



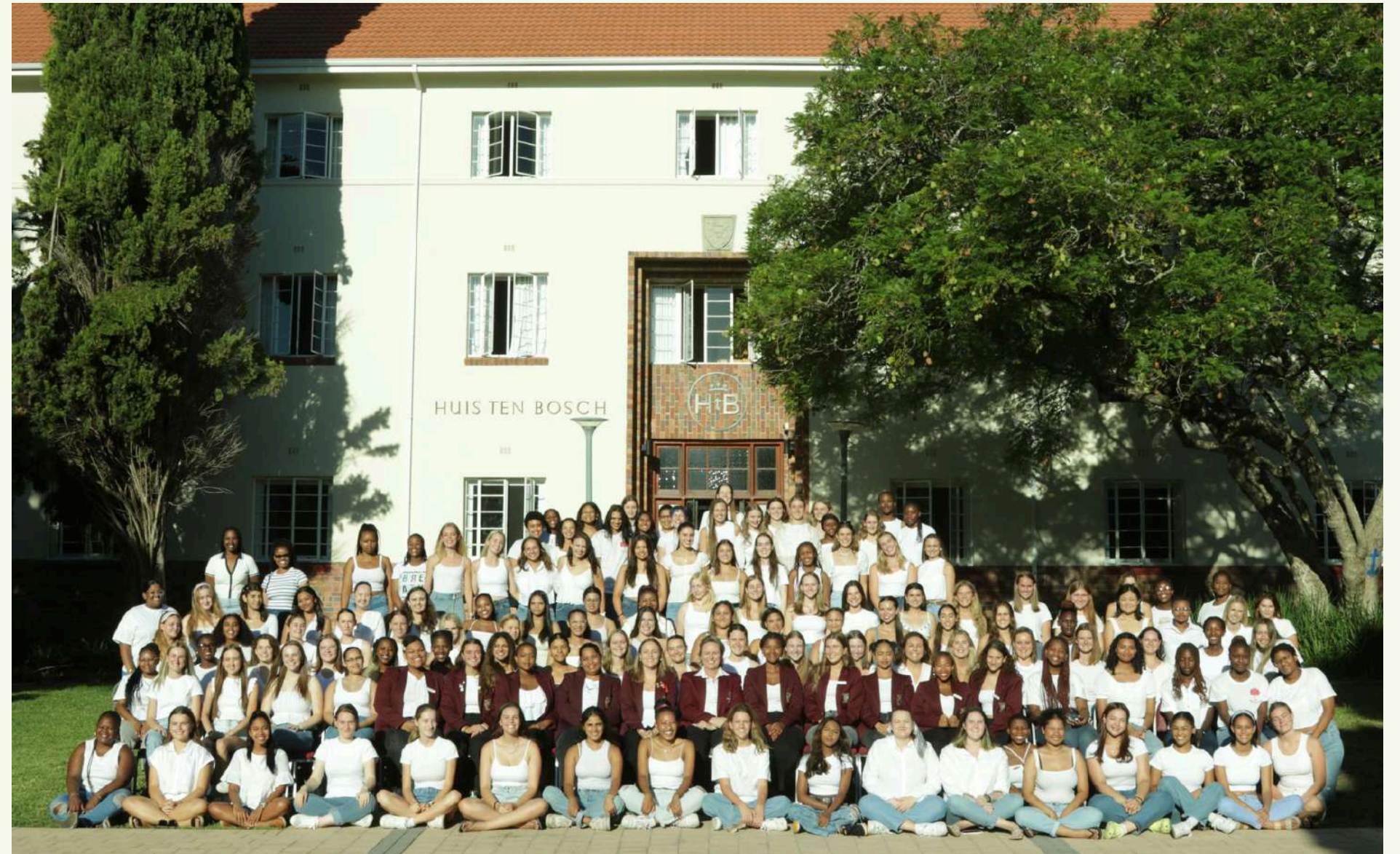
Stellenbosch
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Huis ten Bosch WELCOMING 2026!

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Esto Ipsa

OUR HISTORY

Shortly after the Great Depression of the early 1930s, the number of female students at Stellenbosch University rose rapidly, and thus the need for accommodation.

