



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Department of Internationalisation and Strategic Partnerships

21 November 2025

Dear International Student

Information – Registration and Orientation 2026

This letter contains important information for all international students who have been admitted to study at the University of Pretoria (UP) for the first time or will be returning in 2026. Please read it carefully.

The Department of Internationalisation and Strategic Partnerships (DISP) serves as your primary point of contact at UP. DISP can be reached at: isd@up.ac.za

DISP is situated in:

The Graduate Centre
Ground floor
Hatfield Campus
Lynnwood Road
Hatfield
Pretoria, RSA

DISP offers a dedicated orientation programme for all new international students at UP. This compulsory session will take place on **30 January 2026** at **Springbok Hall, Hillcrest Campus, University of Pretoria**, starting at **08:30 for 09:00**.

During the orientation, we will provide important information to ensure a smooth transition to both South Africa and the University of Pretoria.

We look forward to welcoming you to this important programme. **Please do not miss it!**

Yours sincerely

Manager: International Students

Please note: All newcomers to the University of Pretoria – the OR Tambo International Airport is approximately 60 kilometres away from the Hatfield Campus. If you require assistance with transport, kindly contact: EZ Shuttle, email: info@ezshuttle.co.za, tel: +27 (0) 861 379 488. You can also take the Gautrain: <https://www.gautrain.co.za/>

1. Registration procedures for 2026

The International Cooperation Division in the Graduate Centre will be open from 5 **January 2026**.

All international students are urged to ensure that they have been admitted for their preferred study programme *before* embarking to South Africa, after final school results or other tertiary results are published/released. Please do not assume that you have maintained your admission on prior results submitted when applying for studies at the University of Pretoria.

Students, who have forfeited their academic placements, will not be able to move into residences.

Please upload your immigration documents onto your student portal. DO NOT ATTACH YOUR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS ON EMAIL, AS THE DOCUMENTS HAVE TO BE UPLOADED ONTO YOUR STUDENT PORTAL.

The *new* Immigration Regulations of 2014 came into effect on 26 May 2014. Effectively, this marked the commencement of the Immigration Amendment Acts of 2007 and 2011 and the new Immigration Regulations, 2014.

Obtaining a Study Visa

The first visa has to be applied for at the SA mission/embassy in your home country. Renewals can be done in SA through vfs: <http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica>.

All non-RSA citizen students who are holders of the following temporary residence permits are classified as international students at UP:

- Study Visa
- Relatives Visa
- Visitors Visa
- Diplomatic Visa (No diplomatic cards are accepted)
- Refugees Permit
- Asylum Seekers Permit
- Work or Critical Skills Visa to study part-time at the University of Pretoria
- Permanent Residents (***Permanent Residence status in South Africa only***)

2. Immigration clearance 2026

Passport and visa

A passport is an official document issued by a government, certifying the holder's identity and citizenship and entitling them to travel under its protection to and from foreign countries. A temporary residence visa should not be issued for any validity period that exceeds the expiry date of a passport. This is to allow the applicants to have a valid visa endorsed onto a valid passport as defined in Immigration Regulation and to regularize their status properly. The main difference between a visa and a passport is that a visa is an endorsement placed within a passport that grants the holder official permission to enter, leave or stay in a country for a specified period.

Briefly: the passport that contains your temporary residence visa, determines your citizenship.

Documents to be uploaded onto your student portal:

2.1 Study visa holder

Valid passport; and

- 1 X Copy of Passport (Page with photo and page with passport number)
- 1 X Copy of Study visa (*endorsed* for studies at the University of Pretoria)
- 1 X Proof of South African medical cover as stated under point 3

2.2 Asylum Seekers and Refugee permit holders

- 1 X Copy of *valid* Asylum Seekers permit or Refugee permit

2.3 Diplomatic Status

Only students with *diplomatic visas* (diplomatic cards are not acceptable) will obtain the benefits of diplomats.

2.4 Work Visa holders

Work visas to study part-time at the University of Pretoria, accompanied by a timetable or letter from the faculty confirming block weeks or part-time studies or research.

2.5 Permanent Residents of South Africa

1X Copy of Permanent Residence Permit with valid passport copy or,
1 X Copy of South African Identity Document.

3. Medical Cover

All non-South African citizens, including students who are citizens of SADC countries, need to comply with the visa regulations as determined by the Immigration Act, Act 19 of 2004.

Regulation 10(1) (i) determines the following:

An applicant for a study visa is required to provide proof of medical aid cover with a medical scheme registered in terms of the Medical Schemes Act, Act 131 of 1998, recognised in the Republic. The medical scheme must be registered with the *Medical Schemes Council of South Africa*.

<https://www.medicalschemes.com/MedicalSchemes.aspx?flt=L>

Note: Please make sure your medical cover runs concurrently with your visa.

