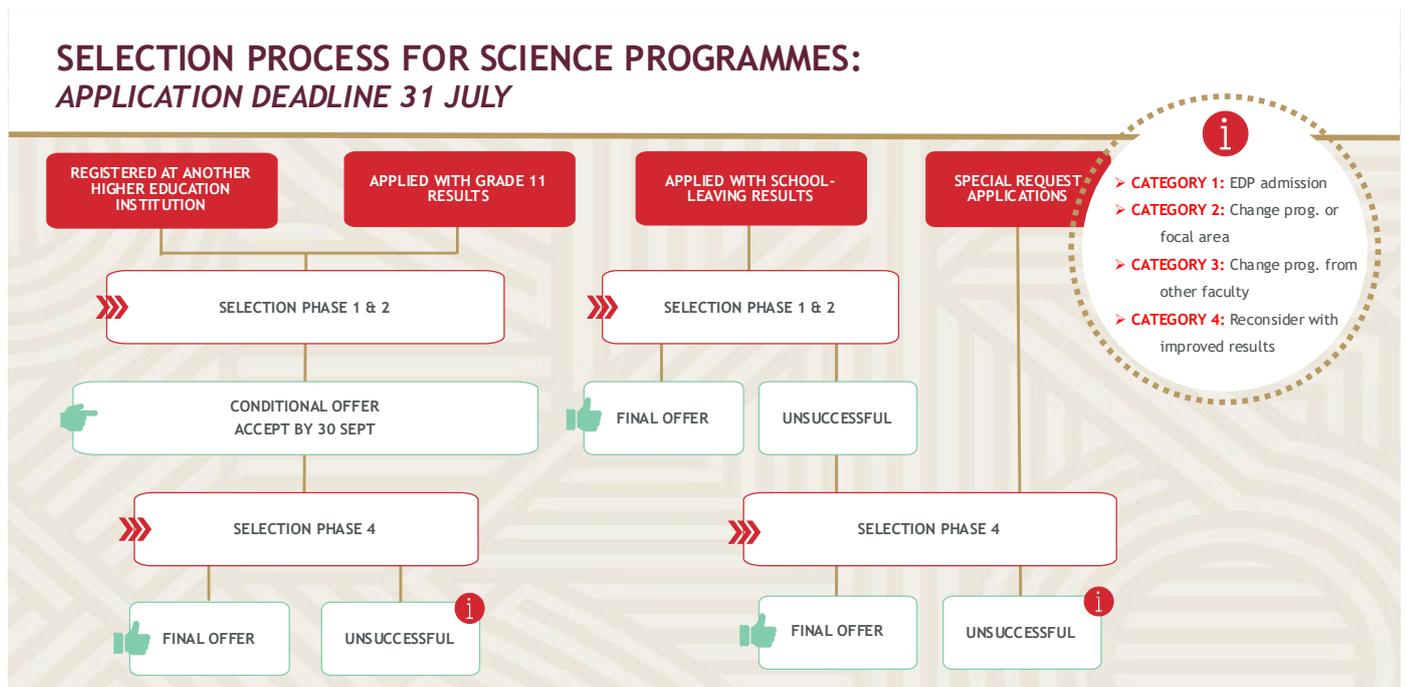




# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: SELECTION AND ADMISSION FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

## 1. PURPOSE

This document provides the guidelines used in the application, selection, and admission procedures for undergraduate programmes offered by the Faculty of Science. The selection and admission procedures are followed in accordance with the [Admission Policy of Stellenbosch University \(SU\)](#).



## 2. PROVISIONS

- 2.1 Prospective new first-year students have to apply for three undergraduate programmes (not necessarily all in the same faculty).
- 2.2 All degree programmes are subject to a selection process based on minimum admission requirements, selection criteria, and the number of students that can be accommodated per programme.
- **Admission requirements** (in [Appendices 1 and 2](#) below) are the minimum requirements an applicant must meet to be considered for selection and admission.
  - **Selection criteria** (based on a selection mark) are set at higher thresholds depending on the number of applications received and are used for selection.
- 2.3 You will be considered and receive a conditional offer for each chosen programme **if you meet the selection criteria**. These conditional offers might not be issued at the same time. Any request to change the three programme choices must be submitted to [info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za) but no changes can be made after an unsuccessful status has been received. No late applications will be considered.
- 2.4 It is your responsibility as an applicant to check your application status regularly and respond to any potential conditional offers before the due dates.
- 2.5 Conditional offers that expired will **not** be re-issued. Applicants whose final offers expired must submit a request ([Special request application](#)) for reconsideration.