In 1935, the Huis ten Bosch property was acquired for £2 250 and the construction of the residence was completed by mid-1937. “Lindeshof”, on the corner of Van Riebeeck and Bosman street, was bought in 1942 to be outfitted as its annex and Huis ten Bosch was further enlarged in 1960 to provide additional housing for approximately 70 student residents. A dining room with a cafeteria system was also added.

The first legendary fire of Huis ten Bosch started on 9 September 1983 at 04:30 AM after a heater caused a student’s bed linen to go up in flames. Approximately 50 ladies lost all their belongings. By mid-November the roof that was completely destroyed, was standing again and the Huis ten Bosch ladies were able to return to their beloved home at the start of the 1984 academic year.



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On the 12th of August 2019, another tragic fire occurred at Huis ten Bosch. Remarkably, the timing proved to be fortunate as most residents were gathered in the recreation hall for the announcement of the newly elected House Committee, enabling a quick and safe evacuation. Outside, the residents watched as their beloved home was engulfed in flames, with 16 residents losing all their belongings. For the remainder of 2019, residents were relocated to various accommodations across the Stellenbosch campus. However, the spirit of community that defines Huis ten Bosch persisted, and the residents found a sense of home in each other's presence - home is, after all, the people around you, not only the building you live in. This sentiment was fostered through weekly gatherings, picnics, and a memorable Leavers' Dinner, organized by the House Committee.



Huis ten Bosch, 2024

In 2020, residents were placed in HTB2020 (the new wing of Huis Marais), Armentum, and Victoria 69. Although COVID-19 cut the academic year short, it did not diminish the resilience of our Huis ten Bosch community. In the brief time together, the residents of 2020 celebrated Huisfondsdans, HtB Week and our first-ever Stay-in-Weekend, won the hockey 5's league and took second place in the annual Molasesêr.

The Huis ten Bosch community eagerly anticipated the unveiling of the newly renovated residence in 2021, and it exceeded all expectations! Huis ten Bosch has flourished ever since and remains a steadfast community in which residents are encouraged to be resilient, compassionate, and most important of all, to be themselves!

We are thrilled to welcome you, Newcomers of 2025, to Huis ten Bosch... to welcome you Home!

Esto Ipsa

LETTER FROM OUR RESIDENCE HEAD

KAREN SWART

05

Dear Huis ten Bosch Newcomers,

My name is Karen Swart, and I am Huis ten Bosch's Residence Head. My job is to be every HtB resident's mom away from home and to oversee the general workings of res. I live in res along with my family: my husband, Johan, my 22-year-old son, Ruben, and my grade 12 daughter, Lana. Way back, I was also a Huis ten Bosch resident, and this is my eighteenth year of being the Residence Head. I love working with students because each year a different group of newcomers with unique personalities and dynamics arrive and contribute to Huis ten Bosch's extraordinary identity. The House Committee, Mentors, and other committees are all very capable, passionate and are already working hard to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable transition into university life. I am excited to meet you all!

Enjoy the rest of your holiday and stay safe.

Warm regards,

Karen Swart



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LETTER FROM OUR PRIMARIA

DANIKA SINGLETON



Dear future HtB resident,

On behalf of the Huis ten Bosch House Committee, I would like to congratulate you on your placement in Huis ten Bosch! This is a remarkable accomplishment – you can feel very proud and immense gratitude.

Huis ten Bosch is a place where we live by the motto – Esto Ipsa: “Be yourself”. HtB was established in 1937 and, since then, it has been a home where residents are united by their differences. We strive to live by our values – UROC – unity, respect, open-mindedness and compassion. You are now a part of Huis ten Bosch – with a legacy rooted in kindness and ambition.

The opportunities and challenges in this new chapter of your life will shape you as a young adult. As you embark on this new journey, remember that university is so much more than the degree you are studying – it’s the people you meet and the memories you make.

Esto Ipsa

I want to encourage you to embrace every day. Make it your mission to create special moments, whether it is a stroll in Victoria street, or chats in the HtB garden. University is what YOU make of it. So, join clubs, attend events and meet new people – say “yes” to new opportunities!

