



Conservation Ecology  
& Entomology



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# Handbook for Postgraduate Students and Post-Doctoral Fellows 2026

Department of Conservation Ecology & Entomology  
Stellenbosch University

Private Bag X1, 7602  
Western Cape, South Africa



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## Departmental Support Staff

Position	Name	Email	Ext.	Room
Chair of Department	Prof Francois Roets	<a href="mailto:fr@sun.ac.za">fr@sun.ac.za</a>	4005	3011
Postgraduate Co-ordinator	Prof James Pryke	<a href="mailto:jpryke@sun.ac.za">jpryke@sun.ac.za</a>	9222	3047
Post-doc representative	Dr Murry Dunn	<a href="mailto:mdunn94@sun.ac.za">mdunn94@sun.ac.za</a>		2024
PhD representative	Ms Inge Raubenheimer	<a href="mailto:20071051@sun.ac.za">20071051@sun.ac.za</a>		3003
MSc representative	Ms Juliet Neethling	<a href="mailto:23767626@sun.ac.za">23767626@sun.ac.za</a>		3037
Head Tutor	TBC			
Administration Officer	Mrs Monean Jacobs	<a href="mailto:mwenn@sun.ac.za">mwenn@sun.ac.za</a>	3304	3010
Departmental Technical Officers	Mrs Marlene Isaacks	<a href="mailto:mcup@sun.ac.za">mcup@sun.ac.za</a>	9207	2008
	Mr Riaan Keown	<a href="mailto:riaank@sun.ac.za">riaank@sun.ac.za</a>	4779	2006

## Departmental Academic Staff

Name	Portfolio	Email	Ext.	Room
Prof Francois Roets	Chair of Department	<a href="mailto:fr@sun.ac.za">fr@sun.ac.za</a>	2635	2010
Mr Mathew Addison		<a href="mailto:mfa@sun.ac.za">mfa@sun.ac.za</a>	2020	2046
Prof Pia Addison		<a href="mailto:pia@sun.ac.za">pia@sun.ac.za</a>	4671	2031
Prof Karen Esler		<a href="mailto:kje@sun.ac.za">kje@sun.ac.za</a>	4005	3011
Dr Rene Gaigher		<a href="mailto:reneg@sun.ac.za">reneg@sun.ac.za</a>	4021	2005
Dr Caspar Crous	Co-ordinator for research day	<a href="mailto:casperc@sun.ac.za">casperc@sun.ac.za</a>	4441	3036
Dr Shelley Johnson		<a href="mailto:sjohnson@sun.ac.za">sjohnson@sun.ac.za</a>	2694	3052
Prof Alison Leslie		<a href="mailto:aleslie@sun.ac.za">aleslie@sun.ac.za</a>	2487	3016
Prof Antoinette Malan		<a href="mailto:apm@sun.ac.za">apm@sun.ac.za</a>	2821	2039
Prof Sonja Matthee		<a href="mailto:smatthee@sun.ac.za">smatthee@sun.ac.za</a>	4777	3048
Prof James Pryke	Postgraduate co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:jpryke@sun.ac.za">jpryke@sun.ac.za</a>	9222	3047
Dr Norma Stokwe	Tutors & Seminars	<a href="mailto:nfs@sun.ac.za">nfs@sun.ac.za</a>	2546	2038
Prof. John Terblanche		<a href="mailto:jst@sun.ac.za">jst@sun.ac.za</a>	9225	2034

A list of staff and students can be found at the respective Departmental web page <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/agri/conservation-ecology> where you will find additional information.

There are a number of research groups within the Department. For more information on these groups and their research interests please visit the Departmental web page.



## Departmental vision, mission and strategic objectives

The Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology brings together a considerable body of teaching and research in the rapidly growing and important field of conservation of utilized landscapes and their surrounds. In principle, the aim is to have agricultural and forestry production without compromising the natural viability of the agricultural land mosaic. Under this umbrella of conservation in the agricultural and forestry contexts, the range of expertise ranges from integrated pest management, conservation of natural communities, management of living resources, conservation policy formulation to technology transfer. We are a forward-thinking, dynamic department with a distinct agricultural and forestry address. This is reflected in the Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives of the Department. Our Vision is to be a world centre of excellence for teaching, research and technology transfer in the field of conservation of natural resources.

Our mission includes teaching, research and technology transfer in ecology, conservation and management of utilized landscapes and their surrounds. This involves seven thrusts:

- Conservation Planning and Management in Agricultural Landscapes
- Restoration Ecology and Landscape Ecology
- Conservation of Symbioses
- Vertebrate Conservation
- Invertebrate Conservation
- Area-wide Pest Management on Tree Crops
- Applied Physiological Ecology

Furthermore, our strategic objectives are:

- To develop a centre of excellence in teaching and research in the field of ecologically-sensitive agriculture.
- To develop a spectrum of research from 'management for scarcity' (conservation) to 'management for abundance' (integrated pest management).
- To link strongly with the agricultural production sector across a distinct range of arenas, from ecotourism and sustainability to fruit and timber production.
- To place special emphasis on PhD students as a core of productivity which draws more junior students yet leads to top professionals and good research outputs.
- To engage, where appropriate and strategic, with the policy and management sectors, with special emphasis on information and technology transfer.
- To develop strategic international liaisons, with other universities, European Union, leading international conservation organizations; and participate on Editorial Boards of lead journals.
- To focus research on certain scarce resources, particularly water.
- To engage in research which has distinct management objectives, from biodiversity conservation to integrated pest management.

## Postgraduate programmes

Please refer to <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/postgraduate-programmes/faculty-of-agri-sciences.html> for a general overview of the post-graduate prospectus of the Faculty of AgriSciences. Furthermore, information on bursaries can be found within the My Maties portal ([www.mymaties.com](http://www.mymaties.com)).

Below are the normal degrees undertaken. Please refer to the [AgriSciences Yearbook](#) for more information.

Degree	General prerequisites	General requirements	Normal Duration
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MSc	BSc (ConsEcol), BSc (Agric)	Conservation Ecology 818 (180 credits) Entomology 818 (180 credits) Expected to deliver a Master's thesis.	1—2 years
PhD	MSc (ConsEcol) or MSc (Biological Sciences)	Entrance requires at least 60% for MSc. Conservation Ecology 978 (360 credits) Entomology 978 (360 credits) Expected to deliver a Doctoral dissertation.	2—3 years

The postgraduate programme in Conservation Ecology is followed directly after completion of the bachelor's programme. Depending on their existing qualifications, students may enter the postgraduate programme in Conservation Ecology to obtain the qualifications Master of Science in Conservation Ecology (MScConsEcol) and Doctor in Philosophy (PhD) in Conservation Ecology.

## ***Master's programme in Conservation Ecology (MScConsEcol)***

### **Programme Description**

The master's programme in Conservation Ecology leads to the MScConsEcol degree. The research component (minimum time span six months, 180 credits at NQF level 8a) entails independent research on an approved topic in conservation ecology, conducted by the student under the supervision of their supervisor. As part of the process, students are expected to present a seminar to the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology on their proposed thesis and, on completion of the thesis, to present a seminar in which they defend their thesis. The results must be written up and submitted in the format of a thesis, which must meet the requirements for a master's thesis as prescribed by the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology and Stellenbosch University.

## ***Master's programme in Entomology (MScAgric)***

### **Programme Description**

Topics for the master's degree are determined in consultation between the prospective student and the lecturer concerned. Fields from which topics can be selected include morphology and systematics, insect conservation ecology and integrated pest management of insects.

## ***PhD programme in Conservation Ecology (PhD)***

### **Programme Description**

This programme leads to the qualification PhD (field Conservation Ecology). The programme focuses on research in various areas of specialisation of Conservation Ecology and delivers specialists in these fields. A relevant and practice-oriented research project leading to innovation or to the solution of a problem by high-level research in this field of study and in the industry concerned is undertaken. This equips the student at the highest academic level to enter the research or professional market. Professional people who, at national and international levels, individually or as member of a team, will play a meaningful research, teaching and/or policy-making role are delivered.

