

# Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria for BEng Programmes for 2026

## 1. Principles for undergraduate enrolment management

The University Council sets enrolment targets regarding the fields of study and diversity profile of the student body of Stellenbosch University, as well as the total number of students at the University. The University then manages all the enrolments from prospective undergraduate students to reach these targets and to ensure that the number of enrolments is within the available capacity, per programme. This means that there may be students who meet the admission requirements for a given programme but are not admitted.

The following points of departure apply when undergraduate enrolments are managed:

- Establishing an equitable, transparent, and reasonable process for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
- Contributing to the creation of an inclusive student community, where diversity is regarded as an asset.
- Attracting and admitting academically excellent students.
- Admitting prospective students who have the potential to graduate successfully and to be well-equipped thought leaders for the future.
- Offering equal opportunities to prospective students who are equally situated, and facilitating redress where individuals or categories of people were or still are disadvantaged due to past unfair discrimination.

## 2. Due dates and the use of Grade 11 results

### 2.1. Application Due Dates

Applications close 31 July of the year before the intended start of study. Late applications close 30 September and are only considered if there are still places available in the preferred programme.

### 2.2. Conditional Offer

If applicants, at the time of their application, are in Grade 12, their final Grade 11 results are used to decide whether they qualify for a conditional offer. The conditional offer must be accepted by the applicant and will expire if it is not timeously accepted. Once the conditional offer is accepted, the applicant status will change to "final offer pending".

Final offers can only be issued after the final Grade 12 results of the applicant becomes available (in January of the following year). Applicants will receive a final offer if the applicants' final Grade 12 results meet the minimum admission requirements for the BEng programme. If a final offer is issued, the applicant status will change from "final offer pending" to "final offer issued". The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires.

### 2.3. Final Offer

If prospective students, at the time of application, have already completed Grade 12, their final Grade 12 results are used to determine their admission and, if selected, they receive a final offer. The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires.

### 3. Minimum admission requirements

**Prospective students who meet the below-mentioned minimum admission requirements are considered for selection, as per Section 4 and 5.**

#### 3.1. Language of Tuition

The admission requirement for language is given below, but applicants should note that the lectures in all undergraduate modules are presented in English and Afrikaans lectures are also offered (in parallel sessions) in most of the modules of the first three semesters of the BEng programmes. In the first year of study, simultaneous interpreting (where English lectures are interpreted into Afrikaans) is offered when parallel sessions are not offered. All question papers of major assessments are available in both English and Afrikaans up to the third year and thereafter in English. Students are free to write any paper or assignment in either English or Afrikaans. Further details about the language of tuition in BEng programmes are given at [www.eng.sun.ac.za](http://www.eng.sun.ac.za).

#### 3.2. National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Independent Examination Board (IEB)

Only applicants who meet the following requirements will be considered for selection:

- Have a NSC or IEB pass with admission to bachelor's studies, or an exemption certificate issued by the Matriculation Board; and
- Have obtained an average of at least 70% in the relevant final school examination; and
- Have passed the National Senior Certificate or equivalent examination in Mathematics with at least 70% and Physical Sciences with at least 60%; and
- Have, in the National Senior Certificate examination, or equivalent, obtained the following minimum achievements in language subjects:
  - English Home Language: 50% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
  - English First Additional Language: 60% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
  - English First Additional Language: 50%, together with Afrikaans Home Language: 50% or
  - English First Additional Language: 50%, together with Afrikaans Second Additional Language: 60%.

#### 3.3. Foreign Schools

**Please note that you may apply for an exemption certificate within the first year of study at SU.**

Applicants from foreign schools should refer to the international curricula information at [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) (go to Apply – International Curricula).

ACE SCHOOL OF TOMORROW: Applications from candidates who follow the ACE school system are not accepted. However, to be considered for a final offer the following is required:

- A letter of support from ACE schools head office
- 55% for NBT Mathematics
- SAT score of 1600 with subminimum of 550 for Critical Reading; 500 for Maths and 500 for Writing

#### 4. Selection Criteria

Only students that meet the minimum admission requirements given above are considered for selection.

The school results and other relevant information are considered for students near the admission and selection thresholds.

The main selection mechanism is the selection score. To calculate the selection score, the percentages achieved in the respective subjects are used, as follows:

$$\text{Selection score} = \text{Mathematics} + \text{Physical Science} + 6 \times \text{Average}$$

The maximum score is therefore 800. The average percentage is normally calculated using the applicant's six best matric subjects (excluding Life Orientation, and normally including Mathematics and Physical Science). For foreign schools with only 5 subjects (e.g. Cambridge), the percentage of the 5 school subjects are used to calculate the average percentage. For foreign schools where Chemistry and Physics are taken as separate subjects, the average of these two is used in the selection score instead of Physical Science. For the Cambridge system, Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics must be on A or AS levels.

#### 5. Selections Process for Four-year BEng Programmes

The admission thresholds for each programme are influenced by the number of applicants and the number of student places available in the programme. The final selection thresholds for the respective BEng programmes are therefore only determined after the closing date for applications and can vary from programme to programme. The admission thresholds given below are revised annually.