My last word of advice would be to pack plenty of sunscreen and lots of energy for the welcoming period! Our House Committee has tailored a fun programme packed with activities, just for you. Myself, along with our Vice-Primaria – Anopaishe, our Residence Head – Tannie Karen, the House Committee, Mentors and Seniors Committee will be with you every step of the way. We are here to answer all your questions and help you thrive in Stellenbosch.

You are now a part of the Women of Fire – may you burn with passion and dedication!

We look forward to welcoming you at Huis ten Bosch!

With love

Danika Singleton

Esto Ipsa

LETTER FROM OUR VICE PRIMARIA

ANOPAISHE GOWERO

08



Hey HtBabes!!

Can you believe it? You're actually on your way to HtB — your soon-to-be cozy corner of Stellenbosch! Before you even arrive, we're already doing a little happy dance because you're joining our big family.

Here are a few things to note before you touch down in our sunny town:

Sunscreen = survival. Stellenbosch doesn't do "mild" heat — it's full-on summer mode!
#DisAltydLenteForReal

Our beloved front door, Knersus. This door closes in t-minus 7, but that's only because it's so excited to have you join us that it wants you inside HtB ASAP.

Those smiling faces you'll see at the entrance? Yep, every single one is waiting to welcome you.

HtB is all about heart. We're a home that celebrates real people — the shy, the loud, the dreamers, the doers, and everyone in between. Our motto is *Esto Ipsa*, it's Latin for "Be yourself". No pretending needed here, we want you to be you... **ALL OF YOU!**

Esto Ipsa

The first few days might feel like a whirlwind — new people, new routines, new adventures — but trust me, you'll find your groove faster than you think and Ubuntu iwll never say no to a hug. Soon, this will be the place where you laugh too hard, make late night snack runs to En Route and have friends who feel like family.

Hug that annoying brother of yours a little tighter, hang out with your wardrobe-raider of a sister of yours a little longer, laugh at those dad-jokes a little louder and thank your mom with a big smile for every meal.
Get Ready. Get Ready. Get Ready. Just be you — that's more than enough."

With all the warmth in the world,
Anopaishe

Esto Ippsa

WELCOMING LEADERS & NEWCOMERS' HC



Marise Kriel
Head Welcoming Leader



Anouk Moolman
Deputy Welcoming Leader



Teagan Bender
Newcomers' HC

Esto Ipsa

LETTER FROM MARISE KRIEL



Hellooo HtBabe!!

My name is Marise Kriel, I'm a third-year Chemical engineering student. I'm thrilled to be one of your Welcoming leaders for 2025! Joining me is Anouk, and we are both super excited to welcome you to Huis ten Bosch. We can't wait to meet you and help you feel right at home as you begin this new and exciting chapter of your life. Right now, you might be feeling a mix of emotions, and that's completely normal. Some of you might be buzzing with excitement for the independence that university life brings, while others may feel a little nervous about the changes ahead. Whatever you're feeling, know that you're not alone. The HC and Mentor teams are here to support you as you find your feet, make new friends, and start this exciting journey of growth and discovery. We have been working really hard to create a welcoming program that is filled with fun activities, some more quiet moments and lots of opportunities to form new connections with people in and outside of res. Our number one goal is to create an experience that will help you ease into university life and find your home here at Huis ten Bosch. One of my favourite quotes that I live by, is "if you weren't ready, you wouldn't have the opportunity and if you weren't capable, you wouldn't have the desire." We're so excited to meet you, and can't wait to see how you embrace this new and exciting adventure!

All my love!

Esto Ipsa

LETTER FROM ANOUK MOOLMAN



Hey Hey HtBaddie,

Writing this letter takes me right back to the end of my matric year, all the nerves, excitement, and “what now?” feelings that come with starting this new chapter. I can promise you that the next few years will be amazing, a little overwhelming, and they’ll fly by faster than you expect. That’s why it’s so important to make the most of every moment.

Welcoming is the perfect place to start. Every day is a chance to learn something new about yourself and the people around you. Huis ten Bosch is honestly such a special community to be part of. We’ve worked really hard to make sure our Welcoming program helps you feel at home and find your place here.

I’m excited to introduce the Connect (Vensters) event to you, Vensters is a big SU tradition that wraps up your Welcoming. You and other newcomers from different communities team up to put on a show with singing, dancing, acting. The theme for 2026 is “Carnival of Dreams”, and Annabelle, another awesome HC member, is the one running the Vensters portfolio this year.

