

Faculty of Science selection guidelines and admission policy for new entry first years

1 General information regarding selection

A selection procedure is followed in order to meet the target of nearly 680 for new first year student intake, of which 40% (by 2020) have to be diversity candidates. Selection takes place per programme for the various programmes in the Biological Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Physical sciences. The admissions number is divided per stream as follows (these numbers are revised annually on the basis of applications and needs):

Biological Sciences*	410
Mathematical Sciences	115
Physical Sciences	155

*Selection for the BSc Human Life Sciences stream (Biology) and stream (Biology with Psychology) could possibly be more strict and the admission threshold higher as a result of the large number of applicants.

- The principle of overbooking is applied to allow for the fact that not all applicants who are provisionally selected turn up, or qualify for final admission. The overbooking rate is reviewed annually to incorporate changing application and registration trends.
- The results of the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) are not used in calculating the selection mark but to support the selection process, especially in borderline cases to identify the more suitable candidates; and for allocating students into tutorial groups.
- Applicants who do not study directly after completing grade 12 often experience difficulties with Mathematics in their first year. Please keep in mind that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that he/she is prepared for Mathematics on university level. There is no additional support from the faculty available to catch up with school work.
- If an applicant has studied previously at another tertiary institution (not a new entry student), additional admission criteria apply (contact scienceadmin@sun.ac.za).

2 Minimum admission requirements (take note of requirements for various school systems).

2.1 The minimum admission requirements for mainstream programmes are as follows.

Programmes	Minimum admission requirements - National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB)	
An average performance level of at least 65% (excluding Life Orientation)		
A performance level of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language)		
1. PROGRAMMES IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES		
1.1 Biodiversity and Ecology	• Physical Sciences	4 (50%)
1.2 Molecular Biology and Biotechnology	AND	
1.3 Human Life Sciences	• Mathematics	5 (60%)
1.3.1 Stream: Biology	OR	
1.3.2 Stream: Biology with Psychology	<i>If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:</i>	
1.4 Sport Science	• Mathematics	6 (70%)
2. PROGRAMMES IN THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES		
2.1 Chemistry	• Physical Sciences	4 (50%)
2.1.1 Stream: Chemistry and Polymer Science	AND	
2.1.2 Stream: Chemical Biology	• Mathematics	6 (70%)
2.1.3 Stream: Textile and Polymer Science	<i>But, for students in Earth Science and GeoInformatics, if Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:</i>	
2.2 Physics		
2.2.1 Stream: Laser Physics (Physical), Nuclear Physics, Radiation and HealthPhysics	• Mathematics	5 (60%)
2.2.2 Stream: Laser Physics (Biological)		
2.2.3 Stream: Theoretical Physics		
2.3 Earth Science		
2.4 GeoInformatics		

3. PROGRAM IN THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES		
3.1 Mathematical Sciences	• Mathematics	6 (70%)
3.1.1 Stream: Financial Mathematics		
3.1.2 Stream: Computer Science		
3.1.3 Stream: Applied Mathematics	AND	
3.1.4 Stream: Mathematics	<i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken:</i>	
3.1.5 Stream: Mathematical Statistics	• Physical Sciences	4 (50%)
3.1.6 Stream: Operational Research		
3.1.7 Stream: Abstract Mathematics		
3.1.8.1 Stream: Biomathematics (Option 1: Molecular Biology)		
3.1.8.2 Stream: Biomathematics (Option 2: Ecology)		

(International school leaving qualifications have to meet the requirements for university exemption laid down by the Matriculation Board, HESA)

INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	Minimum admission requirements
An average performance level of at least 65% A performance level of at least 50% in Afrikaans or English	
HIGCSE and Namibian NSSC	
<i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:</i> • Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics	3
<i>If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	2
<i>If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	3
AS-level	
<i>If physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:</i> • Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics	D
<i>If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	B
<i>If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	C
A-level	
<i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:</i> • Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics	E
<i>If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	D
<i>If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	E
IB HL	
<i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:</i> • Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics	2
<i>If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	4
<i>If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	3
IB SL	
<i>If Physics or Chemistry is taken as university subjects:</i> • Physical Sciences OR Chemistry and Physics	2
<i>If Mathematics 114, 144 and Physics 114, 144 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	5
<i>If Mathematics (Bio) 124 and Physics (Bio) 134, 154 are taken:</i> • Mathematics	4

*Thus, Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics on IGCSE/GCSE/NSSC OL Gr 11 level, does **not** qualify for admission

*Contact the International Office (<http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/contact-us.html>) for the minimum admission requirements for school leaving qualifications not listed in the table above.

School of Tomorrow*			
Programmes	Admission requirements	NBT	
All programmes	As for NSC/IEB	Academic Literacy	60
		Quantitative Literacy	60
		Mathematics	55

* Applicants from the “School of Tomorrow” school system can only obtain an university exemption certificate on recommendation of the faculty. Selection of these candidates is thus dependent on meeting the programme specific admission requirements, as well as performance in the NBTs (unless the candidate sit the NSC exams in which case these results will apply.)

2.2 Minimum admission requirements for extended degree programmes (EDP)

Applicants who are provisionally admitted to mainstream programmes, but whose final results do not meet the minimum admission requirements of the specific mainstream programme, can direct a request for admission to a EDP. Preference is given to candidates from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, who meet the minimum admission requirements of the specific EDP and admission is subject to the availability of places.

