

2026 SUNStudent application guideline: How to apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Development, Centre for Sustainability Transitions, Stellenbosch University

Step 1: Review the 2026 PGDip Prospectus for more information about the programme structure and offering.

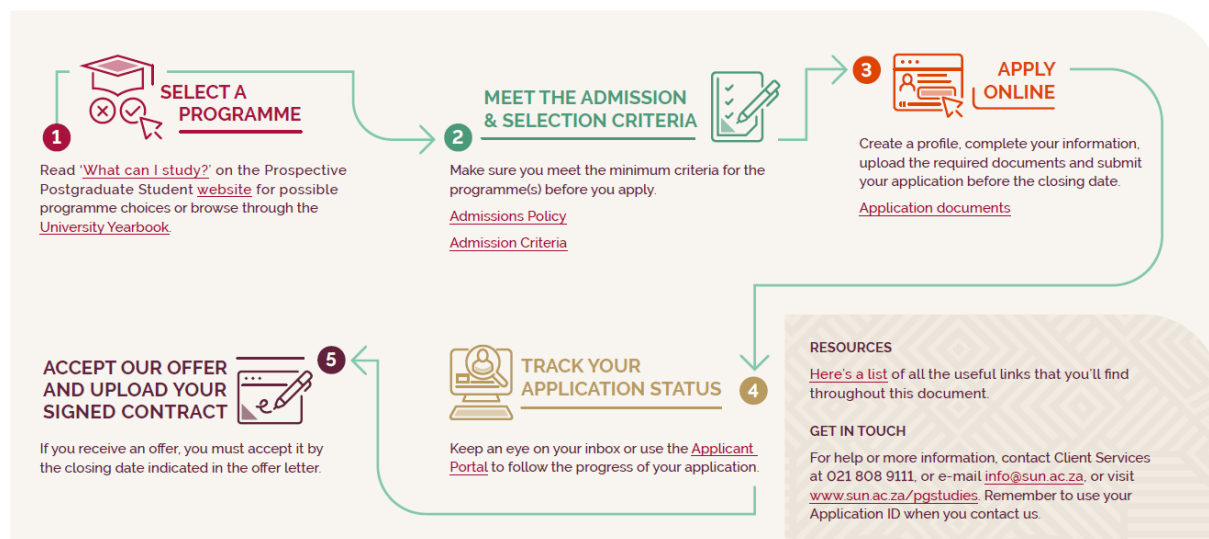
Step 2: Familiarise yourself with the SUNStudent application guideline

A comprehensive guideline for prospective postgraduate students has been developed by Stellenbosch University. You can find this guideline to applying for postgraduate programmes here:

<https://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/Pages/How-to-apply.aspx>

How to *apply*

for Postgraduate Programmes on the Stellenbosch and Tygerberg Campuses



Step 3: Create a profile on SUNStudent

Visit SUNStudent to create your profile and begin your online application.

<https://student.sun.ac.za/>

If you are a currently enrolled SU student, follow the instructions here:

<https://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/Pages/Current-enrolled-SU-students.aspx>

Step 4: Complete the Programme Selection

Select the Faculty: "Faculty of Economic and Management Science – Stellenbosch"

Select the Programme Type: "Postgraduate"

Select the Programme: "PGDip Sustainable Development"

Select the Application year: "2026"

Step 5: Complete the online application

Complete the following sections:

- Personal Information
- Next of Kin Details
- Address Details
- Tertiary Studies
- Student Accommodation

Step 9: Upload the relevant Application Documents

Ensure you have completed and provided the additional documents required as part of the application.

Download the PGDip Departmental Application form here:

https://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/Documents/EMS%20Faculty/Departmental%20Application%20Form%20-%20PGDip%20Sustainable%20Development%20-%202025-2026_fillable.pdf

For the PGDip application you are required to provide the following:

- Degree certificates and transcripts
- Departmental Application Form (linked above)
- Comprehensive CV
- Motivation Letter (1000 words)

Upload these documents as part of your application on SUNStudent.

More about the letter of motivation:

As part of your application you are required to submit a written motivation on why you wish to pursue this programme (1000 words) including your academic expectations of the programme. This motivation letter should include insight into your work and/or social development experience, and demonstrate how pursuing this degree contributes towards your personal and professional development in the field of sustainability. We

invite insight into your personal motives for selecting this programme and how it might support you in becoming a sustainability change agent, rather than a repetition of the programme's content description.

Step 10: Complete the Payment and Agree to Terms and Conditions

You will receive regular communication from Stellenbosch University, each time your application status is updated. You can also track your application status online via the Applicant Portal using your username (email) and password.

Step 11: Accept your conditional offer and upload student contract

If you meet the admissions requirements:

You may receive a conditional offer once your application has been reviewed. You must accept this conditional and upload your student contract before you are issued a final offer. You have 14 days to accept your conditional offer once it has been issued.

Thereafter, you will be issued a final offer, which will secure your place on the programme.

If you are a current student and awaiting your final results:

You may receive a conditional offer once your application has been reviewed. You must accept this conditional offer and upload your student contract. This means your place on the programme will be provisionally secured, pending your final marks. You have 14 days to accept your conditional offer once it has been issued.

Thereafter you must send your final marks from your current degree to the Department's Programme Administrator to confirm your completion. You must also upload these to your profile on the SUNStudent system.

Thereafter, you may be issued a final offer, which will secure your place on the programme.

You may also upload the additional and optional Student Support Form if there is any specific information you wish to disclose or share as part of your application.

Step 12: Track your application status

You will receive a final offer once all requirements have been met and after you have accepted your conditional offer and uploaded your signed Student Contract. You can track your application status on SUNStudent.

If you meet the admissions requirements, your status on the system should be:

Status (after you have accepted your conditional offer and uploaded signed student contract): *Final offer accepted successfully*

If you are a current student on the system your status should be:

Status 1 (after you accept your conditional offer and uploaded signed student contract): *final offer pending*

Status 2 (after you submit your results and final selection has been done): *final offer accepted successfully*

You have 14 days to accept your conditional offer once it has been issued.

Thereafter, your conditional offer will expire. If you need your conditional offer to be reissued, please contact the Registrar's Division (registrarems@sun.ac.za), who will request a further conditional offer to be reissued.

If you have received your final offer but you no longer want to take up your place in the programme, please notify the Department's Programme Administrator.

Thereafter, your final offer will be cancelled.