I really can’t wait to meet all of you and be part of your HtB journey.

Lots of love,

Anouk

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LETTER FROM SISONGO GUGA



Hi soon-to-be HtBaddies

I'm Teagan Bender, a second-year BAccounting student and your Gees & Newcomers HC for 2026. I'm beyond excited to finally welcome you home to Huis ten Bosch — a place that will soon hold laughter, friendship, and moments that shape who you'll become. HtB is so much more than a residence. It's a family. Before you know it, the faces that once feel unfamiliar will be the ones you can't imagine your days without — the people you'll study, laugh, cry, and celebrate with. If I could share one piece of advice, it would be this: slow down and be present. You don't need to have everything figured out. The best memories often happen when you stop worrying about what's next and simply enjoy where you are. As Dr. Seuss said; "sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." So say yes to spontaneous plans, take chances, and grab every opportunity that comes your way. And please know — whether you need help, a chat, a study buddy, or someone to join you for a sweet treat run (I'll never say no to that) — I'm always just a knock or message away. You'll never walk this journey alone; that's the beauty of HtB — you have a whole sisterhood backing you.

So, take these last moments of holiday to rest, recharge, and get excited. The year ahead will be busy, beautiful, and unforgettable — and I can't wait to share it with you.

Alles vir die huis,

With love,

Teagan

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MEET THE HOUSE COMMITTEE



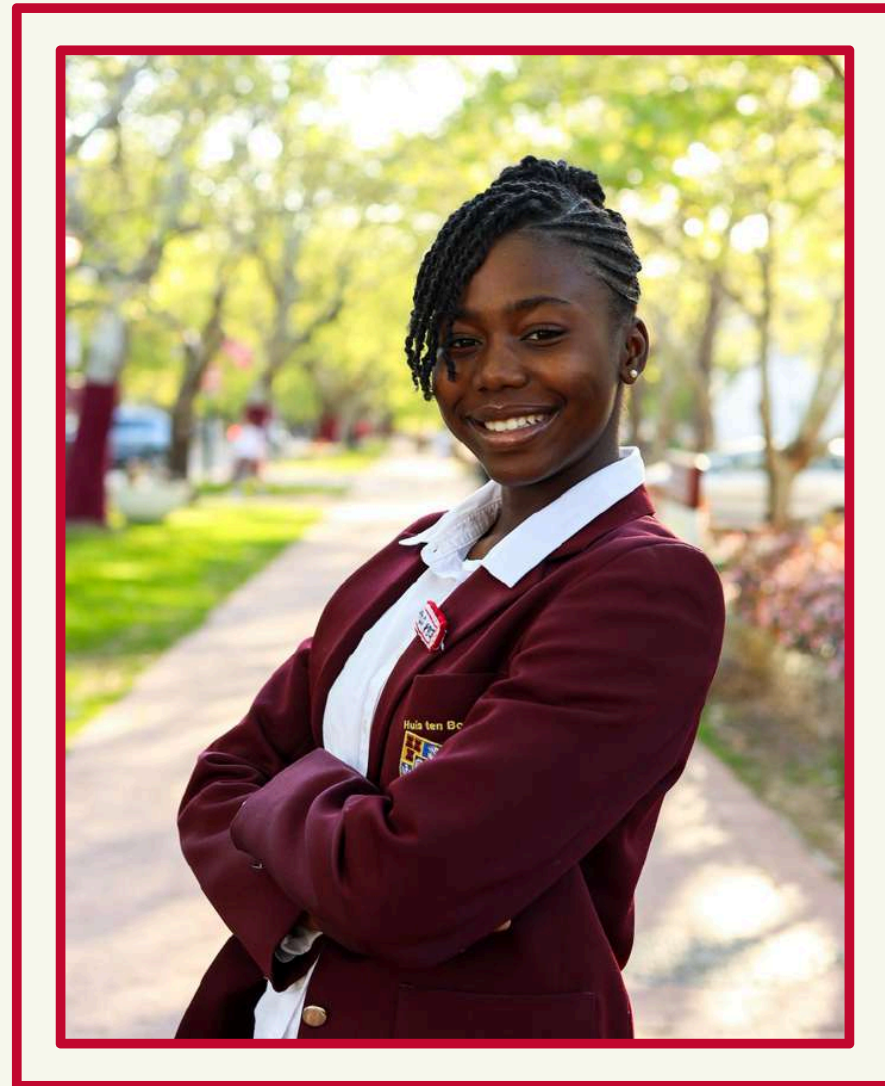
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FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US