## 3. PROCEDURE

### 3.1 Application

- 3.1.1 Fully completed applications must be submitted online **by 31 July** of the year preceding the intended year of study.
- 3.1.2 A **FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATION** means that all the steps of the application process have been finalised and that all relevant documents have been submitted. You will receive confirmation of your application, upon submission thereof, via email.
- 3.1.3 Applicants who are completing their final school year are selected for a particular programme on the basis of their final Grade 11 results and will receive a **conditional** offer for admission to that programme when meeting

the selection criteria. This conditional offer must be accepted by 30 September. Conditional offers issued after 30 September are valid for a limited period as prescribed by the university on SUNStudent.

- 3.1.4 Applicants whose school-leaving results also meet the selection criteria for the programme for which they have accepted a conditional offer will receive a final offer to study at SU. Such applicants should not have previously studied at SU or another higher education institution. This final offer must be accepted within the period prescribed by the university on SUNStudent.
- 3.1.5 Applicants who are already in possession of a school-leaving certificate and have not studied at another higher education institution will be selected based on those results unless they indicate that they are improving their school-leaving results.
- 3.1.6 Applicants who do not meet the selection criteria but are improving their Grade 12 results will receive Waiting List status for consideration after submitting their improved marks to the Central Applications Office ([info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za)). This includes SciMathUS students who have applied to the Faculty of Science for study.
- 3.1.7 Applicants currently/previously enrolled at another higher education institution and who want to transfer to a programme in the Faculty of Science:
- must submit an application with their final school-leaving results **and** most recent academic transcript from their current or previous higher education institution.
  - Such applicants will receive Waiting List status until their final end-of-year results from the other higher education institution have been submitted and captured by the Central Applications Office ([info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za)).
  - These applicants must submit a special request ([Special request application](#)) to be considered during Phase 4.
  - Applicants whose readmission status is not in order at SU or their previous higher education institution due to academic exclusion or disciplinary action **must** disclose their readmission status at the time of application and also submit a Readmission Appeal request. The Faculty's Readmission Appeals Committee reserves the right to deny admission to an applicant who was academically excluded at another higher education institution.

- 3.1.8 Applicants with a **disability** must ALSO complete the Student Support Form from the [Centre for Student Counselling and Development](#) and contact the [Disability Unit](#) to arrange a meeting before 30 September with the Faculty of Science to determine the type of support required as well as what the Faculty can offer. Hereafter the feasibility of completing the programme will be determined before these applicants will be considered for selection.
- 3.1.9 Applicants with a concession for special needs at school must ALSO complete the Student Support Form from the [Centre for Student Counselling and Development](#) and contact the [Disability Unit](#) to arrange a meeting before 30 September with the Faculty of Science to determine the type of support required as well as what the Faculty can offer.

## 3.2 Selection

The selection process is done by the Selection Committee of the Faculty of Science in accordance with the [Admission Policy of Stellenbosch University](#). The Selection Committee is composed of the Dean, the Vice-Dean: Teaching & Learning, the Director: Faculty Management, the Faculty Administrator, and the Coordinator: Academic and Student Affairs. Decisions of the committee are therefore final.

## 3.3 Selection for Programmes

- 3.3.1 The Faculty has an enrolment target of 750 new first-year students, of which at least 40% should comprise diversity candidates by 2027. For each programme there is also an enrolment target.

### 3.3.2 **Selection Mark**

Applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements (see [Appendices 1 and 2](#) below) are ranked according to a **Selection Mark (SM)**, which is the main selection mechanism and calculated as follows:

<b>NSC &amp; IEB</b>	$[(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark}) + \text{the marks of five other subjects}] \div 7$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Life Orientation mark is excluded in the calculation of the selection mark.</li> <li>English/Afrikaans as Home or First Additional Language will be included in the calculation of the selection mark.</li> </ul>
<b>NSC &amp; IEB (more than six school subjects)</b>	$[(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark} + \text{the marks of the five best subjects}] \div 7$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Life Orientation mark is excluded in the calculation of the selection mark.</li> <li>English/Afrikaans as Home- or First Additional Language will be included in the calculation of the selection mark.</li> </ul>
<b>International School-Leaving Qualifications</b>	$[(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark} + \text{marks of other subjects}(n))] \div (n+2)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Physical Sciences is a requirement of the programme, Physics AND Chemistry should be included. Refer to <a href="#">Appendix 2</a> for the applicable levels for each programme.</li> <li>English as subject will be included in the calculation of the selection mark</li> </ul>

3.3.3 If you are in your final school year, the final Grade 11 results are used to calculate the selection mark.

3.3.4 If you are already in possession of a final school-leaving certificate, the final school results are used to calculate the selection mark.

#### 4. SELECTION PHASES

There are four selection phases for each programme, depending on the available spaces in the programme.

Selection Phases	Description
<b>Phase 1</b> 1 Apr - 31 Jul	Applicants with a <b>Selection Mark (SM)</b> of $\geq 80\%$ will receive a <b>conditional offer</b> within six weeks after the submission of their fully completed application. This conditional offer should be accepted by 30 September.
<b>Phase 2</b> 1 Aug - 30 Sept	Applicants with a <b>Selection Mark (SM)</b> within the specified range (or higher) for their chosen programme, as in the table below, will receive a <b>conditional offer</b> within two months after the submission of their fully completed application. This conditional offer should be accepted by 30 September.

Selection Phases	Description	
	Programmes	Selection Mark (SM) Range
	Biological Sciences	
	• Biodiversity and Ecology	≥70
	• Human Life Sciences	≥75
	• Sport Science	≥70
	• Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	≥75
	Physical Sciences	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Earth Sciences</li> <li>• GeoInformatics</li> <li>• Physics</li> </ul>	≥70
	Interdisciplinary	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biomathematics</li> <li>• Biomedical Mathematical Sciences</li> <li>• Applied Medicinal Chemistry</li> <li>• Bioinformatics and Computational Biology</li> </ul>	≥75
	Mathematical Sciences	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied Mathematics</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Operations Research</li> </ul>	≥75
	Computer Science	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Computer Science</li> <li>• Data Science</li> <li>• Computer Systems</li> </ul>	≥78
	Data Science	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied Mathematics</li> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• Statistical Physics</li> </ul>	≥80
<p><b>Phase 3</b> Starts 1 October</p>	<p>Applicants who accepted a conditional offer for a programme from ANOTHER faculty at SU and wish to change to a programme in the Faculty of Science will be considered during this phase. Such applicants with a selection mark of ≥80% may receive a conditional offer from the Registrar’s Office.</p> <p>Another round of selection may be conducted for programmes that have places available.</p>	
<p><b>Phase 4</b> This phase is conducted <b>after</b> school-leaving results are published.</p>	<p>Applicants who have accepted a conditional offer for a programme in the Faculty of Science <b>AND</b> whose final school-leaving results meet the selection criteria of their specific programme will receive a <b>final</b> offer to study at SU. This final offer should be accepted within the period specified by the university on SUNStudent, usually two calendar days from the date of issue.</p>	

Selection Phases	Description
	<p>Applicants who have accepted a conditional offer for a programme in the Faculty of Science and who miss the selection mark by 1% <b>and</b> meet the minimum admission criteria for Mathematics and Physical Sciences for their specific programme may receive a final offer to study at SU. This final offer should be accepted within the period specified by the university on SUNStudent, usually two calendar days from the date of issue.</p> <p>Applicants who had accepted a conditional offer for a programme from ANOTHER faculty at SU and wish to change to a programme in the Faculty of Science, must submit a special request (<a href="#">Special request application</a>) to be considered during this phase.</p> <p>Applicants who have submitted a Special Request (refer to Section 6 for categories) will be considered during this phase.</p>

## 5. FINAL OFFER

- 5.1 Final offers are sent out **after** final school-leaving results have been considered.
- 5.2 Applicants whose final school-leaving results meet the selection criteria for the programme for which they have accepted a conditional offer will receive a final offer to study at SU.
- 5.3 It is imperative for applicants who received a final offer to accept this offer within the period specified by the university on SUNStudent, usually two calendar days from the date of issue.
- 5.4 **Only** applicants who accept their final offer in time will obtain final admission status and be granted permission to register.
- 5.5 If an applicant fails to accept their final offer in time, this offer will expire and they will not be permitted to register. Expired offers will not be re-issued and applicants must submit a [Special Request for Admission](#) should they wish to be reconsidered.

