



**Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University**

*for tomorrow*

Port Elizabeth & George



# FREQUENTLY ASKED **QUESTIONS**

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## Welcome note

Thank you for enquiring about Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) – a university educating you for the challenges of life and work...for tomorrow.

This booklet of *Frequently Asked Questions* strives to provide answers to some key questions you may have about studying at NMMU. We hope the user-friendly format will elicit further enquiries about NMMU and finally see you joining our wonderful University in the near future!

We really look forward to welcoming you at NMMU.



*Professor Derrick Swartz*  
**NMMU Vice-Chancellor**



“*Enrolling at NMMU may well be one of the most significant decisions of your career.*”

# NMMU lifestyle

## Why NMMU?

NMMU is ideally located and offers a vast variety of programmes in a multi-cultural and caring environment.

► **Our location:** Five of NMMU's campuses are in Nelson Mandela Bay and one in George. Both are ideal places to spend your student years, offering all the advantages of city living in a friendly and safe environment in spectacular natural surroundings – from beaches and mountains to game reserves and indigenous forest.

► **Our learning experience:** NMMU has more than 500 study programmes, including several fields in which we excel. We are well-known for art and design, architecture, building, chartered accounting, engineering, health and environmental sciences and information technology. We hold the SA Research Chairs in nanophotonics, maths education, micro/fluidic/bio chemical processing, earth systems sciences, law of the sea and development in Africa, shallow water ecosystems, automotive engineering, mechatronics and HIV/Aids in Education. Many programmes include workplace experience as part of the curriculum, giving you the advantage of being able to walk straight into the real world of work.

► **Our multiculturalism:** We are the most diverse university in South Africa, with African students coming from 34 countries on the continent. We network with leading institutions around the globe to ensure that our students are prized players wherever they find themselves in the job market.

► **We care:** NMMU offers a variety of social and cultural activities, which means you can have fun while you study. There is an extensive range of associations, cultural societies, sport clubs and facilities, allowing you to make new friends, interact with fellow students and explore subjects of mutual interest. A wide range of student services and support facilities are offered to assist you in every aspect of student life.

Students have access to well-equipped laboratories for specific subjects, lecture halls, libraries, counselling and health services, cafeterias, food courts and coffee shops. NMMU also strives to accommodate people with disabilities by ensuring that reasonable accommodation, access, examination and other academic concessions are made to meet your needs.





# Study @ NMMU

## How do I apply to NMMU?

First you have to make sure that you meet the admission requirements of the programme of your choice. Obtain a copy of the undergraduate programme guide as well as an application form from the admissions office or download it from our website ([www.nmmu.ac.za/application](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/application)).

Once completed, you must submit your application together with the relevant documentation and application fee to the admissions office by hand or by post. The fee changes annually so please consult the admissions office to determine the correct amount. Applicants whose parents studied at NMMU do not pay the application fee, provided that they apply before the initial closing date. All prospective applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

## Is there a deadline for applications?

Yes, early applications for undergraduate courses need to be submitted before the initial closing date. Applications will still be accepted after this date but at a higher application fee. There is no guarantee that you will be accepted after this date as preference is given to applicants who submit their applications before the official closing date.

## Can I apply online?

Yes, prospective applicants can apply online

by going to: [applyonline.nmmu.ac.za](http://applyonline.nmmu.ac.za) and following the instructions.

## What do I need to apply online?

- A valid SA ID number or passport number;
- Access to the internet and a valid e-mail address;
- Access to a scanner and/or a fax machine and/or a printer (if applicant is a dependent or currently at school or studying at another tertiary institution or has recently left school and does not/will not have permanent employment when applying or studying at NMMU);
- Proof of payment of your application fee;
- A certified copy of the first page of your ID;
- Your latest school exam results;
- A copy of your marriage certificate (if applicable);

NB! Remember to include your cell number as well, as we will be sending you your application status and other important information via your cellphone.

## What is an Admissions Point Score (APS)?

APS stands for Admission Point Score. Each NMMU undergraduate programme requires a specific APS for direct admission to the programme. Applicants will need to meet the APS directly or fall within the testing band in order to be considered.

## What happens if I do not meet the APS directly?

Applicants who do not meet the APS directly for a specific certificate, diploma or degree programme but whose APS falls within the testing band, may be referred to write an access assessment test before a final decision is made. If your APS falls outside of the APS testing band you need to consider applying for an alternative programme.

## Does NMMU accept National Curriculum (Vocational) NC(V) applicants?

Yes, applicants who are in possession of a National Curriculum (Vocational) level 4 certificate can apply for admission to NMMU. Applicants must bear in mind that they can only apply for a related qualification and must meet the set admission requirements for NC(V) applicants.

## What can NC(V) applicants study?

NC(V) applicants can apply for a limited number of related programmes. This means that NC(V) applicants can only apply for a qualification which is similar to their current NC(V) study field.