Danika Singleton

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Anopaishe Gowero

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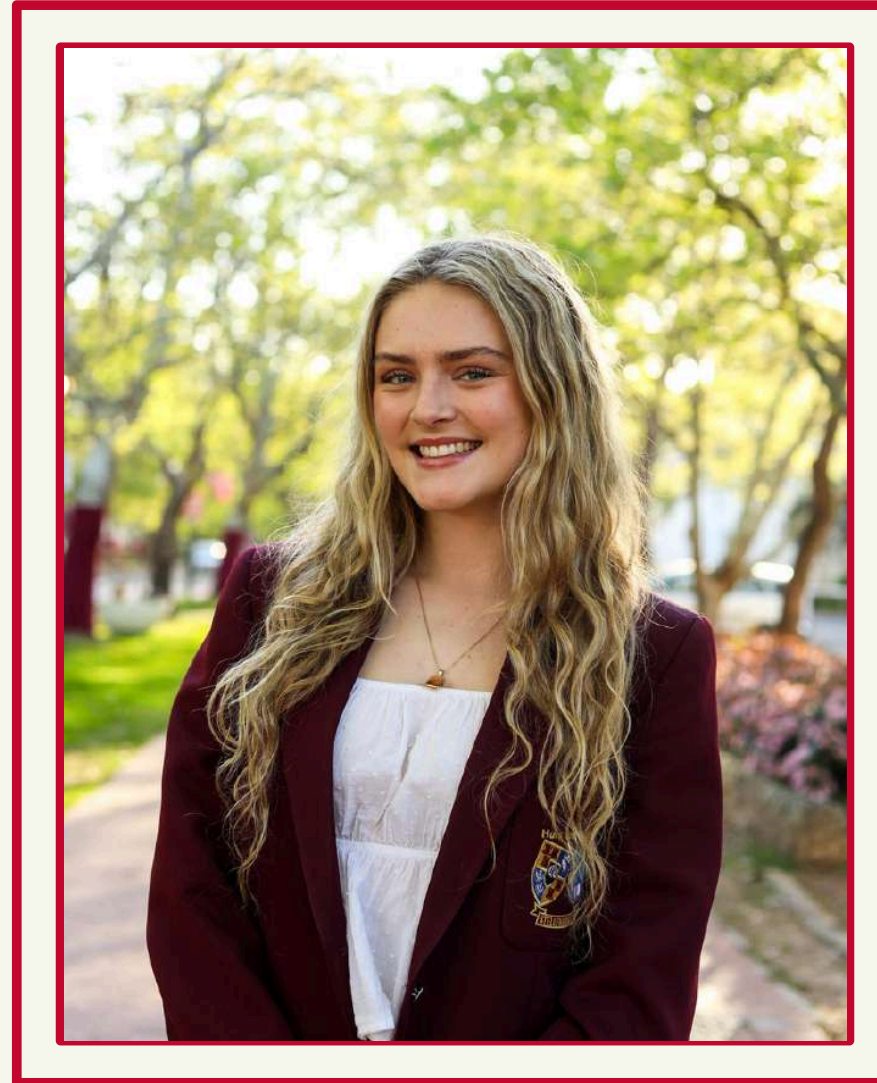
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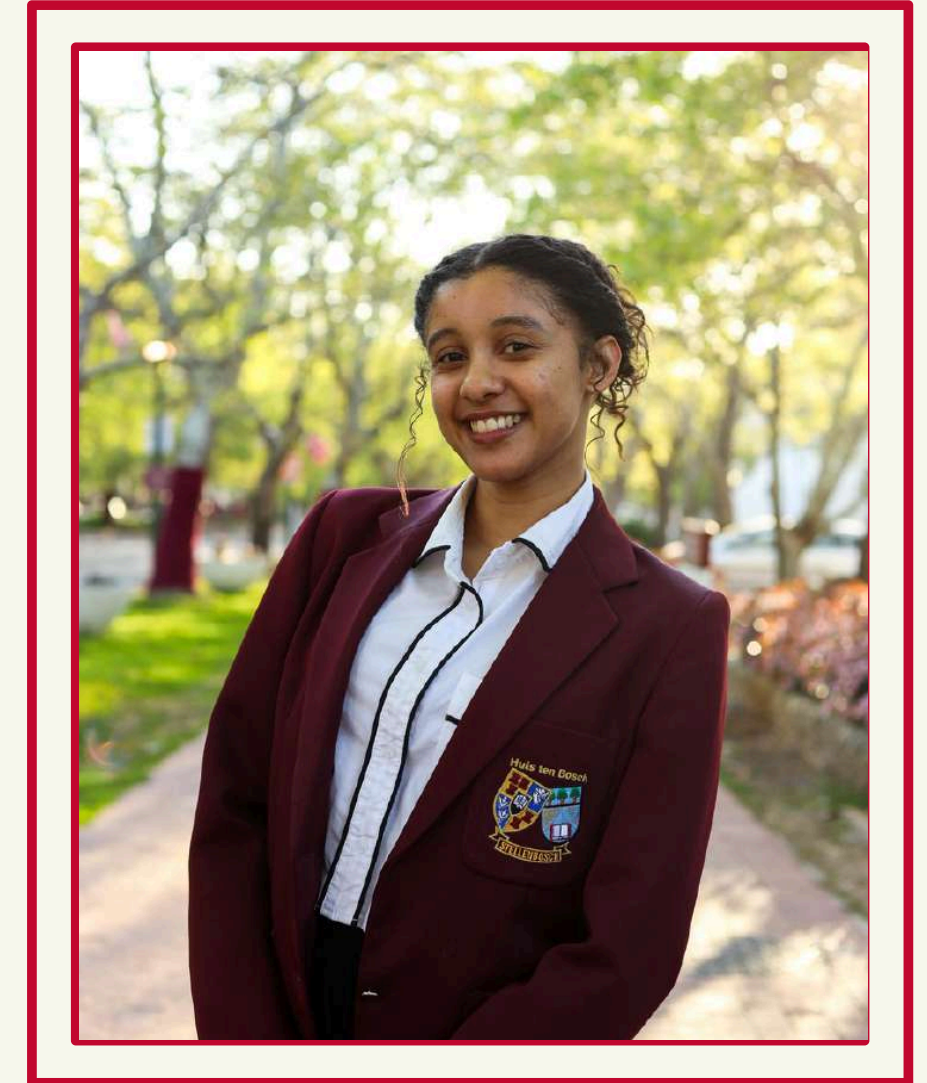
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MEET YOUR MENTORS