## ***PhD programme in Entomology (PhD)***

### **Programme Description**

This programme focuses on research in various fields of entomology. A relevant and practically oriented research project must be carried out, leading to innovation or problem-solving through high-level research in the discipline and in the industry concerned. This equips the student at the highest academic level with the knowledge and expertise they need for entering the research industry or some other professional field. Students thus become professionals who can, either as a team member or individually, play a meaningful role, nationally or internationally, in research, teaching and policy-making in specialist fields concerned with sustainable and environmentally friendly food production and food safety.



# ConsEnt Post-Graduate and Post-Doctoral Responsibilities

## Context

All individuals registered in the Department have a responsibility towards contributing towards the effective running of the Department, this includes Post-Doctoral Research Fellows (Post-Docs), PhD and Masters candidates, and undergraduate students, as well as staff. Research Associates are considered staff. We are all part of the Department, which brings certain responsibilities.

## Representatives and reporting protocols

Communication protocols are important for ensuring the effective operations of the Department. Accordingly, if individuals have matters that need to be addressed, then they can report to their representative.

The representative then report to the Post-Doctoral and Post-Graduate Co-ordinator (James Pryke) who is then able to raise these matters with Departmental staff.

## Responsibilities

- CONSENT RESEARCH DAY: during a student's tenure in ConsEnt, Masters candidates must give a presentation on (at least) one (1) occasion, and PhD candidates must give (at least) two (2) presentations during their tenure.
- POST-DOC AND POST-GRAD MEETINGS: It is encouraged for post-graduate candidates and post-doctoral research fellows to attend Forum meetings. Typically, two will be held a year. The primary purposes of these meetings is to 1) update students on Departmental matters, and 2) for students to provide feedback on any matters affecting their studies, research, or personal well-being. Meeting dates will precede Staff Meetings, so that feedback can be provided to staff from post-graduate candidates and post-doctoral research fellows. These meetings provide a formal opportunity for individuals to have a say in how the Department is run.

## Seminar series

Masters, PhD and Post-Docs are expected to give and attend seminars held in the department.

The departmental seminar series is divided into two separate but complementary streams:

**Stream 1:** Departmental seminar series. Runs *ad hoc*. It is usually on the last Friday of the month (from 13h10 onwards for 50 minutes), although this will depend on clashes with other university events (these dates will be communicated to you through calendar invites from the Conservation Ecology and Entomology Seminars *Teams* group (see Page 9 below for subscription details)). This is earmarked for high profile guest speakers and a small committee agrees who that person is (i.e., good motivation and balance across disciplines, etc.), and it is all about showcasing inspirational research and setting a high standard for students. There will be a small budget to fly people in from local places and put them up for a night at a guest house. Afterwards, there may be sponsored wine/beer and some snacks and braai fires provided with a social in the quad. The speaker will make themselves available for the social to meet our postgrads—this, then, becomes a key networking opportunity for everyone. Compulsory staff and postgrad attendance (unless absent due to unavoidable field work/international conference visits).

**Stream 2:** Postgraduate (MSc and PhD) proposals and defences. These can be scheduled for every Thursday during lunchtime (13h10 to 14h10). *Ad hoc* bookings on different days, but which will always have to be during the same lunchtime timeslot, could be arranged when there are many students needing to defend their thesis before the deadline for submission to faculty administration. PLEASE NOTE: All defences must usually be finalised about 1 week before the academic faculty meeting, so please acquaint yourself with these dates by inspecting the relevant year's FACULTY PLANNING FRAMEWORK for MSc and PhD EXAMINATION, as distributed by faculty administration. Similarly, there are also deadlines for



proposal submission before the academic faculty meeting agenda deadline, specifically for PhD proposals: please consult your supervisor and/or the faculty yearbook to determine these deadlines.

Please adhere to the following time structure:

- MSc proposal: 15 min + 10 min questions
- PhD proposal: 30 min + 20 min questions.
- MSc defense: 20 min + 10 min questions.
- PhD defense: 40 min + 20 min questions + 20 min panel examination.

Orals can be *in person and online*, or *online only*—always through MS Teams—although in person is preferred; there needs to be a good reason why you cannot present in person.

Your requested date may depend on clashes with other university events (these dates will be communicated to you). Depending on financial resources, afterwards, there may be sponsored wine/beer and some snacks and braai fires provided with a social in quad. It is compulsory for staff and postgrads to attend, unless unavoidable due to field work/international conference visits. Postgrads who miss an opportunity, will have to slot into the next available one; so, book in advance to avoid disappointment.

## ***Sustainability***

ConsEnt has committed as a Department to reducing our collective ecological footprint. This includes waste, water, and carbon. All members of staff, Post-Docs, PhD and Masters candidates, and all students are expected to i) recycle by sorting their recyclable waste (paper, plastic, glass and metal) responsibly into the appropriate bins; ii) be conscious of using only the necessary water for their personal and research needs; and 3) turning-off all electrical appliances when not in use. Please remember to switch off lights in laboratories and offices, but don't switch off the lights in hallways as these are automatically operated by sensors. The Department does not expect an individual to compromise their research to achieve these goals, simply to be conscious of their resource use.

## ***Tutor programme***

Postgrads that wish to become tutors/demonstrators need to first undergo tutor training. Dates for when training takes place will be relayed to all postgrad students through the ConsEnt-Postgrad mailing list. Those students that wish to become tutors must communicate their interest to the head tutor.

## ***Conclusion***

The degree to which Post-Docs, and PhD and Masters candidates attend to these responsibilities is noticed by staff, and will influence, for example, the quality of reference provided at the conclusion of the individuals tenure with ConsEnt.

## ***Getting Started***

### ***Information for foreign applicants***

All non-South Africans are advised to consult the guide for prospective students produced by the University's International Office. This booklet contains essential information on the requirements for study at the University. Information can also be obtained from the website: <http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/>. The office contact details are: [interoff@sun.ac.za](mailto:interoff@sun.ac.za).

Apart from the academic requirements for admission to degree programs, international students have to provide official documentary evidence of their competence in English. The University accepts results from IELTS and TOEFL.

In addition to the above all international students are required to take an English proficiency test at the University prior to registration as a student. The International Office will assist international students who are not adequately proficient in English to obtain access to English courses so as to provide a thorough grounding for postgraduate study programs.



## **Registration**

A candidate cannot commence his/her studies until he/she is registered as a student of the University. **Registration must be renewed at the beginning of every year.**

## **Student identification card**

Student identification cards are issued upon first registration at the university. Cards can be obtained from the Administration-A building inside the IT Hub.

## **After-hour access to JS Marais building**

After-hour access to the building is regulated by a card system. Students, visiting scientists and new staff members must activate their student or staff cards (approach the support staff in this regard) in order to access the building after hours through the east and west entrances.

Access provided by Riaan Keown (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

## **Keys**

A work space will be assigned to you by your supervisor. Keys to your office or lab can be obtained from the secretaries. Keys **MUST** be returned on completion of a person's study. Keys will not be given to students without the supervisor's permission. If a key is lost, the loss must be reported and you will be liable for the cost of cutting replacement keys.

Keys are available from Monean Jacobs (3<sup>rd</sup> floor) and Marlene Isaacks (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

## **Network ID, email accounts, mailing lists and internet access**

Access to university ethernet or wifi can be obtained first by registering your device(s) via RegisterMe! For assistance in this regard, contact the IT-Hub in Admin A. For any other internet or email related assistance the IT helpdesk should be contacted at [help@sun.ac.za](mailto:help@sun.ac.za) from where they will reach out to assist you.