Programmes	Minimum admission requirements – National Senior Certificate (NSC) and International Examination Board (IEB)					
	A final mark of at least 4 (50%) in Afrikaans or English (Home Language or First Additional Language) AND Comply with one of the following three combinations					
	Combination 1 minimum requirements		Combination 2 minimum requirements		Combination 3 minimum requirements	
Biological Sciences	Mathematics	5 (60%)	Mathematics	4 (50%)	Mathematics	5 (60%)
	Physical Science	4 (50%)	Physical Science	4 (50%)	Physical Science	3 (40%)
	Average (without LO ¹)	>=55%	Average (without LO ¹)	>=65%	Average (without LO ¹)	>=65%
Physical and Mathematical Sciences	Mathematics	6 (70%)	Mathematics	5 (60%)	Mathematics	6 (70%)
	Physical Science	4 (50%)	Physical Science	4 (50%)	Physical Science	3 (40%)
	Average (without LO ¹)	>=55%	Average (without LO ¹)	>=65%	Average (without LO ¹)	>=65%

3 The selection process

- Selection takes place on the basis of academic merit only.
- Meeting the minimum requirements of the programme applied for does NOT guarantee selection.
- **Grade 11 applicants**

Selection and provisional admission is based on the final grade 11 promotion marks. The selection mark for provisional admission is calculated as explained below (3.1.2).

¹ Life Orientation

- **Applicants who have already successfully completed their school leaving examinations**

The results of the final school leaving examination are used to calculate the selection mark as explained below (3.1.2). If the application is successful, final admission is immediately granted.

- **Applicants who better their grade 12 marks in the following year**

Applicants will be placed on a waitinglist until the improved school leaving examination results are available. These improved school leaving examination results are subject to the same selection criteria as applicable to all applicants for the specific year. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the improved marks to the Admissions Division (info@sun.ac.za) as soon as these marks are available, TOGETHER with the request to reconsider the waiting list status.

3.1 Selection for mainstream programmes

3.1.1 Selection committee

The selection of prospective students is done by the selection committee compiled by the dean of the faculty. All decisions regarding selection are approved by the dean prior to communication with the candidates and decisions are final.

If you are provisionally admitted to a programme but wish to change programmes, permission has to be obtained from the selection committee. The request must be directed to info@sun.ac.za.

3.1.2 How is selection done?

- A selection mark (SM) is calculated for each applicant as follows:

$$(2 \times \text{Mathematics mark} + \text{the marks of the other five subjects* (excluding Life Orientation)}) \div 7$$

Important: The exact marks are used. When applicants take more than 6 school subjects, the Mathematics mark, the highest mark for either Afrikaans OR English, plus the 4 other highest marks are used. Physical Sciences as school subject must be included in the abovementioned 4 school subjects if you want to follow a programme in the Physical or Biological Sciences.

- Only fully completed applications, which include the required supporting documents, will be considered in the selection process. (Please keep proof of submission of supporting documents). Closing date for applications is 30 June of the preceding year.
- Applicants have to meet all the minimum admission requirements of the programme applying for.
- Applicants are encouraged to take the NBT tests prior to the selection process. These results are not used in the selection formula but can be taken into account at the discretion of the selection committee.
- Keep in mind that an applicant can only be granted provisional admission, or final admission if grade 12 has already been completed successfully, into **one** programme applied for. E.g. if an applicant was initially accepted for his/her 2nd choice, this provisional admission (for the 2nd choice) lapses should the applicant's first choice be successful as well.

3.1.3 Timeframe of the selection process (mainstream programmes)

- Closing date for applications is 30 June of the preceding year.
- All applications with a selection mark of ≥ 75 (diversity applicants with a selection mark of ≥ 65); will be selected as soon as possible after receipt of application.
- Selection of all other applications received till 30 June, will take place from July until the end of October. These applications are ranked based on the selection marks. Selection is done subject to the availability of places per specific programme, taking the diversity composition into account until the target for new student first year intake is met. Remaining eligible candidates could possibly still be considered, (potentially until after registration) should it become evident that the registration targets per specific programme will not be met.
- As soon as provisional admission is granted, the applicant will receive a letter in this regard. Please keep in mind that this letter of provisional acceptance lapses when the applicant receives provisional acceptance hereafter for another programme.

3.2 Selection for admission to extended degree programmes

The selection process for these programmes aims to admit a maximum of 70 students, of which 75% should be diversity candidates, into these programmes. An applicant has to meet the admission requirements of the EDP and the socio-economical status of the applicant will be taken into account.

3.2.1 Selection committee

Selection of prospective students is done by a selection committee, compiled by the dean of the faculty. All decisions regarding selection are approved by the dean prior to communication with the candidates and decisions are final.

3.2.2 Timeframe of the selection process (EDP)

- **Candidates who have not yet obtained a final school leaving certificate**

Candidates can only apply for admission to an EDP with their final grade 12 results. Candidates who have already been provisionally admitted to the Faculty of Science, can direct a request (info@sun.ac.za or scienceadmin@sun.ac.za) for admission to an EDP, as soon as the final NSC/grade 12 marks are made available. The closing date for these requests is 15 January of the planned year of study.

- **Candidates who have already obtained a final school leaving certificate**

The closing date for applications is 30 June of the year preceding the year of study.

4 Final admission and registration

- Conditional admission status becomes final admission if the results of school leaving examination meet the admission requirements of the programme for which provisional admission was granted. Applicants are responsible to check whether they meet the admission requirements and are eligible to register as students.
- Registration can be done from middle January electronically or otherwise this must be done on the specific registration day in the registration venue.
- Applicants will only be allowed to register if proof of the school leaving qualification can be provided.
- Students on the waiting list will be considered for final selection as soon as outstanding marks are submitted to the selection committee.

Contact: scienceadmin@sun.ac.za or 021 808 3063