



**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**SELECTION CRITERIA OF MBChB STUDENTS
2025 FOR 2026**

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applications to be considered for admission to the 2026 academic year open on 1 April and close 30 June 2025. **No late applications will be considered.**
- In order to register for a first bachelor's degree at the University, a candidate should have completed the National Senior Certificate (NSC) or an equivalent qualification, and meet the minimum requirements for admission to bachelor's degree study.
- Candidates must also comply with the particular subject and level requirement as well as with the minimum Admission Point Score (APS) for the relevant study programme.
- The APS calculation is based on a candidate's achievement in six 20-credit recognised subjects by using the NSC ratings that is the "1 to 7 scale of achievement", as explained in the table below. Thus, the highest APS that can be achieved is 42.
- Life Orientation is a 10-credit subject and is excluded from the calculation when determining the APS.

Rating code	Rating	Marks %
7	Outstanding achievement	80-100%
6	Meritorious achievement	70-79%
5	Substantial achievement	60-69%
4	Adequate achievement	50-59%
3	Moderate achievement	40-49%
2	Elementary achievement	30-39%
1	Not achieved	0-29%

- Grade 11 results (English % + Mathematics % + Physical Science + next three best marks in recognised 20-credit subjects, excluding Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy and Mathematics paper III/6) will count 100% in determining the Merit Point Score (MPS) of candidates for provisional selection (provided the minimum admission requirements are also met). **Value added attributes (e.g. job shadowing, community service, leadership, etc.) are not considered.**
- Grade 11 results are used in the provisional admission of prospective students.
- The final NSC or equivalent qualification results will be the determining factor with regard to final admission of those offered provisional places.
- The decision of the selection committee is final.

Degree programmes	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	APS
Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) 10130003	5 (60-69%)	6 (70-79%)	5 (60-69%)	35

FACULTY-SPECIFIC ADMISSIONS REGULATIONS

- The Faculty of Health Sciences seeks to admit students with the academic credentials, which have been shown to predict for success.
- Places are reserved in specific categories to ensure an equitable representation of demographically defined designated groups. Selection thus takes place in different categories as indicated in this document.
- For purposes of selection in the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Designated Group category includes South African candidates of Black African and Coloured descent. The Open category refers to all applicants including those from the Designated Group who compete first in the Open category and, if unsuccessful, subsequently compete in the Designated Group category.
- The target numbers applicable to each programme are specified for all the categories. If insufficient applications from qualifying applicants are received in a certain category, the Selection Committee may decide to either not fill all the places, or to offer them to qualifying applicants from another category.
- A limited number of places are made available to citizens from countries other than South Africa*, with those from SADC countries being given preference. Permanent residents of RSA are not categorised as foreign students. Applications from citizens from countries other than South Africa* may also be considered if they are:
 - citizens or permanent residents of countries which have relevant government to government agreements with South Africa
 - asylum seekers or refugees
- Citizens from countries other than South Africa* who do not comply with the above conditions may be considered if space is available.
- Applications received from citizens of other countries* that have their own medical schools are not considered for admission to medical studies (MBChB).
- Applicants who have multiple citizenships, including South African citizenship, will be considered to be South African.
- The final number of places allocated to new applicants will be determined on an annual basis, taking into account the teaching facilities and resources available and, where necessary, the number of places allocated to students repeating modules in the first year of study.
- Only applicants who comply with the requirements set out in this document will be considered for selection. **However, compliance with the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission as only a limited number of students can be accommodated.**
- Selection is based on merit. The faculty does not determine specific selection cut-off values for the different categories. Such values are generated by the number of students competing in a particular category in relation to the number of places available.
- A Merit Point Score (MPS) is used for ranking applicants for selection purposes.
- Only first and second-choice applicants will be considered.
- The top candidates will be selected provisionally up to or surpassing the allocated number, based on past experience regarding the expected number of acceptances.
- All offers are provisional until the final exam results have been received. For applicants in the School-leaver categories a provisional place will be confirmed as long as the NSC or equivalent MPS scores are not more than five points below the Grade 11 MPS score.
- Once the final NSC or equivalent qualification results have been received, provisional offers will be confirmed if the applicant still meets the required criteria. The MPS of all applicants who met the minimum requirements but were not provisionally selected and applicants who forfeited their places due to the MPS score falling more than five points will be recalculated using the NSC or equivalent qualification results and if places become available, offers will be made to them.
- Any places that become available in any category after selection due to cancellation or forfeiture will be filled from the recalculated selection list for the specific category.
- This recalculated selection list will remain active until the end of the second week after the commencement of lectures.
- All successful candidates are admitted to the first year of study only. Registered students in the University Experienced categories may apply for credit for completed equivalent modules.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Any deliberate omission of information or false information provided by an applicant in his/her application may result in the immediate cancellation of the application, admission or registration.