Each first-year student is linked with a mentor - a senior student who provides academic, social, and institutional assistance and support throughout your first year at Stellenbosch University.

Your mentor group will consist mainly of fellow HtB first year students that will study degrees within the same faculty as you. This will help you (especially post-welcoming) to have an automatic friendly face in your classes.

During welcoming, your mentor's role is to check in on your overall wellness and take you to your respective academic programs. Fear not! After welcoming, your mentor will not disappear - there are regular mentor check-in sessions as well as study sessions to help you adjust to university life.

Below, you will meet all the friendly faces of our mentors for 2025/26.

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Ruby Kurgan

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Kirsty Wallace

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ESSENTIALS TO PACK

Each room contains:

- 2 Single beds
- 2 Desks with a chair each
- A cupboard and bookcase for each roommate
- A bin for each roommate

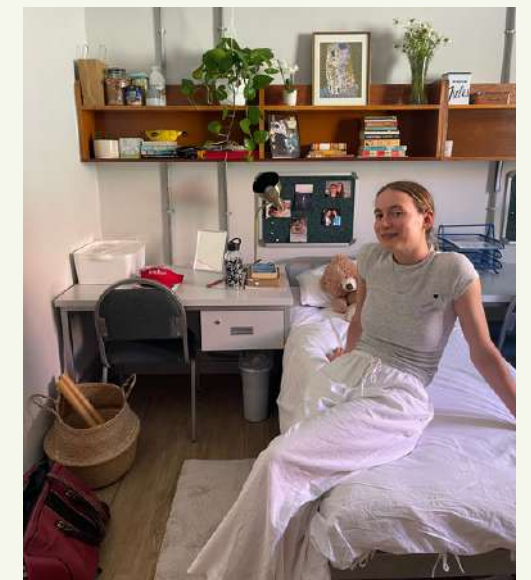
All rooms are fitted with curtains (one window per room)

