

Your guide to the

# FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



forward together  
saam vooruit

Students in the Arts and Social Sciences are focused on problem-solving, critical analysis and creativity. Our programmes develop understanding of the world and its complexity.

Graduates work in strategy and policy, media and communication, data and information analysis, environmental and development work, cultural and creative industries, education, research, and leadership roles across the public and private sectors.

What connects these paths is a shared foundation: the ability to *analyse complex issues, work with evidence, engage with different perspectives, and respond thoughtfully* to real-world challenges.

## STEP 1 Is FASS for me?

### Our Faculty is a good fit for you if you are:

- curious about people and the worlds they create
- ask thoughtful – and sometimes uncomfortable – questions instead of accepting easy answers
- notice how stories shape how we live and think
- interested in how data, evidence, and interpretation help solve complex problems
- like making creative connections across different subjects rather than keeping them separate



### If this sounds like you, you will thrive in this Faculty where you can:

- think critically, question assumptions, and support your views with evidence
- read closely, listen carefully, and engage seriously with different perspectives
- write clearly, argue persuasively, and communicate ideas with confidence
- analyse information, work with data, and evaluate sources with care
- create, perform, interpret, and research with purpose and reflection
- develop skills that matter in public life, professional settings, and creative work

PHILOSOPHY/ VISUAL ART/ ENGLISH/ FRENCH/ PSYCHOLOGY/ SOCIOLOGY/ LINGUISTICS/ ANTHROPOLOGY/ DRAMA/ JOURNALISM/ POLITICAL SCIENCE / GEOGRAPHY/ GERMAN / AFRIKAANS / DUTCH / SPANISH / HISTORY/ INFORMATION SCIENCE / ANCIENT STUDIES /AFRICAN LANGUAGES / MUSIC



## STEP 2 What can I study?

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences offers 13 undergraduate degree programmes that span across 18 departments. Some departments focus on the study and teaching of languages, others on the arts—such as music, drama, and visual arts—and others on understanding how people and societies function, exploring patterns in human behaviour, politics, economics, organisations, and social systems. While most of our degrees include the study of language and culture, each programme has its own focus and opens the door to a range of academic and professional pathways. Below is a list of all the programmes and available subjects.

### A BROAD, INTER-DISCIPLINARY DEGREE

**BA (Humanities)**  
Provides students with a broad foundation in the study of human thought, society, and culture. Students select modules from multiple fields, including social sciences, languages, and the arts, allowing for an interdisciplinary approach to understanding human behaviour, ideas, and creativity. The programme develops critical thinking, research, and analytical skills, providing a strong academic basis for further study or diverse career pathways. Available subjects: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

### A DEGREE FOCUSED ON LANGUAGE

**BA (Languages and Culture)**  
Students study language as a social and cultural practice and as a system of communication and meaning. Students choose from a range of local and international languages and complete General Linguistics as a compulsory first-year subject, which provides a disciplinary foundation for understanding how languages work. Language study is complemented by selected humanities and social science subjects, allowing students to explore the cultural, historical, and social contexts in which languages are used. Available subjects: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29

### DEGREES FOCUSED ON CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

**BA (International Studies)**  
Brings together political, historical, economic, and information-based perspectives to make sense of global affairs in a connected world. Students engage with the forces shaping international relations, including economic processes, policy, and social change, while developing analytical and research skills relevant to careers in policy, diplomacy, research, and global organisations. Available subjects: 6, 7, 13, 18, 23, 5, 8, 11, 26

### BA (Human Resource Management)

Focused on people and organisations, this degree develops a strong understanding of workplace behaviour, organisational systems, and human development in professional contexts. The curriculum draws on industrial psychology, psychology, sociology, political science, and management-related fields, equipping students with analytical and practical skills relevant to public, private, and organisational environments. Available subjects: 1, 2, 7, 14, 17, 18, 19, 25, 29

### BA (Law)

Combines a rigorous foundation in law with sustained engagement in selected humanities and social science disciplines. Alongside core legal subjects, students develop strong analytical, interpretive, and communication skills through the study of language, philosophy, politics, economics, and human behaviour. The degree prepares students for further legal training and for careers in law, public service, research, and related fields. Available subjects: Professional legal training + 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 29