## What would an interview with a department entail?

Only applicants who apply for certain programmes will be required to attend an inter-

view. During this interview you may be asked to present a portfolio of your work and to answer questions about your interests and inspirations. Details of the requirements for the interview and portfolio will be sent to you after your application form has been processed. Portfolios are currently only a requirement for students who wish to pursue studies in the creative and visual arts.

### **Will my second choice be considered if I am unsuccessful with my first choice?**

Yes, applicants are first considered for their first choice, and if they do not meet the direct entry requirements but their APS falls within the testing band, they are referred to write the access assessment test. If they do not meet the direct entry requirements for their first choice or their APS score falls below the APS testing band, their second choice will be considered provided that there is still space available in that particular programme.

### **If my June/July school results are not good should I still apply to NMMU?**

Applicants can use their grade 11 final exam results to apply to the university before the initial closing date. You will however need to submit your grade 12 June/July or September results in order to gain provisional admission to NMMU. The final decision is based on your final grade 12 exam results.

### **What is the language of teaching and learning at NMMU?**

While NMMU is committed to multilingualism, the language of learning and teaching at NMMU is English. We also strive to develop and promote the isiXhosa language and culture and to ensure the maintenance and strengthening of Afrikaans.

### **Are all qualifications at NMMU internationally recognised?**

Yes, programmes offered at NMMU are internationally recognised and accredited by the relevant professional bodies.

### **Can I transfer from another higher education institution to NMMU?**

Yes, applicants who have studied at other higher education institutions but would like to complete their studies at NMMU can apply for admission. Applicants must ensure that they include their certificate of conduct and academic record from their current institution together with the relevant application form when applying.

### **Does NMMU assist graduates in finding work after they have graduated?**

The university strives to make as much information and services available to students in order to better equip them after they have graduated. The Graduate and Student Placement division assists students in finding suitable employment through a number of initiatives, including an annual careers fair.



## Referred for testing

### What is the Access Assessment Battery?

The Access Assessment Battery (AAB) refers to the three NMMU access tests that you may have to write in order for a decision to be made about whether or not to admit you into your chosen programme at the university.

### What kind of tests will I write?

This depends on the qualification that you have applied for. Everyone writes an English Reading Comprehension Test and an Arithmetic Test. If you have applied for a maths-orientated programme and you did Maths Literacy and not Maths at school, you will also write an Elementary Algebra Test. All three tests are multiple choice.

### What must I learn and how can I best prepare?

The tests are designed to measure your current knowledge and skills. It is therefore not

necessary to learn for them. The best way to prepare yourself is to have a good night's rest before your test session, have breakfast and make sure that you arrive on time for testing.

### Can I fail the AAB?

No. The AAB is made up of ability tests that measure your current abilities in the areas of English, numeracy and mathematics. Different programmes require different test scores on each of the tests for admission into that programme.

### How will I know if I have to write the AAB?

You will receive an official letter from the NMMU Admissions Department inviting you to write the AAB. You may also be notified via SMS.

### How do I book a test session?

You can phone the CAAR offices on 041 504 2918. When you call, have your student number or reference number from your letter, and a pen and piece of paper handy to write down all the details.

### How long does it take after being tested to receive my admissions decision?

If you have submitted all the required information, your test results and the decision on

your admission into your requested programme should be available about three weeks after the testing. If you were tested at one of our remote sites, your application may take longer.

### How will I know the outcome of my assessment results?

Your test results will be posted to you in a report. You will receive notification of your admissions decision via SMS and/or via an official letter from the Admissions Department.

### Where can I write the AAB?

You can write the AAB in Port Elizabeth or George on the NMMU campuses. You may also be tested in Cape Town, East London, Mthatha, Durban, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg or Polokwane if one of these venues suits you better. These venues are referred to as our "Remote Sites".

### Do I have to pay for the testing?

It depends on where you are tested. Testing done at the NMMU campuses in Port Elizabeth or George is FREE. However, testing done at any of the other sites (our remote sites) is conducted by a private psychologist who will charge a fee.





## Money matters

### What different types of fees are payable?

#### ► Application fees

All prospective students are required to pay a non-refundable application fee which covers administrative costs.

#### ► Enrolment fees

Enrolment fees are debited to a student's account and are payable annually.

#### ► Down-payments / Registration fees

The down-payment is the first advance payment towards tuition fees. The amount will be credited towards your student fees account.

#### ► Tuition fees

Tuition fees are calculated according to the number of modules elected or the study programme the applicant has applied for. These fees vary. A detailed account can only be provided once an applicant has registered at NMMU for a particular programme.

#### ► Residence fees

Students who have been accepted into one of NMMU's residences will be required to pay a down-payment payable before registration, a residence breakage deposit as well as payment towards meals provided by the university.

### What bursaries/funds are available at NMMU? And how do you apply for these?

#### ► Scholar Merit Awards

The Scholar Merit Award scheme rewards top performing students for the marks achieved in the final grade 12 exams. The better the student's marks, the greater the discount on their fees. No application is necessary – the bursary is awarded automatically. Points are awarded for the levels obtained in each of your seven NSC subjects and the amount is linked to the total merit points achieved.