Students themselves have the responsibility to subscribe/unsubscribe from CONSENT lists or any university list. To subscribe/unsubscribe to mailing lists (for the consent-postgrads list only) go to the following website: <http://sympa.sun.ac.za/www/lists>. Once there, simply scroll down to where it says: consent-postgrads@sympa.sun.ac.za. Subscribe to the list by clicking on the associated link, which will bring you to the respective page. From here click on 'subscribe' / 'unsubscribe' on the righthand side of the screen and follow the prompts. Basically, all it requires is entry of email address and US password. Monean Jacobs is the administrator for consent-postgrad mailing lists.

To subscribe to Conservation Ecology and Entomology Seminars (you will be added as a member of the associated *Microsoft Teams* group), please follow the instructions on the link below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Azv6pjwKWEKEM6Eg3\\_zTSIxW8U3Ayh1KjFI2gEUKYbJUODFZS1pYRUFPTDZGQjJHV1FTSjZFWIZNQI4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Azv6pjwKWEKEM6Eg3_zTSIxW8U3Ayh1KjFI2gEUKYbJUODFZS1pYRUFPTDZGQjJHV1FTSjZFWIZNQI4u)

PLEASE NOTE: To unsubscribe from receiving future invitations to *Conservation Ecology and Entomology Seminars*, you can select to leave the group in the *Microsoft Teams* application. If you accept this calendar invite, you will automatically be reminded of the event. For any queries, please send an email with the subject 'ConsEnt Seminars' directly to Casper Crous ([casperc@sun.ac.za](mailto:casperc@sun.ac.za)).

Computer and network support can be obtained from IT services (Ext. 4367 or [help@sun.ac.za](mailto:help@sun.ac.za)). Please approach the support staff, should any costs be incurred for IT services not supplied free of charge (also see the following websites for additional information: <https://stbsp01.stb.sun.ac.za/innov/it-help/Wiki%20Pages/STUDENT%20SERVICES.aspx> and <http://infoteg.sun.ac.za/>

Prof Esler has a Facebook page for jobs and bursaries in the conservation ecology sector the page is called "Stellenbosch BSc (Conservation Ecology) alumni". There is also the Department's Facebook page



“The Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology” Some of this information will be shared on the consent-postgrad mail list.

## **Conducting your research**

### ***Choosing a research supervisor***

Postgraduate projects are undertaken in the form of a partnership between the student and supervisor. You will have a principal supervisor, sometimes two, for your research project. Consider the person's own areas of research expertise in making your choice of a supervisor. It is important that your principal supervisor is sufficiently informed, experienced and skilled to guide your research. Other supervisors should contribute skills which you may need for particular aspects of your research. Ensure that they are people you can approach easily, and be prepared to develop a good working relationship with them. Registration of supervisors gives you the right to consult these people about your research, though you are not restricted to consulting just these people.

The supervisor will assist the student in the choice of research project, the planning of the study, and the execution of the research project. To foster this partnership all postgraduates should consult with their supervisor regarding their working hours. It is in your best interests to schedule a regular weekly meeting with your chief supervisor to keep them informed about your progress.

### ***Preparing a project proposal***

Within the first 3 - 6 months of full-time study, the student is required to produce a research proposal and present this to the Department in seminar format. PhD students undergo examination by a panel (the assessment forms can be found in Appendix 6). The purpose of the project proposal is to provide the student with constructive comments and, if appropriate, criticism of the research proposal. Commonly, suggestions are made to the supervisor and student to improve aspects of the project. The proposal should not be regarded in any sense as an examination, but rather as an opportunity for the student and the supervisor to formalise an agreement and commitment to the project by means of discussing the proposed work and consider whether the project is suitable, feasible, properly planned, time-tabled and funded, and if the necessary facilities are available for the project's successful completion. Further guidelines on the preparation of a proposal follow in Appendix 1 below, but please consult with your supervisor on the format of your proposal.

### ***Ownership of data***

All data and other materials collected during your time as a graduate student in the Department of Conservation Ecology & Entomology, at Stellenbosch University, belongs to Stellenbosch University. Lab-books, data, etc. remain the property of the Department after students leave the Department and may not be removed.

### ***Conflict resolution***

Should difficulties arise in the project, or should any personal circumstances arise which will affect the work, students are encouraged to resolve them with their supervisors. Students and supervisors are encouraged to raise any current or anticipated concerns at the project proposal meeting. If serious problems arise between student and supervisor, or if discussion is preferred with someone else, then the student can consult the Postgraduate Studies Coordinator or the Departmental Chair. Students may prefer to discuss concerns with the Postgraduate Student Representative. See contact details above.

### ***Annual research day***

At the end of the first semester the Department holds a research day consisting of short student seminars on their research project. The ConsEnt research day usually will be in late May each year. The research day is intended to provide a conference-style atmosphere where students receive helpful, constructive feedback and criticism from colleagues in the Department. All postdocs, PhD students in their 2nd and 3rd years and MSc students in their 2nd years will have an opportunity to present (any changes to this will be relayed to the student body). Departmental academic staff and postgraduate students are expected



to attend. Attendance is also open to undergraduate students and researchers from outside the Department. Postgraduate students and supervisors/co-supervisors are expected to schedule other commitments so they are available on these days.

Dr Casper Crous is coordinating the event.

## ***Publishing your work***

An important goal of research is to publish findings in reputable journals. Most theses can be submitted in paper format, or even as published papers. Discuss this with your supervisors. The skills involved in writing, submitting, revising, and proofing papers are all valuable parts of your education and should be done in parallel with the production of your thesis. You should draft such papers in consultation with your supervisors, but generally you will be the first author, and must take ultimate responsibility for the quality of the work.

## ***Improving your writing skills***

Assistance with writing can also be obtained through the Language Centre. The Writing Laboratory, a unit of the Language Centre, provides a free consultation service to students to improve their writing skills. Consultations are approximately an hour long during which students can discuss their writing assignments with trained consultants, helping writers to think strategically about the writing task and process and to find solutions to writing problems. For more information please contact: Ms Anne-Mari Lackay. You are also welcome to visit their website.

Telephone: 021-808-2989

E-mail: [amlackay@sun.ac.za](mailto:amlackay@sun.ac.za)

Website: <http://www.sun.ac.za/taalsentrum>

## ***Determining authorship***

Students should discuss the authorship of any publications with their supervisors. As your supervisor has usually initiated the project on which you are working and has an on-going role in overseeing the project, it is normal to include your supervisor as co-author on publications as with that of any other colleague who has significantly contributed to the research. No work should be submitted for publication without the consent of your supervisor. Where the work being reported is primarily your thesis work, it is expected that you would be the first author.

## ***Plagiarism***

Stellenbosch University has a strict policy on plagiarism. First time offenders will be dealt with by a Departmental committee. Repeat offenders will be handed over to a University wide committee. Detailed guidelines on the process are available on request. Please note all thesis will need to undergo a plagiarism check (see Appendix 2 for details).

## ***The thesis***

In order to complete the requirements of Masters and Doctoral research programs each student must submit a thesis on his/her research topic. Details of the regulations governing theses and their examination as well as information on submission and format can be found in Part 1 of the University Almanac.

The thesis is examined by a panel of experts in the research field selected by the university. Please note the cut-off dates for submissions (Appendix 2) and give sufficient notice to your supervisor in order for him/her to make the necessary arrangements for examination. At the completion of examination and prior to graduation every candidate who has satisfied the requirements for the award of the degree will submit a final copy to the US Library.