3.1 Newcomers

International students can apply for Momentum Health or Comp Care Wellness Medical Scheme online *before* lodging their visa applications.

Please visit the website www.studenthealth.co.za (Momentum Health) or www.universal.co.za (Comp Care Wellness Medical Scheme) to apply online.

Should you experience any problems, you may contact Momentum Health directly.
Contact details are:

Momentum Health:

Email: sumeshan.chinsamy@momentum.co.za

Call: +27 (0) 82 781 4901

Comp Care Wellness Medical Scheme:

Email: nidia.angabe@universal.co.za

Call: +27 (0) 79 717 1964

The medical aid cover must be valid for twelve months; i.e., 1 January until 31 December.

Study Abroad and Exchange Students must secure medical cover for the duration of their stay. Medical Aid companies provide a minimum of six (6) months' cover. This provision is for Study Abroad and Exchange students only.

Should students rely on sponsorships, they should ensure that the sponsor is advised of this requirement at the onset of the sponsorship of the admission offer from the University. UP does not accept sponsorship letters in lieu of payment for medical cover.

Payment of the required medical aid cover fee is made directly to the medical aid service provider, prior to immigration clearance for registration.

Momentum Health and Comp Care Wellness Medical Scheme are medical aid companies with a developed student-focused product that is registered in terms of the Medical Schemes Act. Momentum Health and Comp Care Wellness Medical scheme offer the minimum benefits that a student may require while in South Africa.

Take note: Although you may, with another international insurance or medical insurance product, secure a study visa from a South African visa issuing authority, the University of Pretoria, in accordance with the Immigration Act, *does not recognise such medical cover or SA medical insurance for registration purposes. No medical cover or insurance from outside South African borders will be accepted.*

Momentum Health and Comp Care Wellness Medical Schemes offer weekly consultation sessions on the Hatfield Campus, International Cooperation Division offices, Graduate Centre. Students can join the scheme on campus or online.

Alternatively, you may purchase any medical cover on the following link
<https://www.medicalschemes.com/MedicalSchemes.aspx?flt=L>

4. **Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications (Undergraduates) – Universities South Africa (formerly HESA)**

A full or foreign conditional exemption certificate is a prerequisite and applicable to non-RSA students and to students who do not have a South African National Senior Certificate (NSC) qualification or Independent Examinations Board (IEB) qualification and who wish to enroll for undergraduate studies at the University of Pretoria. This certificate may be obtained from Universities South Africa.

Visit the website: <http://mb.usaf.ac.za/>

You can also contact: international_enrol@up.ac.za

5. **Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications – Postgraduates**

Postgraduate applicants must have all previous post-school qualifications verified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Foreign Qualifications Evaluation and Advisory Services

The purpose of the evaluation function is the recognition of foreign qualifications in terms of the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

SAQA performs the function as an integral part of a national recognition value chain. The focus of SAQA's role is on the location of foreign qualifications within the NQF. For admission to study; professional licensing; and employment the specific internal criteria and requirements of other relevant institutions must be met.

Evaluation is a two-phased process by SAQA to:

1. **Verify** foreign qualifications by ensuring the following
 - Issuing bodies are accredited/recognised in the national systems they operate in
 - Qualifications are legitimately issued by those issuing bodies and part of the national qualifications of that country
 - Qualifications documents are in order and awards claimed by individuals are genuine
2. **Compare** foreign qualifications with South African qualifications, considering the structure and outcomes of the foreign qualifications, to locate them within the South African NQF.

Foreign Qualifications

A foreign qualification is issued by a nationally recognised institution and forms part of the national education and training system of a country other than South Africa.

Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications call centre: 012 431-5070

Helpdesk: 0860 111 673

Switchboard: (012) 431 5000

Fax: (012) 431 5147

Street address:

SAQA House
1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield
Pretoria

Postal Address:

Postnet Suite 248
Private Bag X06
Waterkloof, 0145

Operating hours: 08:30-16:30 (Weekdays)

Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications: Operating hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 08:30-16:30- Thursdays 09:00-16:30

You can also contact: pginternational@up.ac.za

6. Special Orientation Programme for International Students (Newcomers)

The Department of Internationalisation and Strategic Partnerships (DISP) offers a special orientation programme for international students every year. This programme is compulsory for all newcomers to the University of Pretoria. The information and orientation programme will take place on **Friday, 30 January 2026**.

Please note that the Welcoming Day and Academic Orientation Programme mostly cater for first time comers to UP. The idea behind our special orientation programme is to facilitate the integration of new international students into the UP community, as well as informing them of the support services available on campus.

This special orientation programme for international students is in no way meant to replace the information provided at the Academic Orientation Week and Welcoming Day, but to add value to it by adding information applicable to international students only.

Note: This programme is for admitted students only. No parents or friends will be allowed to attend the programme.