

# Faculty of Engineering (2020)

---

## Language of tuition

The lectures in all undergraduate modules are presented in English. 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 and second years 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 <http://www.eng.sun.ac.za>.

All postgraduate programmes are offered in English.

## Minimum admission requirements for BEng

- The National Benchmark Tests AL, QL and MAT must be written
- A National Senior Certificate (NSC) with admission to bachelor's studies, or an exemption certificate by the Matriculation Board
- An average of at least 70% in the NSC
- A NSC Mathematics mark of at least 70%
- A NSC Physical Sciences mark of at least 60%
- NSC language marks that meet one of the following:
  - English Home Language 40%, with no Afrikaans requirement OR
  - English First Additional Language 60%, with no Afrikaans requirement OR
  - English First Additional Language 50% AND Afrikaans Home Language 40% OR
  - English First Additional Language 50% AND Afrikaans Second Additional Language 60%
- Over and above the aforementioned requirements, candidates are subject to selection according to the criteria given below.

## Selection criteria

- Applications close 30 June. Late applications close 30 September and will only be considered if places are still available in the relevant programme.
- Prospective first year students who meet the minimum admission requirements given above are formally assessed with reference to a selection formula.
- **Conditional admission:** If prospective students, at the time of their application, are in Grade 12, their final Grade 11 marks are used to decide whether they qualify for conditional admission. This conditional admission will be changed to final admission, after the NSC results have become available, if their final NSC results are the same or better than their Grade 11 marks or, if weaker, their NSC results still meet the admission requirements and selection criteria for the relevant BEng programme.
- **Final admission:** If prospective students, at the time of application, have already completed Grade 12, their final NSC results are used to determine their admission and – if selected - can be granted final admission.
- The results of the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) may be considered along with the school results and other applicable information. Personal interviews form part of the selection process in exceptional cases only.
- The main selection mechanism is the selection formula. To calculate candidates' selection scores, the percentages obtained in the respective subjects are used.
- **Selection score** = Mathematics percentage + Physical Sciences percentage + 6 x Matric Average  
The Matric average is the average of the six best subjects, excluding Life Orientation.  
The maximum for the selection score, therefore, is 800.
- The minimum selection score required in order to be admitted, called the **admission threshold**, is individually determined for each BEng programme from year to year. The admission threshold for a programme is affected by the number of applicants and the number of student places. As a result, admission thresholds may differ from programme to programme in a given year.
- In recent years, a selection score above 600 to 650 (depending on the programme) has afforded candidates a good chance of being admitted. A prospective student's results in the National Benchmark Tests play an increasingly important role if his/her selection score comes close to or falls below the admission threshold.

- **Waiting list:** Since the selection thresholds can only be determined after the closing date for applications, prospective students whose selection scores indicate that they have the potential to complete the BEng concerned, initially will be placed on a waiting list. The selection thresholds are determined after the closing date for applications and subsequently everybody on the waiting list is considered for admission. Prospective students who meet the admission thresholds are granted provisional or final admission, but the others will remain on the waiting list. The latter may be admitted to the relevant programmes at a later stage, provided that student places have become available in the meantime.
- **Extended Degree Programmes:** A limited number of the students are considered for admission to the Extended Degree Programmes, as described below.
- Prospective Engineering students experiencing problems with the University's application procedure should report this at tel. 021 808 3947.

### Extended Degree Programmes for Engineering

Extended Degree Programmes were introduced to help students with an inadequate school background to master the BEng programmes. These Extended Degree Programmes offer alternative access to the programmes of the Faculty of Engineering.

Extended Degree Programmes require one extra year of study, which precedes the curriculum of the four year BEng programmes. Students who have completed this extra year successfully, and who meet certain additional requirements, may continue with the curriculum of the four year BEng programmes.

A limited number of students are selected for the Extended Degree Programmes and preference is given to students from educationally disadvantaged environments. One cannot apply for an Extended Degree Programme. However, prospective students who have applied for a four year BEng programme and have not been admitted, will be considered for admission to an Extended Degree Programme, provided they meet the admission requirements for the Extended Degree Programmes.

### Admission requirements for the Extended Degree Programmes

- A National Senior Certificate (NSC) with admission to bachelor's studies, or an exemption certificate by the Matriculation Board
- An average of at least 60% in the NSC
- A NSC Mathematics mark of at least 60%
- A NSC Physical Sciences mark of at least 50%
- NSC language marks that meet one of the following:
  - English Home Language 40% OR
  - English First Additional Language 60% OR
  - English First Additional Language 50% AND Afrikaans Home Language 40% or Afrikaans Second Additional Language 60%
- Over and above the aforementioned requirements, candidates are subject to selection according to the criteria discussed above.