

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Newsletter for 2025 first-year Engineering students

Dean's message

A warm welcome to all our first-year engineering students. We trust that your time at Engineering will be a positive and successful experience and result in a well-deserved engineering degree.



Dean: Engineering
Prof JL (Wikus) van Niekerk

Civil Eng. Building
Office: S4028
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✉ engdean@sun.ac.za

With your engineering studies you will have a very full programme that will often require sacrifice of time and pleasure in order to be successful. We trust that you will exercise sound judgement to know when to study and when to relax, because the latter is also necessary! We would like to draw your attention to the [University's Yearbook \(parts 1 and 11\)](#) regarding a wide variety of aspects applicable to your studies. These documents contain the main rules applicable to all our programmes. documents can be found on the [Faculty's](#)

[website](#) including the [Assessment Rules](#).

Do not hesitate to contact your lecturers when experiencing problems of any nature. In fact, we would like to encourage you to feel free to approach your lecturers with any problem that has a negative effect on your academic work. You are also welcome to contact Ms Natalie White (natalies@sun.ac.za) and Mr August Engelbrecht (august@sun.ac.za) with any concerns that you may have, be that academic, personal or financial.

We care about your welfare, and first-year students are therefore most welcome to make an appointment with me regarding any aspect concerning their studies. (Departmental Chairpersons handle the problems of our senior students.) Appointments can be made at my office with my personal assistant, Ms Marilie Oberholzer (marilie@sun.ac.za).

It is in all our interest that you are successful, let's work together as a team, supporting each other and openly sharing our problems so that they can be addressed.

We wish you a very successful first year!



Appointments with the Dean
Ms Marilie Oberholzer

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Who can help?



Vice-Dean: Teaching and Quality Assurance

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Vice-Dean: Research and Industry Liaison

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Student support, Tutor Programme and Extended Degree Programme

Ms Natalie White

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Student retention and support

Mr August Engelbrecht

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General Enquiries, lost property

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First-semester lecturers of first-year modules

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Engineering Mathematics 115



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Engineering Chemistry 123



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Engineering Drawings 123



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Intercultural Communication 113



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Engineering Physics 113



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Probability Theory & Statistics 114



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Dean's lecture



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Prof Celeste Viljoen
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Academic support for first-years

>> Where can I find the online SU enrolment program for prospective first-year students?

An exciting new [Welcoming Guide](#) has been launched online. This guide will orientate first-year students within their Faculty and help them prepare for their studies, as well as the unique student experience awaiting them on campus..

>> Attend all lectures and tutorials, and prepare well for tutorials

Lectures and tutorials are carefully designed to help students master the material. Make attending these sessions your top priority, and prepare thoroughly for tutorials to maximise your learning experience

>> Make an appointment to see your lecturer

If you have attempted to master certain concepts but are still struggling, schedule an appointment with your lecturer. While fellow and senior students can be helpful, your lecturer is the best source for guidance and advice

>> Group learning sessions

On most weekday afternoons, immediately after regular tutorials, visit Room A503 to prepare for the next day's tutorial. This is an opportunity to collaborate with other students in group learning sessions. Teaching assistants will also be available to provide guidance and support.

>> Dean's lecture

During weekly lectures in the first semester, the Dean or Vice-Dean will address each class group. These sessions will include advice on study methods, tracking your academic progress, and accessing additional support. Make the most of these lectures by actively listening and completing the related assignments..

>> Individual tutoring

The Faculty does not support one-on-one tutoring, as it may hinder the development of your independent learning skills. Building these skills is essential for successfully completing the BEng programme. The support structures mentioned above are designed to help you master the material while fostering the abilities you'll need for future years of study.

>> Anxiety, stress and study methods

Feeling stressed or overwhelmed is a common experience for first-year students in the BEng programme. However, if you are falling behind significantly or are too stressed to study effectively, contact **Ms Natalie White** to schedule an appointment with one of the Faculty's educational psychologists. They can help you manage stress and adjust your study methods to become more productive.