#### ► NMMU Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship

The Vice-Chancellor recently introduced a premier scholarship to top achievers in the country. The scholarship, valued at R70 000 a year, is renewable annually for the first undergraduate degree or diploma, provided academic performance remains of the highest standard. Up to 30 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships are granted each year. For more information phone: Marketing & Corporate Relations on 041 504 9923 or e-mail [vcs@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:vcs@nmmu.ac.za).

#### ► Student Merit Bursaries

Returning students automatically qualify for merit bursaries based on the final results



in their previous year of study. Students who pass all their modules with a weighted average mark of 70% (subject to change) or higher, receive a student merit bursary, the rand value of which is determined on a sliding scale. The minimum value is R3000. This award is only made to SA citizens.

#### ► Sport Bursaries

The NMMU Sport Bureau offers sport bursaries of varying amounts to those who have demonstrated the ability to play sport at a high level of competition. Application forms are available from their office. E-mail: [sport@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:sport@nmmu.ac.za) or phone 041 504 3505 for more information.

#### ► National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

NSFAS is a government loan scheme, with the added incentive of a maximum of 40% being converted into a non-repayable bursary depending on academic performance. The purpose of these loans is to assist financially-needy students who have the academic potential to succeed. As loans do not necessarily cover all costs, students are encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources. Only students whose GROSS combined family income (mother and father) does not exceed

R140 000 per annum need apply. Application forms are available from all financial aid offices from May each year. Incomplete application forms will not be considered. For more information contact their Call Centre on 021 763 3232 for more information.

#### ► Bursaries administered by NMMU

Bursaries are also available to full-time students using funds provided by private donors or trustees. Applications for financial assistance from funds administered by NMMU must be made on a financial aid application form. Application forms can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office on NMMU's North Campus or phone 041 504 1242 or e-mail: [financialaid@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:financialaid@nmmu.ac.za).



## Accommodation

### Is NMMU a residential university?

NMMU is a residential university that provides a vibrant, multi-cultural student life experience that develops students holistically. NMMU provides different types of residences for students at different stages of the student life cycle.

### If I live in PE or George can I stay in res?

Unfortunately not. As space is limited, students who live within a 60km radius of the university campuses in either Port Elizabeth or George cannot apply for residence accommodation. Only in exceptional circumstance are allowances made for students who require on-campus accommodation. Such requests must be made to the Student Housing Department for consideration.

### What type of accommodation is offered on campus?

Units mainly comprise of double bedrooms with shared or communal bathrooms. There is a very limited number of single rooms available. Those are allocated to senior students based on merit. On-campus residence facilities varies from campus to campus.

### If I live off-campus can I still participate in student life?

Yes, as all non-residential NMMU students are automatically members of the Oppidani House

and are known as Oppies. Participation in non-academic life is encouraged with regular sporting, cultural and other events.

### How much does it cost to live in res?

Residence fees vary depending on the type of room (single or double) you have been allocated. In addition to your standard residence fee students living in res are also required to pay an initial up front down-payment, breakage deposit as well as registration fees. For more information consult the NMMU Finance Guide.

### Are meals provided?

NMMU has both self-catering as well as fully-catered residences. The self-catering residences are traditionally for senior students while the catered residences are for first and second year students. The dining rooms in the catering residences offer breakfast, lunch and dinner menus plus a range of a la carte items. A student can pre book a meal from the range of available a la carte items on the booking and billing system (Meal Management System).

### Am I guaranteed a place in res?

As space is limited not all prospective students will be able to be accommodated on campus. Early application is essential and no student will be allocated a place in one of NMMU's residence before he/she has been accepted academically.

### Do I share a room or will I be alone?

All first-year students will be sharing a room with fellow first-year students. Some students prefer sharing a room during their time at NMMU. Single rooms are limited and are allocated to senior students on merit.



## More information

### Where can I get more information on study options at NMMU?

Prospective students can obtain more information about NMMU's wide variety of study options by contacting any of the following:

#### Port Elizabeth campuses

Tel: 041 504 1111

E-mail: [admissions@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:admissions@nmmu.ac.za)  
or [info@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:info@nmmu.ac.za)

- PO Box 77000
- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- Port Elizabeth • 6031

#### George Campus

Tel: 044 801 5111

E-mail: [george-info@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:george-info@nmmu.ac.za)

- Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
- George Campus
- Private Bag X 6531
- George • 6530

For more FAQs visit our website at  
[www.nmmu.ac.za/Apply/FAQ](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/Apply/FAQ)

[www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za)



## Vision

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

## Mission

To offer a diverse range of quality educational opportunities that will make a critical and constructive contribution to regional, national and global sustainability.

## Values





*South Campus*



*George Campus*



*Bird Street Campus*



*Missionvale Campus*



*North Campus*



*Second Avenue Campus*