



Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University

*for tomorrow*

# 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 offer quality higher education to more than 27 000 students across six campuses, making us the largest university in the Eastern and Southern Cape. As we go into the future, our goal is to build NMMU into a cutting-edge African university recognised for its contribution towards a sustainable tomorrow.

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 privileged to carry the name of the iconic statesman, the late Nelson Mandela, whose legacy we wish to honour and grow. As such, we are a university of and for South Africa and are set on contributing to local, regional and African development. We encourage young minds to think afresh about “old” problems; to develop a sense of purpose; to think critically about how to create a more sustainable planet... in short, to become socially just citizens who add value wherever they find themselves in life.

- ▶ **Our location:** Five of NMMU’s campuses are in Nelson Mandela Bay, comprising Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Despatch and midway between Port Elizabeth and Cape Town is George – home to NMMU’s George Campus. 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 is one of six comprehensive universities in South Africa, offering both general and professionally orientated university programmes from the entrance level (certificate) through to re-

search level (PhD). Our university has a strong track record in both fundamental and applied research, working extensively in partnership with business and industry.

Our range of about 450 programmes equips students for careers in more than 130 broad fields. Programmes are internationally recognised and accredited by the relevant professional bodies. Along with a first-class academic education, NMMU provides students with a co-curricular report reflecting their involvement beyond the classroom as part of the university’s quest to produce holistic, socially-just students.

- ▶ **Our multiculturalism:** 8% of our students come from outside of South Africa, making NMMU a popular choice for international students, and our African students come 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 free Wi-Fi, 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 who are differently abled.

## Sport @ NMMU

### Madibaz Sport

Madibaz Sport offers a wide variety of competitive and recreational sport programmes for students and staff, as well as for the wider university community. They provide the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation ranging from informal games for fun, to highly competitive leagues where skills are tested against the best in the province and country.

Well-equipped health and fitness centres offer professional gym facilities at student prices, and provide assistance with sport performance testing, sport specific training and injury rehabilitation. Madibaz Sport provides

club members with excellent sport facilities, scientifically-based coaching programmes and organisational and administrative support.

### The following clubs are offered on the various NMMU campuses:

- ▶ Athletics ▶ Athlons (Tri; Bi; Du- and Biathle)
- ▶ Basketball ▶ Chess ▶ Cricket ▶ Cycling
- ▶ Golf ▶ Hockey ▶ Judo ▶ Karate
- ▶ Netball ▶ Rugby ▶ Rock Climbing\*
- ▶ Rowing ▶ Shooting ▶ Soccer ▶ Squash
- ▶ Surfing ▶ Swimming ▶ Table Tennis
- ▶ Tennis ▶ Underwater Hockey
- ▶ Volleyball ▶ Water Polo

\* Only offered on George Campus.

## Study @ NMMU

### How do I apply to NMMU?

First you need to ensure that you meet the admission requirements for 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)). Applicants can now also apply online by logging on to [www.nmmu.ac.za/applyonline](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/applyonline).

Provisional admission is based on the levels you have obtained in your grade 11 final and/or grade 12 June/September examinations; however,

the final decision is based on your grade 12 final exam results. You must submit your application form (manual or online) together with the relevant documentation to the admissions office. 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. 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: [www.nmmu.ac.za/applyonline](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/applyonline) 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);
  - A certified copy of the first page of your ID;
  - A certified copy of the first page of your parent/guardian/Surety ID;
  - Your latest school exam results (Gr 11 final or Gr 12 June/Sept or final NSC 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 sms.

### 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.

### 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, in addition to meeting NMMU's admission requirements as indicated.

### What would an interview with a department entail?

Only applicants who apply for certain programmes will be required to attend an interview. 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 test-



ing band, they may be 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.

### **Does NMMU assist students with a specific disability?**

Yes, NMMU accommodates people who are differently abled through the provision of support and special services. This will ensure that you will not experience any unfair discrimination as a result of your particular disability while you are a student at NMMU. As each case needs to be individually assessed, prospective students need to register their needs with the university's Disability Unit, as early as possible, preferably the year prior to registration, so that you can be assisted.



### **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 at NMMU are recognised and accredited by the relevant professional bodies, locally and, in some cases, internationally.

### **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 NMMU 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 Test?**

The Access Assessment Test (AAT) refers to the three NMMU access tests that you may be referred to write in order for a decision to be made about whether to admit you into your chosen study programme or not.

### **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 you will also write an elementary algebra test. All three tests are multiple choice, and have no time limit.

### **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 AAT?**

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

### **How will I know if I have to write the AAT?**

You will be notified via SMS to book a test. You may also receive an official letter from NMMU's admissions office inviting you to write the access assessment tests. Please make sure that admissions has your correct cell number and notify them immediately should your number change.

### **How do I book a test session?**

You can phone their office on 041 504 2918. When you call, have your student number or reference number from your letter or SMS, and a pen and piece of paper handy to write down all the details. You can also book online ([www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za)).

### **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 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?**

You will receive notification of your admission decision by SMS and/or an official letter from our admissions office. Your test results will be posted to you in a report. You can also view your status online.

### **Where can I write the AAT?**

You can write the AAT on NMMU campuses in Port Elizabeth or George. You may also be tested at our remote sites in Cape Town, East London, Mthatha, Queenstown, Durban, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg or Polokwane if one of these sites suits you better.

### **Do I need to pay for testing?**

It depends on where you are tested. Testing done at NMMU's campuses in Port Elizabeth or George are FREE. However, testing done at any of the other sites (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 international 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 their 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.

### ▶ Leadership Awards

Leadership awards are granted to head prefects and learner council presidents who meet the Scholar Merit Award criteria. Documentary proof of your Grade 12 results as well as your leadership position must be



submitted to the financial aid office. The last day for qualifying for this particular award is 31 March.

### ▶ NMMU Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship

This scholarship, valued at R82 782 a year (subject to change), is renewable each year for a first NMMU undergraduate degree or diploma, provided academic performance remains of the highest standard. Up to 25 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships may be granted each year. For more information contact: Marketing & Corporate Relations on 041 504 3084/3430 or e-mail: 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's Sport Bureau offers sport bursaries of varying amounts to those who have demonstrated the ability to play sport at a high level of competition.

Applications are available from their office.

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

Phone 041 504 2555/2165 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. Prospective students are required to apply online to NSFAS for funding.

For more information contact their Call Centre on 086 006 7327 or e-mail: [info@nsfas.org.za](mailto:info@nsfas.org.za).

### ▶ **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 1111 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, 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 upfront 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:

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#### **Port Elizabeth Campuses**

Tel: 041 504 1111

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

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

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#### **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)





South Campus



George Campus



Bird Street Campus



Missionvale Campus



North Campus



Second Avenue Campus

## Values