## 6. SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR ADMISSION

### 6.1 Submission of special requests for admission

Special requests for admission will be considered during Selection Phase 4. These should be **submitted online** via the [Special Request Form](#). This form will be active from 2 January until two days before the last day of on-campus registration. One of the following four categories may be chosen:

#### **CATEGORY 1: Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP)**

An applicant who accepted the conditional offer for a programme in the Faculty of Science but whose school-leaving results do **not meet** the **selection requirements** of the specific programme may be considered for an Extended Curriculum Programme provided that the applicant:

- has not been previously registered at Stellenbosch University or at any other higher education institution; and
- provides supporting documentation upon request of the Selection Committee.

#### **CATEGORY 2: Change of programme or focal area within the Faculty of Science**

Applicants **who accepted a conditional or final offer** for a programme in the Faculty of Science but want to change the programme or focal area within the Faculty of Science.

- (i) If your selection mark is 80% and above, you may be eligible for an offer from us. Please send an email to [sciencerc@sun.ac.za](mailto:sciencerc@sun.ac.za)
- (ii) If your selection mark is below 80% but is still meeting the programme-specific selection mark for the new programme you want to change to, you must submit a [Special Request](#).

Condition: only applicants who meet the selection criteria for the new programme (refer to [Section 4](#)) may submit a request.

#### **CATEGORY 3: Change of programme from another faculty**

Applicants who did **not** initially apply to the Faculty of Science, **who accepted a conditional offer** for a programme in another faculty at Stellenbosch University but want to change to a programme in the Faculty of Science

**OR**

Applicants who initially applied to the Faculty of Science but who accepted a conditional or final offer for a programme in **another faculty** at Stellenbosch University and now want to change to a programme in the Faculty of Science

- (i) If your selection mark is 80% and above, you may be eligible for an offer from us. Please send an email to [sciencerc@sun.ac.za](mailto:sciencerc@sun.ac.za)
- (ii) If your selection mark is below 80% but is still meeting the programme-specific selection mark for the new programme you want to change to, you must submit a [Special Request](#).

Condition: only applicants who meet the selection criteria for the new programme (refer to [Section 4](#) and [Appendices 1 and 2](#)) may submit a request.

#### **CATEGORY 4: Improved school-leaving results**

Applicants who **improved their school-leaving results** will be waitlisted by the Registrar's Division until such time as the final updated results are submitted. Please submit your updated results to [info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za) together with your application reference number.

Condition: only applicants who meet the selection criteria for the programme (refer to [Section 4](#)) may submit a request.

#### **6.2 Consideration of special requests for admission**

The Selection Committee will consider requests daily until two days before the last day of on-campus registration. Each applicant will be notified of the result by email and the status on SUNStudent will be updated. Applicants whose requests were approved will receive a new offer to study that must be accepted within the period prescribed by the university on SUNStudent, usually two calendar days from the date of issue.

### **7. READMISSION AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL STUDIES**

Students who have previously been registered at Stellenbosch University (SU) or any other higher education institution, **but** whose readmission status is not in order at SU or their

previous higher education institution due to academic exclusion or disciplinary action thereby not meeting the promotion requirements to study at SU, should submit a Readmission Appeal Application *and* a new application to study at SU. The Faculty's Readmission Appeals Committee reserves the right to deny readmission to an applicant who was academically excluded at another higher education institution. For further details, please refer to the SU [General Yearbook \(Part 1\)](#) and/or contact [info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za).

## Appendix 1: Minimum admission requirements according to the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB) school-leaving certificate

- 1) An average final mark of at least 65% (excluding Life Orientation) and
- 2) A performance level of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) and
- 3) With the minimum admission requirements for mainstream programmes as follow.