## ***Postgraduate and International Office: Postgraduate support and skills development***

The Postgraduate and International Office offers workshops, courses, seminars and conferences aimed at helping postgraduate students finish their degree on schedule and improve the quality of their research. For more information please visit: <http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/pgskills>

### Contact Information:

Tel: +2721 808 2565

E-mail: [interoff@sun.ac.za](mailto:interoff@sun.ac.za)

### Physical Address:

Postgraduate and International Office

R.W. Wilcocks Building

Cnr Victoria & Ryneveld Street

Stellenbosch 7600

South Africa

## **General Information**

### ***Using Departmental facilities***

Our Departmental facilities and the various support staff responsible for them, are listed in Appendix 3. Facilities can only be used with prior arrangements. Please follow the necessary instructions when using facilities, and report any damage to facilities and equipment to the person responsible as soon as possible.

### ***Use of US fleet vehicles***

Vehicles for official research use can be booked through the technical staff. However, bookings need to be approved by your project supervisor. All drivers need to be in possession of a driver's license that has been valid for longer than a year. Also be aware of the general rules for use of US fleet vehicles (Appendix 4).

### ***Purchase of research supplies and research claims***

All research supply purchases need to be pre-approved by your supervisor. No orders may be placed with suppliers without an SU order number. The support staff will provide you with information on suppliers and product catalogues where available, obtain quotes and generate the necessary order number(s). When you receive a delivery, please ensure that the contents of the parcel match your order and the description on the delivery note or tax invoice. Please ensure that the appropriate support staff member, who handled the order, receives the original tax invoice should it accompany the delivery.

If you need to cover any research expenses from your own account, be sure to hand in the original receipts for claims. All receipts must be dated and show the details or stamp of the dealer.

If equipment is going to be used out of the office, please make sure it is registered as an "asset in transit".

### ***Computers***

Computers are available in various research laboratories (ask your supervisor) and in the postgraduate office areas. Please be aware of the general IT rules governing computer use in our department. Any violation of these rules may result in the suspension or termination of access to these facilities. Please report any problems with the PC's or printers to the support staff.

### ***Open-source software (OSS)***

Students are encouraged to make use of OSS. The reasoning behind this is that that it can be used by you after you leave the University, whereas all the software supplied by the University you would have to



buy - which is in many cases exceedingly expensive. Therefore, it would be to your advantage to be able to use OSS in addition to the proprietary software. A list of software and applicable links can be found at: <http://support.sun.ac.za>

## ***Printers***

The network printer is available in Room 3006. In order to use the printer, you need to buy printing credits from <https://maties2.sun.ac.za/rtad4/useradm/>. You must consult with your supervisor before buying printing credits, as you need access to a cost centre. These printer credits are ONLY for use in this Department and NOT transferable to Narga or any other entity. You should buy printing credits from your student account for use in Narga. You are responsible to install the appropriate drivers to access the printer from your computer. See instruction to install drivers here:

[https://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/images/e/e4/WIFI\\_printing\\_\(WinXP,Vista,\\_Win7,\\_Win8\).pdf](https://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/images/e/e4/WIFI_printing_(WinXP,Vista,_Win7,_Win8).pdf)

If there is any problem (printer needs paper or toner, malfunction etc.) with one of the CONSENT printers, please ask Monean Jacobs.

## ***Telephone and fax usage***

There are phones available for outgoing calls at the support staff. The use of phones must be restricted to calls specifically relating to your research activities or emergency local calls. All outgoing calls should be written down and you will be billed for it at the end of the month. All outgoing faxes will be handled by the secretaries.

## ***Postal and courier addresses***

The postal address: Department of Conservation Ecology & Entomology, University of Stellenbosch, Private Bag X1, Matieland 7602, South Africa

The courier address is: Department of Conservation Ecology & Entomology, Room 3010, JS Marais Building, Victoria Street, Stellenbosch, Matieland 7602, South Africa.

## ***Tea room***

Room 2030 is available with a coffee machine and a small fridge, for staff and postgrad students only. Training for the coffee machine is essential. Training and the code to the rooms is available from any discerning coffee drinker. Room 3006 is provided to you for the use of your meals.

Please note Room 2030 also a meeting room and if it is in use you are requested not to enter or disturb the meeting. To book the room for meetings please contact Marlene.

Each individual (staff and student alike) is responsible for leaving these facilities in a clean and tidy condition (i.e. washing and putting away crockery and cutlery, using the re-cycling bin provided and clearing out the refrigerator of unwanted food!).

## ***General messages related to postgraduate students***

There are notice boards throughout the Department on which you will find details of scholarships, job opportunities and general information. Further information is available through access on the web and via the ConsEnt email distribution list.

## ***Storerooms***

The keys to the storerooms can be obtained from the technical staff members. Please make sure in advance that the equipment you will need are available for that specific time period (make the necessary bookings if need be). Please be sure to sign out the equipment with the person responsible for the room and to report any defects/damage to equipment when returning it.

## ***Licensing and permit requirements for field work***

If you are planning to do field work, you should check on licensing. You may need to obtain a license or permit from the relevant authority, and there may be a license fee. Discuss this with your supervisor. Any



collecting of plants or animals in the Western Cape will require a permit from Cape Nature. Best apply in advance of planned field trips as they sometimes take some time to process!

### ***Student parking***

From 2013 onwards, parking will be allocated from the University and not from the department or faculty. All parking will need to be applied for during registration (January).

The closest parking available to the JS Marais is Skuilhoek and Ou Bloemhof. Parking is also available at Coetzenberg, with the Maties Bus travelling to the Conservatory every 15 min. See [this link](#) for general transportation information, and [this link](#) for parking areas and costs.

### ***Museum***

It is estimated that there are approximately 12 000 specimens in the insect collection, with an estimated 3000 being type specimens (leafhoppers, buprestids, Odonata and Orthoptera). The moths, leafhoppers and Odonata make up approximately 20% of the collection. The collection consists almost exclusively of South African species, with some leafhoppers and mosquitoes coming from outside of South Africa. The collection has immense value for research and training of students and scholars. We hope to build the collection to represent fynbos biodiversity and agriculturally important insects in the Western Cape. The museum is used as a research tool for post-graduate studies. All students conducting insect surveys are required to deposit a fully identified and curated reference collection in the museum. Access to the museum is strictly controlled and provided to students utilizing the collections for research purposes. Please contact Prof Pia Addison for access and further information regarding research collections.

### ***Insectary***

The insectary is used primarily for projects in Applied Entomology. Insectary use is dependent on availability and a fee will be charged to all students utilizing this facility. Please contact Matthew Addison for further information.

### ***Quad use (the Ball and Scarab)***

Available for everyone in the department to enjoy. Please book with Riaan Keown if you need to use it for a closed function as we are sharing it with the Dean's office and Agri Economics Department. Please keep it clean. The quad is not available for private functions.

### ***Freezer and fridges***

Freezers and fridges are available for everyone to use in the department on the second and third floors. You are required to keep it clean and tidy. It is compulsory to label everything stored in the fridge. Everything found to be unlabelled in the freezers or fridges will be disposed. Try to use the space as economically as possible to save space.

## **Occupational Health and Safety**

### ***University safety policy***

The University recognizes its obligations to take all reasonable precautions to protect the safety of its employees, students and visitors while they are on campus

### ***Safety committee***

The Departmental Safety Committee meets quarterly to discuss matters brought before it by its members and by the Safety Officers. Every area of the Department is represented on the committee and any postgraduate student may be nominated to serve on the Committee. The Committee reports directly to University Occupational Health and Safety Council through the Safety Officers.



## ***Safety officer***

The University's Safety Officer is responsible for the initiation and co-ordination of safety programs relating to all official University activities. The Department's Safety Officer is Riaan Keown.

## ***Accident reports***

All accidents must be reported immediately, and potentially dangerous situations should be reported promptly to enable timely preventative measures to be taken. Reports should be handed directly to a Safety Officer. It is a statutory requirement that all [accident reports](#) be in the hands of the Safety Officer within twenty-four hours of the accident.

## ***Student health centre***

The Campus Medical Centre is situated at 7 Claassen Street (Between Huis ten Bosch and Heemstede). If you need medical assistance during normal consultation hours (Mo.-Fri: 8:00-16:30) you can phone the following number: Tel: +27 21 808-3496/3494.

