **AND** comply with **ONE** of the following three combinations of minimum requirements:

Programmes	Combination 1		Combination 2		Combination 3	
Biological Sciences	Mathematics	5 (≥60%)	Mathematics	≥55%	Mathematics	5 (≥60%)
	Physical Sciences	4 (≥50%)	Physical Sciences	4 (≥50%)	Physical Sciences	≥45%
	Average (without LO*)	≥60%	Average (without LO*)	≥65%	Average (without LO*)	≥65%
Physical and Mathematical Sciences	Mathematics	6 (≥70%)	Mathematics	≥65%	Mathematics	6 (≥70%)
	Physical Sciences	4 (≥50%)	Physical Sciences	4 (≥50%)	Physical Sciences	≥45%
	Average (without LO*)	≥60%	Average (without LO*)	≥65%	Average (without LO*)	≥65%
Interdisciplinary BSc	Mathematics	6 (≥70%)	Mathematics	≥65%	Mathematics	6 (≥70%)
	Physical Sciences	4 (≥50%)	Physical Sciences	4 (≥50%)	Physical Sciences	≥45%
	Average (without LO*)	≥60%	Average (without LO*)	≥65%	Average (without LO*)	≥65%

*The university determines all applicants' SES scores and it is important to complete this information on the application form.

CATEGORY 2: Change of programme or focal area within the Faculty of Science

Applicants **who accepted a conditional offer** for a programme in the Faculty of Science, but want to change programme, or focal area.

Condition: only applicants who meet the selection criteria for the new programme (refer to Section with table) may submit a request

CATEGORY 3: Change of programme from another faculty

Applicants **who accepted a conditional offer** for a programme in another faculty at Stellenbosch University but want to change to a programme in the Faculty of Science.

Condition: only applicants who meet the selection criteria for the new programme (refer to [Section 3.4](#) and [Appendices 1 and 2](#)) may submit a request

CATEGORY 4: Improved school-leaving results

Applicants **who improved their school-leaving results**

Condition: only applicants who meet the selection criteria for the new programme (refer to Section 3.4) may submit a request

6.2 Consideration of special requests for admission

The Selection Committee will consider requests daily until the on-campus registration of first-year students commences. The outcomes will be communicated to each applicant via email. Applicants whose requests were approved, will receive a new offer to study that must be accepted within 3 working days.

7. READMISSION AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL STUDIES

Students who have previously been registered at Stellenbosch University (SU) or any other Higher Education Institution, **but** who do not meet the HEMIS requirements for readmission to study at SU, should submit a Readmission Appeal Application and **not** a new application to study at SU. For further details please refer to the SU [General Yearbook \(Part 1\)](#) and/or contact info@sun.ac.za.

Appendix 1

Minimum admission requirements according to the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB) school-leaving certificate:

- 1) An average final mark of at least 65% (excluding Life Orientation) and
- 2) A performance level of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) and
- 3) With the minimum admission requirements for mainstream programmes as follow.

Programmes	Minimum admission requirements
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	
1.1 Biodiversity and Ecology 1.2 Molecular Biology and Biotechnology 1.3 Human Life Sciences 1.3.1 Focal area: Biology 1.3.2 Focal area: Biology with Psychology 1.4 Sport Science	Physical Sciences 4 (50%) AND Mathematics 5 (60%) or 6 (70) (the Mathematics mark will determine the Physics and Mathematics that can be taken in the first year)
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
2.1 Chemistry 2.1.1 Focal area: Chemistry and Polymer Science 2.1.2 Focal area: Chemical Biology 2.1.3 Focal area: Materials Technology 2.2 Physics 2.2.1 Focal area: Laser Physics (Physical), Nuclear-, Radiation- and Health Physics 2.2.2 Focal area: Laser Physics (Biological) 2.2.3 Focal area: Theoretical Physics	Physical Sciences 4 (50%) AND Mathematics 6 (70%)
2.3 Earth Science* 2.3.1 Focal area: Applied Earth Science 2.3.2 Focal area: Geo-Environmental Science 2.4 Geoinformatics*	Physical Sciences 4 (50%) AND Mathematics 6 (70%) OR <i>*an option for admission with:</i> Mathematics 5 (60%)
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES	
3.1 Mathematical Sciences 3.1.1 Focal area: Applied Mathematics 3.1.2 Focal area: Mathematics 3.1.3 Focal area: Operations Research	Mathematics 6 (70%) AND <i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken:</i> Physical Sciences 4 (50%)
3.2 Computer Science 3.2.1 Focal area: General Computer Science 3.2.2 Focal area: Computer Systems 3.2.3 Focal area: Data Science	Mathematics 6 (70%) AND <i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken:</i> Physical Sciences 4 (50%)
INTERDISCIPLINARY BSc	
4.1 Focal area: Biomedical Mathematical Sciences 4.2 Focal area: Biomathematics 4.2 Focal area: Applied Medicinal Chemistry 4.3 Focal area: Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	Mathematics 6 (70%) AND Physical Sciences 4 (50%)

Programmes	Minimum admission requirements
INTERDISCIPLINARY BDatSci	
5.1 Focal area Applied Mathematics 5.2 Focal area: Computer Science 5.3 Focal area: Statistical Physics	Average final mark (excluding Life Orientation) 80% Afrikaans or English Home Language 60% or Afrikaans or English First Additional Language 75% Mathematics 80%
SCHOOL OF TOMORROW*	
6.1 All programmes	Admission requirements as for NSC / IEB AND National Benchmarking Test National Academic Literacy 60 Quantitative Literacy 60 Mathematics 55

Appendix 2

Minimum admission requirements for applicants with International Qualifications

Applicants with International Qualifications must meet the requirements for university exemption laid down by the Matriculation Board, Universities South Africa, formerly known as Higher Education South Africa (HESA).

- 1) An average performance level of at least 65%
- 2) A performance level of at least 50% in Afrikaans or English and
- 3) With the minimum admission requirements for mainstream programmes provided below.

International Qualification ¹	University subjects to be taken	Minimum admission requirement
HIGCSE and Namibian NSSC	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics OR Natural Science 3
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics 2
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics 3
AS-level	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics OR Natural Science D
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics B
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics C
A-level	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics OR Natural Science E
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics D
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics E
IB HL	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics 2
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics 4
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics 3
IB SL	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics 2
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics 5
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics 4
School of Tomorrow	All programmes	Can only obtain a university exemption certificate on recommendation of the Faculty of Science Meeting programme specific requirements (Appendix 1) and Performance in the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs)

¹ Contact the International Office (<http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/contact-us.html>) for the minimum admission requirements for school leaving qualifications not listed.