Programmes	Minimum admission requirements	
<b>BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES</b>		
1.1 Biodiversity and Ecology 1.1.1 Focal area: Climate Change Ecology 1.1.2 Focal area: Plant and Animal Biodiversity 1.1.3 Focal area: Plants and Microbes 1.2 Molecular Biology and Biotechnology 1.3 Human Life Sciences 1.3.1 Focal area: Biology 1.3.2 Focal area: Biology with Psychology 1.4 Sport Science	Physical Sciences <b>AND</b> Mathematics  (the Mathematics mark will determine the Physics and Mathematics that can be taken in the first year)	4 (50%)  5 (60%) or 6 (70%)
<b>PHYSICAL SCIENCES</b>		
2.1 Chemistry 2.1.1 Focal area: Chemistry and Polymer Science 2.1.2 Focal area: Chemical Biology 2.1.3 Focal area: Applied and Sustainable Chemistry 2.1.4 Focal area: Chemistry with Chemical Engineering 2.2 Physics 2.2.1 Focal area: Laser Physics (Physical), Nuclear-, Radiation- and Health Physics 2.2.2 Focal area: Laser Physics (Biological) 2.2.3 Focal area: Theoretical Physics	Physical Sciences <b>AND</b> Mathematics	4 (50%)  6 (70%)
2.3 Earth Science* 2.3.1 Focal area: Applied Earth Science 2.3.2 Focal area: Geo-Environmental Science 2.4 Geoinformatics*	Physical Sciences <b>AND</b> Mathematics <i>*an option for admission with:</i> Mathematics	4 (50%)  6 (70%) OR 5 (60%)
<b>MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES</b>		
3.1 Mathematical Sciences 3.1.1 Focal area: Applied Mathematics 3.1.2 Focal area: Mathematics 3.1.3 Focal area: Operations Research	Mathematics <b>AND</b> <i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken:</i> Physical Sciences	6 (70%)  4 (50%)
3.2 Computer Science 3.2.1 Focal area: General Computer Science 3.2.2 Focal area: Computer Systems 3.2.3 Focal area: Data Science	Mathematics <b>AND</b> <i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken:</i> Physical Sciences	6 (70%)  4 (50%)

Programmes	Minimum admission requirements
<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY BSc</b>	
4.1 Focal area: Biomedical Mathematical Sciences	Mathematics 6 (70%)
4.2 Focal area: Biomathematics	AND
4.2 Focal area: Applied Medicinal Chemistry	Physical Sciences 4 (50%)
4.3 Focal area: Bioinformatics and Computational Biology	
<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY BDatSci</b>	
5.1 Focal area: Applied Mathematics	Average final mark (excluding Life Orientation) 80%
5.2 Focal area: Computer Science	Afrikaans or English Home Language 60% or
5.3 Focal area: Statistical Physics	Afrikaans or English First Additional Language 75%
	Mathematics 80%
<b>SCHOOL OF TOMORROW*</b>	
6.1 All programmes	Admission requirements as for NSC / IEB AND National Benchmarking Test
	National Academic Literacy 71
	Quantitative Literacy 70
	Mathematics 69

## Appendix 2: Minimum admission requirements for applicants with International Qualifications

Applicants with International Qualifications must meet the requirements for university exemption laid down by the Matriculation Board, Universities South Africa.

- 1) An average performance level of at least 65%
- 2) A performance level of at least 50% in Afrikaans or English and
- 3) With the minimum admission requirements for mainstream programmes provided below.

International Qualification <sup>1</sup>	University subjects to be taken	Minimum admission requirement
HIGCSE and Namibian NSSC	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry <b>and</b> Physics OR Natural Science 3
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics 2
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics 3
AS-level	Mathematics 114, 144	Mathematics B
	Physics 114, 144	Physics C
	Mathematics (Bio) 124	Mathematics C
	Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Physics C Physics (GCSE/O) A
A-level	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics C Chemistry <b>and</b> Physics C
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics D Chemistry <b>and</b> Physics D
IB HL	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry <b>and</b> Physics 2
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics 4
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics 3
IB SL	Physics or Chemistry	Physical Sciences OR Chemistry <b>and</b> Physics 2
	Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144	Mathematics 5
	Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154	Mathematics 4
School of Tomorrow American High School Diploma IEB: International Secondary Certificate Any online schooling system	All programmes	Can only obtain a university exemption certificate on recommendation of the Faculty of Science Meeting programme specific requirements (Appendix 1) and Performance in the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs)

<sup>1</sup> Contact the International Office (<https://www.su.ac.za/en/suinternational/contact-us>) for the minimum admission requirements for school leaving qualifications not listed.