Please see appendix 8 for details on mental health help.

## ***Personal safety and security***

The safety of people using the campus is the primary interest of Risk and Protection Services (Tel: 808 2330). Reports of assault or harassment on campus should be made to the USBD Office (62 Merriman Avenue).

## ***Building security***

Building security is very important. It is your responsibility to ensure that doors are locked, and remain locked, after hours. Challenge unfamiliar individuals who are acting suspiciously. A polite offer to show them to their destination should be sufficient in most cases. Do not leave valuable personal effects where they are visible. Handbags, cameras or wallets, for example, should at least be placed out of sight in a drawer. Lock your office door, even if you are only stepping out for a short time.

## ***Protective clothing and equipment***

University regulation requires that:

Every member of the University shall wear laboratory coats and such other protective clothing or equipment as required by law when handling:

- corrosive, toxic or harmful chemicals;
- live or dead animals;
- microbiological preparations including bacteria, fungi, viruses and body fluids;
- or such other material considered to be harmful to life or clothing.

Every member of the University shall wear closed shoes and may not barefoot or wear sandals or thongs when working in laboratories or in those areas where harmful chemicals are in use or there is risk of injury.

Members of the University working in workshops or laboratories or other areas of the University using tools or substances which can cause eye injuries shall at all times wear protective safety spectacles.

## ***Emergency procedure***

**2330** – US Risk and Protection Service

To simplify emergency procedure the above extension number has been allocated to be used for all emergencies, twenty-four hours a day.

When reporting an emergency, you should provide as much of the following information as possible:

- The nature of the emergency i.e. fire, flood, life failure, assault, accident.
- The type of assistance you think is required i.e. ambulance, fire brigade, tradesmen.
- The precise location of the trouble - building, level and room number



- Your name and the names of other persons involved.

### Responsibility of first person at scene of emergency

This could be any person on campus. The person has the initial responsibility for dealing with the emergency, having total control of the situation until a more appropriate authority arrives. It is the action of this person that will determine the extent of injury and damage which will result from any emergency. Therefore, it is suggested that the first person on the scene carry out the following procedure, preferably in the order given:

#### Fire

- Break the glass of the nearest fire alarm and press the button.
- Ring emergency 2330, advise the telephone operator nature and type of fire e.g. spreading rapidly, flammable liquid. Location: room, floor, building.
- Send someone to the main entrance of the building to await the arrival of the fire brigade and to guide them to the site of the fire.
- Shut all doors and windows BUT DO NOT LOCK.
- Evacuate building. Obey any evacuation directions from Safety Officers.
- Extinguish the fire, **only** if you know how, by using the correct type of extinguisher. When fighting a fire be sure to stay between an unobstructed exit and the fire itself.

General emergency procedure on campus If you are first on the scene at an emergency:

Communicate: Dial 2330 give details

Contain: Isolate the emergency

Control: Render appropriate assistance

#### Fire fighting Equipment

Fire hoses, extinguishers and fire blankets are provided at various locations within the Department. It is vital that all members of the Department know the whereabouts and applications of the fire fighting equipment closest to their area.

### **First aiders**

There are several trained First Aiders in the Department:

Monean Jacobs (Room 3010, Ext. 3304)

Riaan Keown (Room 2006, Ext. 4779)

### **Department safety arrangements**

The Safety Officers co-ordinate safety arrangements within the Department.

Departmental safety regulations are formulated in an attempt to comply with existing safety and other legislation and with University requirements. They are also tailored to cover the special and varied activities of the members of this Department.

Members of the Department are required to familiarise themselves with the locations of fire-alarms, fire extinguishers, fire hoses and spill kits nearest to their work area. They should know the applications of the different types of extinguishers and should always be aware of the quickest escape routes from their work area.

### **MSDS**

Before using any chemical substance, the user should obtain and study the relevant material data safety sheet. Material Safety Data Sheets should be requested when ordering a new material and a copy kept in an orange folder in the laboratory workplace. MSDS's are also available from suppliers' web sites. You must use the MSDS to fill out a Risk Assessment for the procedure you are undertaking.



Students and staff must be aware of the hazards connected with the substances, equipment and techniques with which they are working and take the necessary precautions in their work. Protective clothing and equipment are available in the Departmental and should be used where and when necessary. The Lab Managers should be notified of any deficiencies in this area.

## ***Laboratory rules***

- Food or drink must not be consumed in laboratories.
- Closed shoes must be worn at all times in all University laboratories.
- Protective clothing and protective equipment must be used when and where appropriate (e.g. safety goggles, gloves, lab coats)
- Students must not commence experiments without their supervisors' approval.
- Technical staff and students may not work alone after hours without their supervisors' approval.
- Broken glass must not be deposited in rubbish bins (approach the support staff in this regard).
- Scalpel blades and hypodermic needles must not be deposited in rubbish bins; but should be disposed of in designated containers (ask your lab supervisor).
- Users must adopt the correct procedure for disposal of all waste materials.
- All members of the Department should know the location of the nearest fire alarm, fire hose, fire extinguishers and spill kit.
- Tubing must not be removed from gooseneck taps. Where an eyewash station is not readily available this is the best method of dealing with eye injury: rinse gently under running water.
- All users must read the labels on chemicals before using them, know their hazards and rigorously adhere to the proper handling procedures. (Check MSDS).
- All gas cylinders in laboratories and workshops must be secured by a strap or chain.
- The volume of dangerous substances in all laboratories must be kept to the minimum necessary for the experiments in progress at any time.
- All members of the Department must keep their laboratory areas clean and tidy, and the floor areas clear.
- Spills must be cleaned up promptly.
- Doorways and escape routes must be kept clear at all times.
- All members of the Department must promptly report all accidents and fill out report of OHS (ask the Safety Officers).
- Equipment malfunctions must be reported to the technical staff promptly, e.g. most drain blockages, water leaks, electrical faults etc.

## ***Safe waste disposal***

Waste materials must be disposed of safely and in accordance with regulations. If uncertain as to the correct method of disposal, advice should be sought from lab supervisors or the Safety Officers. Most waste materials can be divided into the following categories and disposed of as described below.

Harmless dry waste like food and paper scraps can simply be left in rubbish bins and waste paper recycle bins for disposal by the cleaning staff. Particulate materials such as sand should be wrapped.

Hard dangerous waste such as broken glass, hypodermic needles, scalpel blades etc. must be deposited in the hard waste containers provided in the laboratories. On no account may these items be placed in normal rubbish bins.

Dilute aqueous waste may be poured down laboratory sinks. Strong acids and alkalis should be greatly diluted and neutralised before disposal in this fashion. Dilution should be carried out slowly and by adding the substance to water not the other way around. Do not pour solvents down sinks.

- Solvent waste (non-radioactive) should be accumulated in bottles for collection by WasteTech. It should be collected in separate containers as follows:
- Water soluble solvents e.g. alcohol



- Chlorinated hydrocarbons e.g. Carbon tetrachloride.
- Highly flammable solvents e.g. ethers
- Acetone
- Mixed classes; e.g. Methanol/Chloroform solvent system.

All bottles should be appropriately labelled and a note should be made on them whenever benzene is present. Full bottles of waste solvent should not be retained in laboratories and the lab manager should be notified so that alternative arrangements can be made. Biological waste such as animal remains must be incinerated according to the following procedure: The material, as dry as possible, must be labelled, securely wrapped in small parcels and taped up. The parcel which must be labelled, should be deposited in the designated waste containers (ask the lab manager). Do not dispose of sand or other non-combustible material by this route.

When designated biological waste bins are full, notify Riaan Keown before Thursday so that she can arrange waste collection for the following week.

## ***Mental health and mental fatigue***

Academia can be mentally draining and the pressures can take its toll. If you are feeling depressed, down overwhelmed, please talk to your supervisor or another member of staff.

“Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.”- [WHO](#).

If you suffer from anxiety disorders, depression, stress- and trauma-related disorders, problems with attention and impulse control, or eating disorders, know that you are not alone. There is help available, both at the university and via national resources.

The Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD) offers a myriad of support for students ranging from counselling, psychotherapeutic support and disability support. Visit their website at <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/learning-teaching/student-affairs/cscd> or phone their emergency number: 010 205 3032.

## ***Safety on field trips***

Staff and students prior to leaving the campus to carry out fieldwork must:

- Where appropriate, obtain their supervisor's approval.
- Staff and students are strongly advised to not do fieldwork alone.
- Communicate the exact details, contact number and location of their proposed trip to their supervisor and at least one other member of staff in case of an emergency (variations to propose itineraries must be communicated to the Department).
- Cell phones should be carried at all times. Be sure to have the numbers of your supervisor and at least one other member of staff in case of an emergency. It is also a good idea to store on your phone the general emergency service numbers for the area you are working in.
- Make sure to have the names and contact details of your destination on your phone, and communicate this to a third party at the university (staff / supervisor).
- The names of all participants or volunteers should be available to the Department in case of an emergency.
- First Aid Kits should be carried on all field trips. These are available from Marlene, Monean and Riaan.
- You are encouraged to make use of live location sharing services (e.g. via WhatsApp) while you are out and about.



## ***Emergency numbers***

<b>Risk and Protection Services 24h Emergency</b>	<b>2330</b>
Ambulance	10177 or 021 883 3444
Fire Brigade	808 8888
Police	10111
Stellenbosch Hospital	887 0310
Electricity	8440
Water	8343
Poison Information Centre	931 6129

### Other useful numbers

IT help line	4367
US switch board	*9
US maintenance services	4666
Vehicle fleet	4466
Student fees	4519
Postgrad bursary office	2907/2908



# Appendix 1: Guidelines on proposal writing

## *Research proposals*

**Title:** Short (10 words max)

**Background/rationale:** What situation, theory, management practice, industrial need, philosophy gave rise to your decision to carry out this study? What research questions remain? How will the research contribute to conservation theory and practice? What are your major objectives and major hypotheses (e.g. weather patterns have a greater influence on vegetation composition than grazing management)? On what assumptions are these hypotheses based? What will be your general approach to achieving these objectives (e.g. observation, literature analysis, experimentation in lab or field, GIS approaches, modelling, questionnaire surveys)?

**Key questions and Methodology:** In order to solve a problem or test a broad hypothesis it is necessary to break it down into manageable parts known as key questions. The precision of your questions will ultimately determine your success in contributing to the understanding of a process or solving of a problem. It is essential to state questions in such a way that they can be answered. Each question should provide the backbone of one thesis chapter or scientific paper. For example, if you wanted to understand the effect of climate and grazing on vegetation composition you might ask the following questions:

Is there evidence that rainfall seasonality, quantity or frequency influence vegetation composition?

How do various plant species respond to weather patterns in terms of growth, flowering, seeding, germination, seedling survival?

Is there evidence that grazing seasonality, quantity or frequency influence vegetation composition?

How do various plant species respond to various grazing treatments in terms of growth, flowering, seeding, germination, seedling survival?

Is there evidence for synergistic effects of grazing and weather patterns on plant performance.

Having stated your questions clearly, explain how you plan to find the answer to the question. For example, the approach to

- question 1 may be through monitoring of marked plots or through experimental manipulation of moisture regimes
- question 2 through monitoring of marked plants under natural or experimental conditions
- questions 3 and 4 through experimentation using three treatments randomly allocated to plots over a series of years
- question 5 through specified statistical analysis of the data

**NB:** It is important to in this section to have reviewed possible approaches, to cite appropriate literature, to consider the feasibility of the planned approaches in terms of the robustness of the data, the availability and cost of equipment, and the allocation of time and money. It is therefore important to plan pilot studies, to calibrate methods and equipment and to decide on sample sizes that produce data within the expected variance limits.

**Reference list:** Lists all works referred to in the proposal – careless formatting and omissions should be avoided. Be consistent and follow the reference format used in an international conservation or ecology journal such as Conservation Biology or Journal of Ecology.

**Time budgeting:** In this section you should give a detailed work-plan in which you specify the number of days allocated to field, lab, data analysis, literature research or modelling in each month. Make sure that what you plan to do can be done given occasional problems such as bad weather, sick days, and conference or coursework attendance, teaching duties.

In addition to planning your days and weeks you need to decide when you expect to achieve the following goals:

- Completion of pilot study
- Completion of experimental layout
- Analysis of first season's data
- Thesis outline
- First published paper
- Completion of field work, experimental work, sociological work or model
- Thesis (first draft)



**Financial budget:** If you are applying for a bursary, fellowship, stipend or other financial support, or making use of grant-holder bursaries, you will be responsible for budgeting for:

- Travel (to field and meetings): this budget should be calculated on the basis of kilometres travelled
- Equipment
- Services (e.g. identification, analysis)
- Chemicals
- Computer time/internet subscription
- Software, books, information
- Subsistence
- Accommodation (if required at the field site)
- Materials for conference presentations and talks
- Running costs to supervisor including travel, postage and accommodation

**General comments:** It is important that your proposal be logically structured. This means that the methods must solve the questions, the questions must fit the objectives, and the objectives must be logically derived from the rationale. The reader should instantly understand the connection between what you say you are going to do, and the management problem or theoretical question to be addressed.



## Appendix 2: Cut off dates for thesis submissions & Turnitin

There are important deadlines for submission of theses in order to graduate in December or March / April. Please note these dates might vary slightly from year to year, but they are useful dates for planning. Supervisors should handle the examination process, but post-graduates need to be aware of the deadlines.

**Please speak to your supervisors and keep an eye out for submission dates**

The Plagiarism policy requires that all major assignments needs to go through Turnitin (or similar software). Remember that Turnitin is a similarity checker and your supervisor should determine whether plagiarism has been committed.

Currently, **two Turnitin** submission spaces have been created per module on SunLearn.

1. **The first submission** is a preliminary plagiarism check, to be used before the thesis is sent out for examination and can be found under the heading: "Initial check". You may upload your thesis onto the system as many times as you wish. This submission is not stored, but will give a similarity score. Based on this first submission process the supervisors and students must sign the plagiarism declaration form.
2. **The second submission** is done after the examination process is complete and the student has completed all changes to the thesis and can be found under the heading: "Final Thesis Turnitin Submission". This should be done at the same time as the thesis is been uploaded to the library. This submission will be captured in the plagiarism repositories and will prevent people from plagiarising the thesis.
3. Please do **not** remove references from the thesis before uploading your thesis. Although this is a similarity checker, supervisors have been asked to ignore the score and rather focus on finding sections of text that been directly lifted out of other sources.
4. If your work has already been published, include the publishing declaration

If you don't see your module on SUNLearn or struggle with the Sandbox or Turnitin, please contact Kathryn Wirth (wirthk@sun.ac.za).



## Appendix 3: Bookings, requisitions, payments and advances

### TURN AROUND TIME – IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

#### 1) FLIGHT BOOKINGS: Before 12:45 Mon – Friday.

Plan ahead and Book in advance – Quotations (prices) are limited to the day they are received. If order is not processed on same day, there may be a price increase the following day).

#### 2) VEHICLE BOOKINGS: Before 13:00 Mon – Friday. (Vehicle Pool and Bidvest rentals)

Plan ahead and Book in advance. Send an email directly to:

Monean Jacobs (mwenn@sun.ac.za); Riaan Keown (riaank@sun.ac.za); Marlene Isaacks (mcup@sun.ac.za); Colleen Louw (collouw@sun.ac.za) Support staff will only do Vehicle Bookings if your email contains full instructions and correct details. ((NB). Please cc your Supervisor's or Cost Point owners). The Support Staff are aware of certain circumstances e.g. weather, farm cancellations etc etc.