##### 5.1. Before 31 July (before the closing date of applications)

Applicants that meet the following provisional selection thresholds are selected upon receipt of a complete application (conditional, if based on Grade 11 results):

4-year BEng Programme*	Chemical	Civil	Electrical & Electronic (Data Eng)	Electrical & Electronic (General)	Industrial	Mechanical	Mechatronic
Minimum Selection Score	Determined in early May and depends on the applicant pool and programme. Typically, in the range of 600 to 650						
Minimum Average	70%						
Minimum Mathematics	75%						
Minimum Physical Science	65%						

The selection of the following applications is not finalised and are considered further after 31 July:

- Applicants with selection scores above 570, and
- Applicants that have selection scores above 540 and that meet the requirements for admission to the extended degree programmes.

Applicants that do not meet the above requirements are informed that their applications were unsuccessful.

Please also refer to Section 5.5 regarding being considered for BEng programmes other than that given in the three preferences in the application.

### **5.2. After 31 July (after the closing date of applications)**

Finalising applications and selection processes after the closing date of applications normally takes 6 to 8 weeks.

After the final selection thresholds have been determined (considering the number of places and applicants), applicants whose applications are still under consideration (i.e. status: "reviewed", or "in progress") and that meet the final selection thresholds of the particular programme will receive a conditional offer (if based on Grade 11 results). Alternatively, they are placed on the waiting list.

Acceptance of late applications and further consideration of applicants on the waiting list are determined by the availability of places in the programme concerned.

Please also refer to Section 5.5 regarding being considered for BEng programmes other than that given in the three preferences in the application.

### **5.3. After the Matric Results Have Been Released**

The status of applicants that previously accepted a final offer remains unchanged.

Applicants that accepted the conditional offer (status: "final offer pending") with Matric results that meet the admission requirements for the BEng programmes, will receive a final offer. Applicants on the waiting list, or those who request reconsideration or those who submit late applications are thereafter considered for the places available in each of the programmes.

If a final offer is issued, the applicant status will change from "final offer pending" to "final offer issued". The applicant must accept the final offer before it expires.

### **5.4. Application currently/ previously enrolled at another university or other tertiary education institutions**

Applicants currently/ previously enrolled at another university or other tertiary education institutions, who want to transfer to a BEng programme in the Faculty of Engineering must submit their final school-leaving results and full academic record from the other tertiary institution. These applicants will be placed on the waiting list until September/October, and we will issue offers based on their academic performance in matric and at the other tertiary education institution.

Applicants currently enrolled at another university or other tertiary education institutions will remain on the waiting list until their academic record of the current academic year from the other tertiary institution are available and have been uploaded on their profile on the application portal.

Please also go to section 2.4.2 Applicants with prior tertiary learning of the [Engineering Calendar 2024](#) for more information on admission requirements.

## 5.5. Changing the Preferred BEng Programmes in the Application

Applicants who applied for a BEng programme may request that one of the three preferences on their applications be changed to another BEng programme. Such requests should be submitted to [info@sun.ac.za](mailto:info@sun.ac.za), also citing their student numbers and which of the three preferences should be changed. These applications will then be reconsidered for admission and selection for the newly indicated BEng preference according to the normal selection process given above.

Applicants should note that all the four-year BEng programmes, except the Data Engineering specialisation of the BEng (Electrical & Electronic Engineering), share the same core modules in the first year. This common core allows students who passed all their first-year modules to change at the end of the first year to any other BEng programme with the same core. If students did not pass all the modules in their first year, changing to another BEng programme is subject to a selection process.

## 6. Extended Curriculum Programmes

The Extended Curriculum Programmes (ECPs) were introduced to help students with educationally disadvantaged backgrounds to master the BEng programmes. Educational disadvantages include dimensions of socio-economic circumstances and educational or teaching circumstances. The ECPs offer alternative access to the programmes of the Faculty of Engineering. BEng ECPs require one extra year of study, which precedes the curriculum of the 4-year BEng programmes. Students who have completed this extra year successfully, and who meet certain additional requirements, may continue with the curriculum of the 4-year BEng programmes.

### 6.1. Application Process

Students do not apply for the ECPs but apply for the 4-year programmes. A limited number of students that are not selected for the 4-year programmes, but that do meet the admission and selection requirements of the ECPs, are considered for admission to the ECPs.

### 6.2. Minimum admission requirements for the Extended Curriculum Programmes

Only South African students that are in matric in the year they apply and meet the following requirements, are normally considered for admission:

- A NSC of IEB pass with admission to bachelor's studies, or an exemption certificate by the Matriculation Board
- An average of at least 60% in the NSC
- An NSC Mathematics mark of at least 60%
- An NSC Physical Sciences mark of at least 50%
- NSC language marks that meet one of the following:
  - English Home Language 50% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
  - English First Additional Language 60% (with no Afrikaans requirement) or
  - English First Additional Language 50% and Afrikaans Home Language 50% or
  - English First Additional Language 50% and Afrikaans Second Additional Language 60%

### 6.3. Selection Criteria

Applicants that meet the above minimum admission requirements are selected for the ECPs using the same selection criteria that are applicable to the 4-year programmes, but with adjusted thresholds. The thresholds are only determined after the closing date for applications, but the following selection thresholds are **indicative**:

Minimum Selection Score:	560
Minimum Average:	60 %
Minimum Mathematics:	65 %
Minimum Physical Science:	55 %
Socio-Economics Score:	2 or more

After the matric results have been released, applicants that accepted the conditional offer (status: "final offer pending") with Matric results that meet the admission requirements for the BEng ECP programmes will receive a final offer.

Applicants that are issued with a conditional offer (based on Grade 11 results) for an ECP and who do better in the Grade 12 examinations, may be reconsidered for an offer to a 4-year programme during final selection.