Health and safety rules at Engineering



>> No food or drinks in lecture rooms:

Snacks and cooldrinks are strictly prohibited in lecture rooms. Students may bring only unsweetened water into lecture halls.



>> Phones on silent:

Switch phones to silent before entering classrooms, labs, or tutorials.



>> No bare feet:

Wear proper footwear; bare feet and sandals are prohibited in labs and workshops.



>> Skateboards are not allowed in buildings/passages

No Skateboarding Indoors: Skateboarding is disruptive and damages floors—keep it outside.



>> Smoking and Vaping rules:

Smoking and/or vaping is banned indoors and within 20m of entrances.

Educational psychologists



Annette du Plessis



Inez Saunders

>> **Contact** Ms Natalie White (natalies@sun.ac.za) for an appointment to see one of the Faculty's educational psychologists.

The ESC at your service



Elizabeth Montgomery
ESC Chairperson

>> The **Engineering Students' Council** (ESC) is the managing body of the Society of Stellenbosch Engineering Students (SSES). Members are elected annually. The ESC represents the students at various higher bodies and organises social events for engineering students.

The first term is extremely demanding. In addition to this, students must also

become accustomed to a high academic workload. The ESC therefore encourages you to communicate with them if you should encounter any problems.

Contact them at jsr@sun.ac.za.

Engineering building complex

Where to find the Dean, Departmental Chairpersons and Student Support



The General Engineering Building, located in Banghoek road, is currently under construction.

Enter the Faculty on the northern side at nr 7.

Dean's Division is situated on the 4th floor of the Civil Engineering Building.

1



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2



Electrical & Electronic

Prof Japie Engelbrecht

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3



Mechanical & Mechatronics

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4



Chemical

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5



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6



Dean

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Student support, Tutor Programme Extended Degree Programme

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Student retention and support

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Frequently Asked Questions

>> How can I find bursary opportunities?

Bursaries are advertised on Faculty notice boards. Some may target specific fields, like Civil Engineering, and appear on the relevant Department's board. You can also get advice from the Bursary and Loans Division in Admin A or online at <https://finaid.sun.ac.za/>. The Dean and Departments do not provide additional bursary information.

>> Who can help if I'm struggling academically?

Speak to Ms Natalie White for advice. If necessary, she will refer you to the Dean. From your second year, discuss academic issues with your Departmental Chairperson.

>> Who do I contact if I feel stressed or overwhelmed?

Ms Natalie White can arrange for you to meet with one of the Faculty's educational psychologists.

>> Do I need to submit a medical certificate if I was sick?

No. If you miss lectures, it's your responsibility to catch up. Missing a tutorial test will result in a zero, but the two lowest test scores are excluded from your semester mark. If you miss A1 or A2 assessments, you must write A3. For major assignments, contact your lecturer as soon as possible.

>> Where can I find my lost items?

Lost property from the General Engineering Building is handed to Ms Ainsley Truter in room S4028, Civil Eng. Building.

>> How are lecture room numbers organised?

Room numbers indicate the building, floor, and room. For example, "A203" means the General Engineering Building ("A"), second floor ("2"), room 03. Other buildings are:

- B: Industrial
- K: Knowledge Centre
- M: Mechanical & Mechatronic
- C: Process (Chemical Engineering)
- E: Electrical & Electronic
- S: Civil

>> What are Dean's Lectures?

These lectures are part of the Intercultural Communication 113 module, held on Mondays in the first semester. During this period the Dean and Vice-Dean will convey very important information to first-year students. Attendance is mandatory as this is a credit-bearing module.

>> Where can I buy textbooks?

Textbooks can be bought from any supplier, either as hard copies or e-books. The Faculty is not responsible for transactions. You can also buy second-hand books from bookstores or senior students. [Click here](#) for supplier details.

>> What if my student card doesn't grant Study Centre access?

Visit Mr Ulrich Smith in room S4028, Civil Eng. Building, to activate your card.

Follow the Faculty of Engineering on Social Media