#### 3) FOREIGN REQUISITIONS: (Payments & Purchases).

Please bear in mind the new and updated changes in finances around foreign requisitions. i.e. new bank forms, correct invoices with full details. These new updated changes must please be adhered to at all times. Support staff require all the information in advance. Turnaround time: 1 week.

#### 4) ADHOC PAYMENTS – CONTRACTS NB.: (Supervisors & Students).

New University Policy: Must have a fixed contract which also states overtime payments. Support Staff require a copy of the Research Contract before they load Adhoc payments. Cut-off date for all adhoc payments is the 2nd of every month.

#### 5) ADVANCES/VOORSKOT: (Strict Control about the dates)

Time flag for advances/voorskot is 30 days. Please stick to the rules, as the Support Staff get Red Flagged. Plan properly.

#### 6) FINANCE/AANKOPE: 3 QUOTATIONS REQUIRED

Staff and Students to supply the 3 quotations. Finance has a Deviation Register (out of Protocols), and the Support Staff names appear on this register. As from 2019, the Academic Staff names will also appear on the Deviation Register if they if the protocols are incorrect.

For purchases where a purchase order is generated (i.e. you do not pay the company / supplier out of your own pocket), the company / supplier is required to be registered on the university creditor system as a level 1 or level 2 vendor. Please ask the support staff for more information.



## Appendix 4: Departmental facilities and assigned staff

Facility	Room number	Contact person
Lecture/Seminar Room	3028	Monean Jacobs
Computer Lab	3003	Colleen Louw
Plant Ecology Lab	3012	
-80°C Freezers	3015	
General Lab	3018	
Chemical Store	3019	
Store Rooms	3021 & 3031	
Map Room	3029	
Seed Room	3030	
GIS Computer Lab	3033	
General Lab	3038	
Postgrad Lab	2003	Marlene Isaacks
Postgrad Lab	2004	
Computer Room	2005	
Cold Room	2019	
Cold Room	3045	
Postgrad Lab	2021	
Postgrad Lab	2022	
Chemical Store	2036	
Cold Room & Freezer Room	3025 & 3026	
Incubation Room	3023	
Incubation Room	3024	
Incubation Room	3027	
Postgrad Labs	3041, 3051 & 3053	
Glassware Room	2037	Marlene Isaacks
APE Labs	2014	Prof JS Terblanche
	2015	
Molecular Lab	2028	
Gel Lab	3049	
Nematology Lab	2042	Prof A Malan / Dr N Stokwe
Post-doctoral Lab	2023	Dr Ken Pringle
Store room	2020	Prof P Addison
Museum	2027	
Computer Room	2040	
Quarantine Lab	2045	Dr S Johnson



## Appendix 5: Rules for the use of US fleet vehicles

In case of an accident with a University car, for a first time offender (when is not the fault of the driver) the department will pay half of the insurance excess. After that students are responsible for the whole excess amount. Familiarise yourself with the rules and regulations of the US fleet vehicles here:

<https://www0.sun.ac.za/voertuigvloot/page/english/policies-and-documents.php>

If students use their own car for field work, neither the university nor the department takes any responsibility for the damage or excess.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH</b>  <b>RULES FOR THE USE OF FLEET VEHICLES</b>  <b>Office hours: Monday – Friday (08:00-16:30)</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fleet vehicles shall be used only for approved trips by staff members and students of the University of Stellenbosch and by authorised, official visitors to the University. No person shall use any such vehicle in his/her private capacity.</li> <li>2. Fleet vehicles shall be driven and used carefully and responsibly in accordance with the rules and norms laid down by law. Drivers contravening any laws shall be held personally responsible for any fines imposed.</li> <li>3. Drivers of vehicles shall see to it that Fleet vehicles are parked in the University Vehicle Park after use. When a Fleet vehicle is returned after hours, the vehicle shall still be parked in the Vehicle Park. Only in exceptional cases may a vehicle be parked outside the Vehicle Park for the night, provided that permission to that effect is obtained from Risk and Protection Services, should the Vehicle Park officials no longer be available to grant such permission themselves. Such permission shall be granted on the distinct condition that the Fleet vehicle shall be locked up in a garage or other safe and secure area for the night.</li> <li>4. It is compulsory to lock both the Fleet vehicle and the safety lock on the gear lever before leaving the Fleet vehicle unattended. In certain instances the additional use of a steering lock shall be compulsory.</li> <li>5. There shall be no smoking either in Fleet vehicles or in the Vehicle Park and no pets shall be transported in Fleet vehicles.</li> <li>6. The driver of the Fleet vehicle shall hold a driver's licence which has been valid for not less than one year and shall, on demand, be able to produce such valid driver's licence.</li> <li>7. The driver of the Fleet vehicle shall complete the trip ticket in full.</li> <li>8. Before using the Fleet vehicle, the driver shall ensure that the vehicle has a jack, a spanner, a spare wheel, a petrol card (in the key-holder) and the instruction sheet "Dos and Don'ts in Case of an Accident" (in the cubby-hole).</li> <li>9. The driver shall see to it that the Fleet vehicle has enough fuel for the trip. When taking additional fuel, the driver shall see to it that the tank is filled to capacity ("filled up") and shall pay for the fuel by using the Fleet vehicle's own petrol card. The payment slip shall be returned together with the key and the trip ticket.</li> <li>10. The Fleet vehicle's fuel tank shall be at least half full when the vehicle is returned to the US Vehicle Fleet.</li> <li>11. The Fleet vehicle's petrol card shall not be offered for payment at a toll gate or a parking area.</li> <li>12. The Fleet vehicle shall be kept clean and tidy.</li> <li>13. Booked times shall be adhered to strictly and bookings shall be cancelled 24 hours prior to the time booked.</li> <li>14. Any damage to the Fleet vehicle sustained during the period of use shall be reported to the US Vehicle Fleet within 12 (twelve) hours of the incident.</li> <li>15. <b>The Fleet vehicle user / his/her Division / Department / Society / Club / House Committee shall be liable for any damage to the vehicle sustained during the period of use to a maximum amount of R2 500, being the insurance excess fee, which amount shall be debited from the user's relevant cost centre.</b></li> <li>16. In the event of any failure to comply with the rules stated above, the following additional fine(s) shall be imposed on the Fleet vehicle user / his/her Division / Department / Society / Club / House Committee. In accepting the key to the Fleet vehicle, the Fleet vehicle user in so doing explicitly gives permission for the relevant fine(s) to be recovered on demand from his/her salary, student account or cost centre, as the case may be. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16.1 The full cost of repairs for damage resulting from any unauthorised, malicious, or wilful act of the driver.</li> <li>16.2 The full cost of repairs where damage to the Fleet vehicle was not reported to the US Vehicle Fleet within 12 (twelve) hours of the time of the incident, and where a Fleet vehicle was stolen and the driver had failed to lock the vehicle as stipulated in paragraph 3 and 4 above.</li> <li>16.3 When the Fleet vehicle is returned more than 30 (thirty) minutes late without permission.....R80,00 (eighty rand)</li> <li>16.4 When the Fleet vehicle is returned with less than half a tank of fuel.....R50,00 (fifty rand)</li> <li>16.5 When a booked vehicle is no longer required, and cancellation didn't take place 24 hours prior to collecting .....R40,00 (forty rand)</li> <li>16.6 When the inside of the Fleet vehicle is left dirty and/or untidy.....R40,00 (forty rand)</li> <li>16.7 When the vehicle's doors and/or gear-lever lock were/was not locked/taken without permission.....R100,00 (hundred rand)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<p><b><u>THEFT:</u> Immediately phone 021-808 4611 or USBD 021-808 4891 or 0860 60 11 37 (after hours) and then phone S.A.P.D</b></p>	



## Appendix 6: Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology PhD proposal evaluation form

PhD students can only present their proposal after they have been conditionally selected for a PhD by the Faculty of AgriSciences Research Committee. This presentation of their proposal and associated paperwork MUST be completed during the first year of their PhD.