Each room is connected to campus Wi-Fi

There are kitchenettes that contain hydro-boilers and microwaves in each section

Do not worry if you don't have your own computer or laptop - Huis ten Bosch has a computer room and there are computer labs around campus

There are printing facilities on campus



Esto Ipsa

ESSENTIALS TO PACK

Clothes for warm and cold weather (Stellenbosch is very hot during summer and very cold and wet in the winter months)

Toiletries

Sunscreen and comfortable shoes are especially important for the Welcoming period

Stationary and a bag to carry books for class

Sports equipment and musical instruments (if applicable to you)

2 locks (one for your room and one for your cupboard)

Washing powder, pegs, laundry basket (there are washing facilities in res)

Basic cutlery and crockery

Any personal affects such as photos and decorations to make your room feel like home

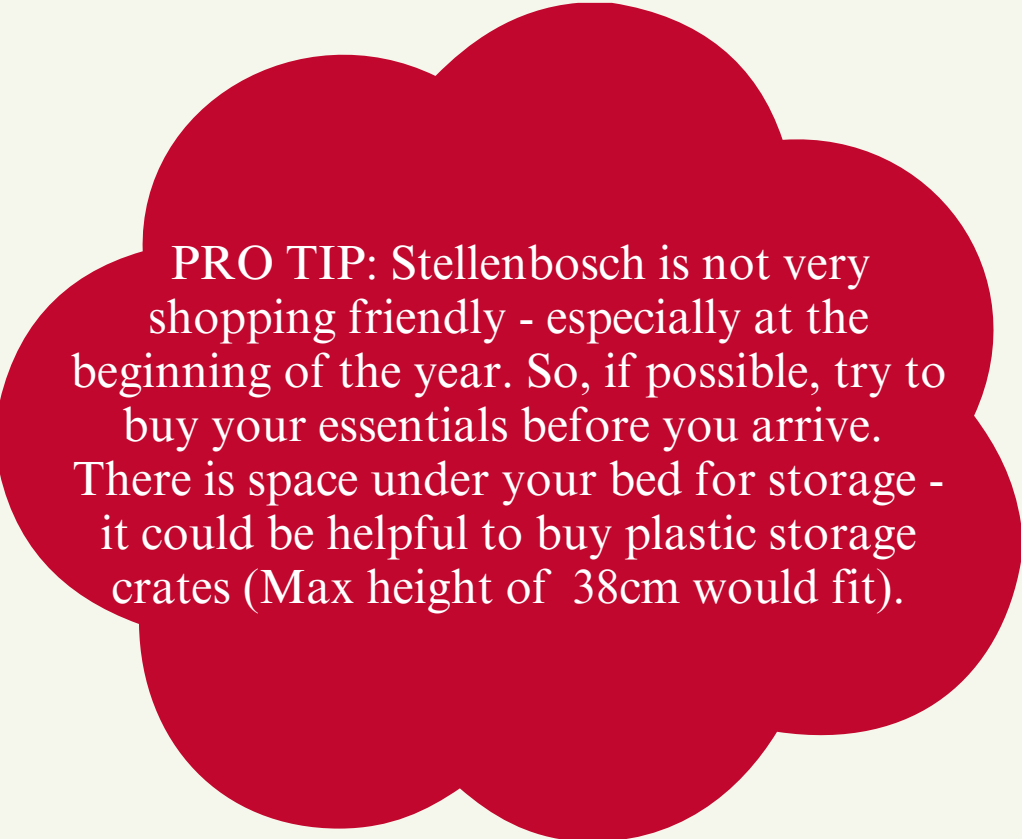
Bedding and mattress protector (You are provided with a single mattress)

Extension cords and adapters

Study lamp

Clothing hangers

Fridges are allowed but only one per room (We suggest that you and your roommate decide on this together)



PRO TIP: Stellenbosch is not very shopping friendly - especially at the beginning of the year. So, if possible, try to buy your essentials before you arrive. There is space under your bed for storage - it could be helpful to buy plastic storage crates (Max height of 38cm would fit).