### DEGREES IN THE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

**BA in Visual Arts**  
Combines artistic practice with critical and conceptual enquiry. Students work intensively in studio contexts while engaging with ideas, histories, and debates that shape contemporary visual culture, developing the skills needed to communicate, analyse, and produce work in professional creative contexts. Available subjects: Arts practice and theory + 1, 7, 25, 29

### BA (Drama and Theatre Studies)

Combines practical theatre-making with critical and theoretical engagement. Students develop skills in performance, production, and analysis while working collaboratively in studio and rehearsal contexts. The degree cultivates creative, interpretive, and reflective capacities relevant to theatre, performance, and related cultural fields. Available subjects: Dramatic Arts theory and practice + 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 19, 27, 28, 29

### BA (Music)

Combines professional musical training with broader academic engagement. Students develop skills in performance, composition, and music studies, while complementing their musical practice with selected subjects that support analytical thinking, communication, and interdisciplinary breadth within a BA framework. Available subjects: Professional music training + 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 19, 29 and/or Mathematics

### BMus

Specialised professional degree focused on advanced musical training. Students pursue intensive study in performance, composition, music education, musicology, or music technology, supported by theoretical, analytical, and technical coursework that prepares them for professional musical careers and postgraduate study. Available subjects: Specialised professional music training + 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, 19, 29 and/or Mathematics

### A DEGREE FOCUSED ON DATA SCIENCE

**B of Data Science**  
A four-year degree focused on understanding, analysing, and working with complex data. Students develop strong foundations in mathematics, statistics, computer science, and data science, while learning to manage the full data lifecycle from data collection and modelling to analysis, visualisation, and interpretation. The degree prepares graduates for advanced study and for work in data-driven fields across research, business, government, and technology.

The BDataSci includes several specialised focal areas, each offering a distinct application of data science. Students register in the faculty that hosts their chosen focal area and follow a structured set of shared and focal-area-specific modules across all four years.

**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences focal area: Geoinformatics** (offered by the Department of Geography and Environmental Science). Focuses on the application of data science to spatial and environmental information, focusing on the capturing, analysis, modelling, and communication of geographic data. This focal area is suited to students interested in spatial data, environmental systems, urban and regional analysis, and data-driven decision-making in social and environmental contexts.

### KEY TO AVAILABLE SUBJECTS

1. Afrikaans and Dutch
2. Afrikaans Language Learning
3. Ancient Cultures
4. Biblical Hebrew
5. Chinese
6. Economics
7. English Studies
8. French
9. Geography and Environmental Studies
10. General Linguistics
11. German
12. Greek
13. History
14. Industrial Psychology
15. Latin
16. Music
17. Philosophy
18. Political Science
19. Psychology
20. Public and Development Management
21. Sign Language Studies
22. Social Work
23. Socio-Informatics
24. Social Anthropology
25. Sociology
26. Spanish
27. Theatre Studies
28. Visual Studies
29. Xhosa

With a bachelor's degree in the arts and social sciences, you gain access to a wide range of professional fields that focus on people, creativity, and society. Our degree programmes offer training in fields such as politics, development, languages, culture, human behaviour, data science, media, and the creative arts.

Each degree offers a distinct focus and develops different forms of expertise - from creative and performance skills to analytical, research, and professional competencies. Depending on your interests and strengths, you can build on this foundation by specialising further through an honours degree, a master's, and, where appropriate, a PhD.

## STEP 3 Do I qualify?

Our degree programmes are highly sought after and competitive. Admission requirements that must be met to be CONSIDERED for selection.

The cut-off point for selection is typically higher, depending on the number of applications and available places.



You must have an average final school-leaving mark of at least 63%. This average is calculated using a specified list of subjects, which can be found in the Faculty Yearbook: <https://www.su.ac.za/en/about/governance/registrar/yearbooks>

You must have demonstrated a strong application in your school language subjects.

For detailed subject requirements and mark thresholds, consult the Faculty Yearbook and individual programme pages.

Find the Faculty's document on selection and admission by scanning the QR Code below:



## STEP 4 How do I apply?



Go to <https://www.su.ac.za/en/apply> and complete an e-application online.



Remember Closing date for applications: 31 July 2026