The supervisors must select a departmental research panel. The departmental research panel will consist of a chairperson (not necessarily the chair of the department) and an additional two other evaluators. The chairperson of the panel must be a staff member of the Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology and hold a PhD, while the evaluators can be internal or external (the Chair needs to hold a PhD, and the panel members need to have either a PhD or a MSc with at least 5 years of experience in the study field, and may include post docs).

PhD students have to submit a full written proposal. The full written proposal needs an introduction to the problem the PhD student wishes to study, a strong research driven hypothesis or research question, and a description as to how they are going to achieve this aim, with sub-aims and hypotheses for individual data chapters. All PhD students will also need to submit the 750-word description to Faculty on the "Recommendation for Admission of Candidate to Doctoral Study" form<sup>1</sup> and to the research panel. All documentation (full proposals and 750-word project descriptions) need to be sent to all members of the research panel at least one week prior to the proposal presentation. If the supervisor wants the panel also to act as the internal animal ethics committee then they should submit a second proposal which considers the ethical points that are listed on the PhD application form alongside the proposal.

The research panel convenes and completes the form below, and if A or B is ticked then the panel chairperson must also tick the option "Successful candidate, finally selected" and sign the Faculty of AgriSciences "Recommendation for Admission of Candidate to Doctoral Study" form. Please submit the originals of both forms, namely the Faculty of AgriSciences "Recommendation for Admission of Candidate to Doctoral Study" form and this form to the Departmental chair for submission to the Faculty Committee. It is recommended that supervisors keep copies of both forms.

### **Things to consider as a member of the research panel for a PhD proposal:**

Is there scientific merit in this research?

Are the objectives clear and obtainable?

Is this proposal novel enough to warrant a PhD?

Are the methods of this proposal suitable and appropriate for this study? Is this proposed research achievable in a three-year time period?





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Student name ..... Student number .....

Supervisor(s) ..... Date .....

**The Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology research panel has determined that the project proposal (please tick one):**

- ☐ A Study has scientific merit and the proposed PhD is feasible and the research panel recommends that the student is accepted.
- ☐ B Study has scientific merit and the proposal is feasible, although the panel feels that the supervisor and student should discuss the issues below (see comments section) and adjust the written proposal to include these comments, after which they recommend that the student is accepted.
- ☐ C Study has scientific merit, although feel that the written proposal and the project as a whole should incorporate major changes (see comments section). The panel requests to see the 750-word proposal again prior to accepting the project.
- ☐ D Study is below the expected standard. The project either does not have scientific merit, is unrealistic or insufficient information for the panel to make a decision (see reasons in the comments section below). The panel feels that the candidate should resubmit the full written proposal again.
- ☐ E Study is too far below standard, and so the research panel recommends that the application be rejected.

**Comments:**

.....  
.....  
.....

Is there an attached document with further comments (Y/N): .....

Does project require ethical clearance (Y/N): .....

If yes, does the panel feel that the project is ethically sound (Y/N): .....

**Research panel chairperson:**

**Name of evaluators:**

**Signature:**

.....

.....

**Name:**

.....

.....



## Appendix 7: The library

# What the AgriSciences Librarian can do for you

HERE ARE 5 THINGS THE LIBRARIAN CAN DO FOR YOU



### 1.) GET QUALITY INFORMATION

Are you frustrated with endless search results that seem meaningless?  
Are you students handing in assignments that look remarkable similar to the first page of Google or Google Scholar?

Let the librarian help you

- 1) streamline your own searches (less wading through mires of information)
- 2) set up information alerts (you don't even need to search!)
- 3) work with your students to teach them about information and how to best wrangle with Google

### 2.) REFERENCE HELP

Using a product like Mendeley or Zotero and encountering issues?  
Finding that your students can't reference further than a URL link?  
Want to learn about using automated referencing?

Let the librarian help you

- 1) setting up and getting to know Mendeley
- 2) troubleshoot issues with regards to Mendeley, and the integration of Word and Pages
- 3) work with your students to teach them about the world of referencing and why its important (linking to quality information)



### 3.) RESEARCH - TELL THE WORLD WHAT YOU DO

Feel stumped when applying for NRF ratings or grants and they want pages of proof you do research? Starting out on your academic career and wanting to plan ahead?

Let the librarian help you

- 1) setting up your research profiles (aka the Facebooks of the research world - not only Researchgate!)
- 2) determine the altmetrics of your work - who is talking about what you are doing?

### 4.) CITATION AND PUBLISHING HELP

Need your h-index, i10 index, m-index or g-index? Do any of these seem unfamiliar to you? Not sure if that journal that emailed you is legit? Feel lost when needing to find information or retrieve all those numbers?

Let the librarian help you

- 1) retrieve your metrics relating to you as an author or a journal
- 2) assist with seeing how your work is being cited
- 3) assist with setting up citation alerts for your work
- 4) distinguish between predatory journals and non-predatory journals



### 5.) ASSIGNMENT HELP

Have an assignment and you want your students to hand in quality work? Need your students to understand how to write academically? Frustrated with the lack of correct page formatting or superficial references?

Let the librarian help you and your students

- 1) find quality literature relating to the topic, through using not only Google but also databases, and critically analyse them in the style of literature reviews
- 2) teach your students the basics of referencing correctly (in your chosen style or Mendeley) and formatting documents
- 3) get help anytime through creating an always available online how-to guide - complete with tutorials and tailored information that gives no student the "I didn't know" excuse

*And of course - helping you get the books you need!*



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@AgrisciencesU



Desk 1  
Upper Level  
Stellenbosch  
University Library



## Appendix 8: Mental health support

### 1. Centre for Student Counseling and Development

- Qualified psychologists employed by Stellenbosch University
- Individual sessions and group counseling available
- Online and in-person available
- Walk-in: 37 Victoria Street
- Contact: 021-808-4707, [supportus@sun.ac.za](mailto:supportus@sun.ac.za)

Note from student experiences: because of high demand this service tends to take a more practical, short-term, goal-oriented approach. Typically most appropriate for short-term problems needing advice or a solution (eg. financial stress, bad accommodation environment, recent trauma from stress or accidents, etc...), though the service is technically available for all psychotherapeutic needs.

### 2. Welgevallen Community Psychology Clinic

- Clinical psychologists in training (supervised by qualified psychologists)
- Individual and group sessions available
- Walk-in: Welgevallen House (below Coetzenburg)
- Available for SU students, staff and non-SU community members
- Contact: 021-808-2696, [wcpc@sun.ac.za](mailto:wcpc@sun.ac.za)

Note from student experiences: because of lower client volume per therapist, this service tends to take a more detailed, long-term, unstructured approach. Typically most appropriate for ongoing or long-standing problems needing psychotherapy and support (eg. family situation, mental conditions, continuous trauma, etc...)

### 3. Academic/Career Counseling

- Individual and group work sessions available
- Contact: 021-808-4707, [studysuccess@sun.ac.za](mailto:studysuccess@sun.ac.za)
- Walk-in: 47 Victoria Street

### 4. Food Security Programme

- Social workers perform holistic needs assessment
- Contact: [supportus@sun.ac.za](mailto:supportus@sun.ac.za)
- All services are free of charge
- Commitment/timeframe of assistance/communication is completely determined by the student
- Office hours: 8:00-16:30
- All sessions and enquiries are treated completely confidentially
- Counselor assigned after needs assessment, but student can confidentially request a change at any time
- Helps to add relevant service to enquiry email subject (eg. "Food Security Assistance") and include student number in enquiry email (just to smooth out and speed up the process).