

Admissions Policy

Version No.1

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1. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND

The University's vision is to make a positive impact on society through creating and advancing global knowledge and fostering graduates to be leaders with integrity. In line with this Wits strives to be the 'leading edge' as the foremost research-intensive university in the Global South bridging the world's divides, driven by our motto, *Scientia et Labore*, to achieve this. Our goal is to:

- * lead in growing the next generation of change-makers and global scholars;
- * lead in innovation and pioneering knowledge;
- * lead in addressing the inequities of our past, including strengthening our democracy and governance in South Africa; and
- * lead in Africa, taking our continental partners on this journey with us, to transform the global university landscape.

The University wishes to nurture diverse perspectives in the student body to enhance individual and team performance and remove hurdles to create an inclusive environment and life view where students feel welcome and their contributions are valued.

This also implies that the student body should reflect diversity of race, gender, socio-economic background, urban and rural geographic origin, culture, ethnicity, disability, religion, sexual orientation, national origin.

Faculties select students through a combination of criteria which includes, amongst others, merit and performance and take into account the DHET's annual enrolment plan. The University shall not admit students for whom it does not have adequate resources including space, library material, computing facilities, or special academic support when needed.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Admission Policy is to ensure transparent and fair admissions processes and to recruit and enroll academically excellent students. The University's admission requirements for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are reviewed and published on an annual basis.

3. PRINCIPLES

Selection and admissions decisions need to balance adherence to the principles of equity, inclusivity and diversity, with the continued recognition of academic excellence. While the University has a responsibility to address inequities, it cannot, on its own, compensate for inadequate educational experiences in other contexts. To improve completion rates and support excellence, the University commits itself to:

- admissions practices that are fair and transparent;
- being a demographically diverse and cosmopolitan world-class institution furthering the Constitutional vision of a democratic and non-racial South Africa;
- the development of access criteria that do not rely entirely on success in school-leaving examinations (as reflected in matriculation points rating), for identifying potential candidates from disadvantaged groups and socio- economically deprived backgrounds;
- to a teaching and learning environment which is conducive to success. Where ever use is made of any additional assessment processes to inform admissions decisions, these practices will conform to the relevant statutory or professional standards and norms. Senate is required to approve alternate admission entry requirements;
- an increasing focus on teaching and learning practices, and on academic development programmes at Faculty and School level designed to significantly improve the academic development skills of all students across all programmes.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The University's admission criteria are advertised annually and the responsibility for administering the associated processes is managed by the Student Enrolment Centre in consultation with the Faculties and other units at the undergraduate level.

Admission into programmes leading to a higher qualification are defined in the University General Rules to ensure that candidates are qualified at an appropriate standard to undertake the proposed line of study or research or both. Postgraduate admission selection is managed by the Schools in consultation with the Faculties.

Once a student is admitted to the University, the University undertakes to provide whatever educational support may be reasonably expected for him or her to have equal access to academic success. With this in mind, the University will also attempt to foster a richly inclusive and welcoming institutional culture, and to conduct regular reviews of curricula, programmes, and pedagogy, to make sure that these take account of the inclusivity we wish to foster.

Although we realise that adequate funding for a student is directly associated with likelihood of success, financial aid provision cannot meet demand. As the University wishes to ensure diversity and equity in the profile and performance of its students it will direct its resources, within budgetary limits, to supporting students who excel academically and who are not able to fund their own studies in full.

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Summary	Changed by
1	27 July 2023	Admissions Policy	Carol Crosley