*(Applicants who are not South African citizens)

SELECTION CATEGORIES

Places that become available in any category after selection due to cancellation or forfeiture will be filled from the recalculated selection list for the specific category. This list will remain active until the end of the second week after lectures have commenced.

CATEGORY	SCHOOL LEAVERS (including those who have taken a gap year and had no university experience)
1	Open category – all school-leaving applicants first compete here
8	Designated groups category: All South Africans or permanent residents of Black African or Coloured African descent who are not successful in category 1 will compete in category 8.
	PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE
3	Open category: All applicants with university experience first compete here. A full academic record is required. All courses must have been passed.
9	Designated groups category: All South Africans or permanent residents of Black African or Coloured African descent who are not successful in category 3 will compete in category 9. A full academic record is required. All courses must have been passed.
	PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION/APPLICANTS SPONSORED BY SANDF
6	Admission in terms of provincial representation. Selection based on the highest MPS in categories of province of origin (where NSC written) of the applicant. Applicants sponsored by SANDF.

CALCULATION OF SELECTION SCORES AND SELECTION PROCESS

School-leavers category

- All applicants are required to meet the minimum criteria for admission to a university and should be in possession of a full/foreign exemption certificate or a National Senior Certificate with admission to degree studies. Applicants with immigrant exemption, but with only one language may be considered. (General rule G1: NSC certified by Universities South Africa (USAf) with an academic rating of 4 in four recognised 20-credit subjects).
- Provisional selection of candidates who apply during their final NSC or equivalent qualification year is based on a Merit Point Score (MPS)
- Unless otherwise indicated, the MPS is calculated as follows:
 - Grade 11 results (English % + Mathematics % + Physical Science + next three best marks in recognised 20-credit subjects, excluding Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy and Mathematics paper III/6) will count 100% in determining the Merit Point Score (MPS) of candidates for provisional selection (provided the minimum admission requirements are also met).
 - All offers are provisional until the final NSC or equivalent qualification results have been received. Applicants' provisional places will be confirmed as long as their MPS scores do not drop more than five points below their Grade 11 MPS scores and still meet the minimum admission requirements.
- Applicants who apply after completion of the final NSC or equivalent qualification, for example those who take a gap year without any university exposure, will be provisionally selected based on their final NSC or equivalent qualification marks.
- Applicants will be considered in applicable categories.
- **Open category (category 1): All school-leaving applicants first compete here.**
- **Designated groups category (category 8): All South Africans or permanent residents of Black African or Coloured African descent school-leaving applicants who are not successful in category 1 will compete in category 8.**
- Applicants from countries other than South Africa* must comply with all University and Department of Home Affairs regulations related to foreign students.
- School of Tomorrow or Accelerated Christian Education candidates do not comply with the minimum requirements for degree study, as certified by USAf.
- General Education Diploma (GED) candidates do not comply with the minimum requirements for degree study, as certified by USAf.

*(Applicants who are not South African citizens)

Minimum requirements based on Cambridge qualifications

- Candidates will be considered for admission and conditionally admitted if they meet the admission requirements based on their IGCSE / O-Level results.
- IGCSE and O Levels are considered equal to Grade 11, therefore the higher interpretation on the conversion grid must be used for conditional admission. For registration for bachelor's degree studies, the requirements must be either AS or HIGCSE plus exemption. Although IGCSE and O Levels are exiting qualifications, AS or HIGCSE levels are required for registration.
- Foreign Exemption Certificate issued by USAf.
- The approved UP Percentage and APS conversion table must be used to calculate the UP percentage and subject requirement equivalence.

Previous university experience category:

- Applicants who have completed at least one year of university degree or postgraduate diploma (NQF Level 8) studies, including those who have completed undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees or a postgraduate diploma (NQF Level 8) at recognised tertiary education institutions, will be considered in the applicable categories.
- **Open category (category 3): All applicants with university experience first compete here.**
- **Designated groups category (category 9): All South Africans or permanent residents of Black African or Coloured African descent with university experience who are not successful in category 3 will compete in category 9.**
- All courses (subjects/modules) must have been passed.
- Applicants who have completed only a three year diploma or certificate are not considered. These applicants will be considered in the school-leavers category, provided they meet the minimum admission criteria.
- Applicants must hold a full/foreign exemption certificate or an NSC or equivalent qualification with admission to degree studies.
- A calculation is used based on the number of completed subjects/modules. A minimum of 4 subjects/modules is required. The formula returns a score which has a maximum value of 80.
- For applicants in their first year of study, the marks obtained during the first semester will be used for selection. Applicants must be registered for a minimum of eight (8) semester subjects/modules for the year and must have a minimum of four (4) subjects/modules with final marks when selection is done at mid-year (AIM and ELH or equivalent modules excluded). **Candidates who do not comply with these requirements (e.g. registered at a university that only has year modules/subjects and no first semester modules/subjects) will unfortunately not be considered.**
- Applicants who are not UP students are required to submit an official academic record. Results printed from the university web, a statement of credits, a statement of test or examination results and progress reports will not be accepted as an official academic record. The applications of students who fail to capture and upload their official academic records on their Student Portals on or before the due date will not be considered.
- In the case of applicants who apply during a year of study for which no marks are available at mid-year when selection is done, the marks of the previous year/s will be used.
- All offers to applicants who are registered at a university are conditional and subject to the applicant passing all the subjects/modules registered for in the current year of study and maintaining the same academic level at which selection was done.
- For completed degrees or a Postgraduate Diploma on NQF Level 8, the following is added to the calculated score:
 - Three-year bachelor's degree: +1
 - Honours degree or equivalent: +1
 - Postgraduate diploma (NQF Level 8): +1
 - Master's degree 50% to 64%: +1
 - Master's degree 65% to 74%: +2
 - Master's degree with distinction: +3
 - PhD: +3

The **University Module Achievement Score (UMAS)** appears on page 6 of this document (formula used for applicants with previous university experience).

Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) 10130003			
CATEGORY		PLACES	SELECTION PROCESS
1	School leavers Open	88	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Merit Point Score: Grade 11 results (English % + Mathematics % + Physical Science + next three best marks in recognised 20-credit subjects, excluding Life Orientation, Mathematical Literacy and Mathematics paper III/6) will count 100%. All offers are provisional until the final NSC or equivalent qualification results have been received. Applicants' provisional places will be confirmed, provided that their NSC or equivalent qualification MPS scores do not drop by more than five points below their Grade 11 MPS scores and still meet the minimum admission requirements. In Category 1 the places will be allocated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSC: 66 places IEB: 16 places Cambridge/IB: 6 places Scores for applicants in categories 3 and 9 are calculated as described under Previous university experience category on page 4. A minimum of 50% (HG) or 4 for Mathematics and Physical Sciences (or Physics and Chemistry) is required in the final NSC or equivalent qualification examinations or corrected at tertiary level. Applicants who indicate MBChB as their first or second choice will be considered.
8	School leavers: Designated Groups	100	
3	University experience Open	36	
9	University experience: Designated Groups	66	
6	SANDF sponsored applicants	10	
Total		300	

University Module Achievement Score (UMAS)

Calculation of the University Module Achievement Score (UMAS) for applicants with previous university experience

The UMAS of applicants is calculated as follows:

- For applicants in their first year of study the marks from the first semester (minimum of 4 subjects/modules, excluding AIM [Academic information management] and ELH [Academic English for Health Sciences] or equivalent modules).
- For applicants who have completed more than a year of tertiary studies and are currently registered (2025 academic year) their academic achievement during the last three semesters (first semester of 2025 and the two semesters of 2024 with a maximum of 20 subjects/modules).
- For applicants in a year of study for which no marks are available at mid-year, only the marks of the previous year(s) will be used (with a maximum of two years and 20 subjects/modules). The same will apply for students who have a completed degree(s) and are not registered in 2025.
- All courses (subjects/modules) must have been passed.

The UMAS calculation is based on the number of completed subjects/modules and the formula returns a score which has a maximum value of 80 (excluding bonus points).

Bonus points are added as follows for completed degrees:

Three-year bachelor's degree:	+1
Honours degree or equivalent:	+1
PGDip on NQF Level 8	+1
Master's degree (50%-64%):	+1
Master's degree (65%-74%):	+2
Master's degree with distinction:	+3
PhD:	+3

The grid below will be used to calculate the UMAS:

NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY SUBJECTS	Results/grades obtained per university subject/module			
	>75%	70 – 74%	60 – 69 %	50 – 59%
4	19.5	15.5	12.9	10.3
5	16.0	12.8	10.6	8.4
6	13.3	11.0	9.0	7.2
7	11.4	9.7	7.9	6.3
8	10.0	8.8	7.1	5.7
9	8.9	7.8	6.5	5.2
10	8.0	7.0	6.0	4.8
11	7.3	6.4	5.5	4.4
12	6.7	5.8	5.0	4.2
13	6.2	5.4	4.6	3.8
14	5.7	5.0	4.3	3.6
15	5.3	4.7	4.0	3.3
16	5.0	4.4	3.8	3.1
17	4.7	4.1	3.5	2.9
18	4.4	3.9	3.3	2.8
19	4.2	3.7	3.2	2.6
20	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
Total	80	70	60	50