Esto Ipsa

ESSENTIALS TO PACK

Creativity and dressing up will be part of your life in Stellenbosch. The list below is a guideline as to the type of items that will be of great use during welcoming, but not at all compulsory to have:

- A pair of black tights or leggings
- Black hot pants and shorts
- An old shirt
- Any red clothes and accessories (red being our residence colour)
- Colourful accessories and clothes
- Any old makeup or face paint
- Smart-casual clothes of your choice
- Comfortable clothing and shoes that will not break
- Sunscreen and sunglasses

Do not feel obligated to purchase these items, but rather bring along anything you already own or what is readily available to you.

Esto Ipsa



ACCOMODATION RULES

1. Microwaves, or other ovens, are prohibited from being stored in rooms. No hot plates, electric frying pans, or similar apparatus with open elements may be used in residence rooms. Two-plate stoves are completely prohibited. The university may confiscate these items.
2. No equipment that poses a fire risk may be used in rooms. The university may confiscate these items.
3. Smoking within Huis ten Bosch is prohibited.
4. The use of candles within Huis ten Bosch is prohibited.
5. Furniture may not be removed or swapped between rooms. You are responsible for the furniture that is in your room upon arrival.
6. No changes may be made by residents to any furniture, equipment, or wiring in the residence.
7. No Prestik, glue, or double-sided tape may be applied to any walls.
8. No holes may be drilled into the walls.
9. Stolen items, such as traffic signs, are prohibited within the residence.
10. Animals are prohibited
11. No food may be prepared in rooms, on verandas, or on balconies.
12. Huis ten Bosch is regulated by Alcohol Rules, which will be discussed with Newcomers during Welcoming.
13. The consumption of alcohol within Huis ten Bosch is prohibited during Welcoming.
14. Newcomers may NOT bring alcohol to Huis ten Bosch during Welcoming.

PLEASE NOTE: Huis ten Bosch is regulated by other rules, which will be discussed with Newcomers.

MOVE-IN INFORMATION

Move-in dates: Monday 26 January (law students) and Wednesday 28 January

Only TWO guardians are allowed to help with the move-in process. Please be punctual and follow all the ASSIGNED TIMELINE rules as we will be working on a very tight and strict system.

You will receive a second welcoming booklet towards the end of January 2026. That booklet will contain updated move-in information, including specific allocated timeslots.

You are kindly requested to follow the links on the next page and complete the questionnaires with your relevant personal details.

During the Welcoming period, you will be provided with three meals a day after which you will be able to choose to book meals or not. Money will be charged to your student account to pay for these meals. Please be sure to indicate any dietary requirements you may have in the attached Microsoft Form link.

We strongly advise Newcomers not to bring a car on campus. There is limited parking and it is extremely rare for a first year to be awarded reserved parking. Additionally, walking allows for you to become familiar with campus and HtB is one of the most centrally located residences on campus.

Esto Ipsa

QUESTIONNAIRES

We ask that you kindly fill in the attached Word document regarding:

- Mentor questionnaire
- Roommate questionnaire

As well as the following links regarding:

- Personal Information: [\(link to be added later\)](#)

Medical Information: [\(link to be added later\)](#)

Please join the WhatsApp group chat: [\(link to be added later\)](#)

Fill in and send your questionnaires to htbfirstyears@gmail.com

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO MEET ALL OF YOU!

Esto Ipsa

THE HOUSE SONG

27

eHuistenBosch siya Vuya
eHuistenBosch, simunye
Ubuhle beminyaka
Siyiphila xa sikunye

And if someday we should bid farewell
Remember them, we will
Upon memories made here
Our futures we will build

Daar's net een plek
En die plek is Huis ten Bosch
Waar my hart na trek, waar my hart na trek
Dis die bakste, bakste plek in die land
(x2)

HtB, HtB, Huis ten Bosch, Huis ten Bosch
HtB, HtB, Huis ten Bosch, Huis ten Bosch

Esto Ipsa
