

Dear Prospective Newcomer Matie

COMMUTER STUDENT COMMUNITIES AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Congratulations on your conditional acceptance to an academic programme at Stellenbosch University (SU)! We are delighted that you are considering joining the Matie community in 2026.

At SU, approximately 76% of students live in private accommodation rather than in a university residence. Students who do not live in on campus SU residences are referred to as commuter students, because they travel to and from the University from their own private accommodation. To support these students and help them feel connected to campus life, SU has a well-established system of Commuter Student Communities (CSCs).

What are Commuter Student Communities?

Commuter Student Communities (CSCs) are organisational structures at SU that support students living in private accommodation. These communities are managed by the Commuter Student Communities Unit (CSCU) within the Centre for Student Life and Learning (CSLL) and guided by elected student leaders.

CSCs provide access to sporting, cultural, and social activities, as well as leadership development opportunities. A key feature of CSCs is the peer-mentoring programme, where newcomers are paired with trained and experienced student mentors who help them settle in, form connections, and navigate university life.

To support students who commute, CSCs combine in-person and virtual engagement, making it easier for non-residential students to participate in academic and social activities even when off campus or travelling to and from campus.

CSCs are also linked to SU's Cluster system, which connects smaller communities, CSCs and residences into larger shared communities. Through Clusters, commuter students can interact with residential peers, access university facilities such as study hubs and recreational spaces, and take part in Cluster events. This helps newcomers build friendships, feel included, and engage fully in campus life.

By providing these structured opportunities and support networks, CSCs help commuter students integrate into Stellenbosch's university life, take part in co-curricular activities, and develop the skills to thrive academically, personally, and prepare for life beyond university.

Accommodation and Membership

As a prospective newcomer Matie, it is important to note that **CSCs DO NOT provide student accommodation**. If you will not be living in a university residence, you will need to arrange your own accommodation before the start of the academic year.

Membership to a CSC is automatically conferred to all enrolled Stellenbosch university students. Community membership fees are compulsory and will be debited to a commuter students student account until the end of their honours studies. You can refer to the 2026 Student Fees booklet for more information on these fees.

Undergraduate students are allocated to one of eleven CSCs according to the **SU Placement Policy**, and this allocation remains the same throughout their studies. Students are not permitted to move between communities once allocated.

There are ten commuter student communities on the Stellenbosch campus and one on the Tygerberg campus. All communities provide the same quality of academic and social support, and members have access to facilities within their cluster. Academic faculties also assign students to tutorial groups based on their Cluster allocation.

Membership in a CSC provides access to the SU campus life ecosystem, helping students engage in developmental and social opportunities throughout their time at Stellenbosch.

An allocation letter indicating the community that you will belong to will be sent before the end of November 2025. You will also receive a personalised welcoming and orientation booklet from the community that you have been allocated to in mid-December 2025. This will detail all the specifics of the welcoming and orientation program for 2026.

As noted above, CSCs do not provide student accommodation and as such the Commuter Student Communities Unit cannot provide you with information about private accommodation. However, please visit the following webpage, where you will find assistance in that regard:

<https://www.su.ac.za/en/apply/undergrad/accommodation/private-accommodation>

Warm Matie greetings,
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