VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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1966-2026

**FAQ DOCUMENTATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

## 1. ADMISSION AND APPLICATION

### 1.1. How do I apply online to Vaal University of Technology as an international student?

Applications are submitted online by either visiting the university website www.vut.ac.za or by clicking on the link: https://www.vut.ac.za/apply-to-vut/ . The closing date for applications is 30 September 2026.

### 1.2. What are the admission requirements?

Entry requirements are different for each program. To qualify, you need to meet the minimum score set for your chosen course. Always check the requirements listed under the faculty that offers your program before applying.

The following standard requirements apply (R120, 00 application fee, academic transcripts with proof of qualification verification by SAQA, final school results with proof of qualification verification by HESA, passport copy, or refugee/asylum permit and proof of English proficiency for non-English-speaking countries) are uploaded online in the application portal. Applications are only processed once the application fee is paid and all the required documents are submitted.

### 1.3. What is the difference between SAQA and the Matriculation Board – historically, referred to as HESA?

1.3.1. **SAQA** (South African Qualifications Authority) evaluates tertiary credentials such as diplomas, Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD degrees to match them to South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF) levels. Access application guidelines and services directly via the South African Qualifications Authority main site https://saqa.org.za/services/ .

1.3.2. The Matriculation Board (under Universities South Africa / USAF, historically referred to as **HESA**) evaluates undergraduate degree entry using School leaving results (high school or secondary school leaving certificates) to issue a Matriculation Exemption Certificate

required for entry into first degree university studies. Review instructions and rules at Universities South Africa Matriculation Board USAf Online Assessment and Application Portal

13.3. **When should I apply for these certificates?**

Apply **before** submitting final university applications or at least several months ahead, as document verification and international institutional checks can take anywhere from 4 to 12 weeks or longer.

1.4. **When will I receive my admission letter?**

You will receive your admission letter once your application has been processed and approved. The University will send it directly to the email address you provided during your application. Make sure to check your inbox regularly, including your spam or junk folder. Processing times for admission letters vary but typically take **(3 - 6 weeks)**.?

1.5. **When will I receive my study visa letter?**

Once you receive your admission letter, you must pay an acceptance deposit of R850.00. This amount will be credited toward your tuition fees. After sending proof of payment via email to the Academic Administration Department at siphelelel@vut.ac.za , you will be issued your study visa letter. The letter will be addressed to the South African High Commission, Consulate, or the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

1.6. **If I do not receive any response from the University within one month after submitting my application, how should I follow up on my application?**

**To check the progress of your application:**

- Go to the University's website www.vut.ac.za
- Under the Student menu, click Prospective Student
- Select Check Application Status
- Enter your VUT student number to view updates.

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**For further queries regarding international student applications, please contact the relevant staff member:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Assistant Registrar**: Ms Malejone Moqhoba Email: malejone@vut.ac.za | |
| **Faculties: Human Sciences AND Engineering and Technology (Diploma – PGD):**<br>• **Ms Phindile Hlongwane**<br>Email: Phindiled@vut.ac.za<br><br>**Faculties: Management Sciences & Applied Sciences (Diploma – PGD)**<br>• **Ms Maleseme Leboko**<br>Email: miriamle@vut.ac.za | **Faculties: Human Sciences AND Applied Sciences (Master' s degree – Doctorate):**<br>• **Mr Siphelele Lupindo**<br>Email: siphelelel@vut.ac.za<br><br>**Faculties: Management Sciences & Engineering & Technology (Master's Degree – Doctorate)**<br>• **Ms Faith Mnguni**<br>Email: faithmn@vut.ac.za |

## 2. VISA & IMMIGRATION

### 2.1. Do I need a study visa?

Yes, all international students must obtain a valid South African study visa before registration. Apply through the South African Embassy or Consulate Office using your admission and study visa letters and all the required supporting documentation.

### 2.2. How do I apply for a South African study visa?

Apply at the South African Embassy or Consulate in your home country.

### 2.3. What documents are required for my NEW visa application?

2.3.1. **Valid passport**

2.3.2. **Acceptance letter** and the **study visa letter** with an undertaking that the institution will notify the Department of Home Affairs if you deregister or fail to register.

2.3.3. **Visa application fee receipt** as proof that you have paid the required visa application fee.

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2.3.4. Proof of valid **South African medical aid** valid for the whole academic year and registered **with the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS)**. The official website for the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS), the regulatory body for South African medical schemes, is available at the Council for Medical Schemes.

2.3.5. **Financial proof**: Bank statements or equivalent documents showing sufficient funds for tuition, accommodation, and living expenses.

2.3.6. **Proof of accommodation** arranged while in South Africa.

2.3.7. **Police clearance certificate(s)**: Required if you are 18 or older, from every country where you have resided for 12 months or more since turning 18.

2.3.8. **Return ticket funds**: Evidence of access to funds for a return ticket to your home country.

2.4. **What documents are required for my renewal of study visa application?**

For renewal of study visa, submit your application **60 days** before the expiry date through the nearest South African Visa Facilitation Services Global (commonly known as VFS global), which is the world's largest outsourcing and technology services company specializing in visa, passport, and consular application processing.

2.4.1. **BI1739 Form (Obtained from the Department of Home Affairs)**

2.4.2. **Valid passport**

2.4.3. **Renewal of study visa letter** with an undertaking that the institution will notify the Department of Home Affairs if you deregister or fail to register.

2.4.4. **Extension application fee receipt and VFS Fee**

2.4.5. Proof of valid **South African medical aid** valid for the whole academic year and registered **with the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS)**. The official website for the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS), the regulatory body for South African medical schemes, is available at the Council for Medical Schemes.

2.4.6. **Proof of payment of tuition fees**

2.4.7. **Proof of funds available to sustain yourself while in South Africa**

2.4.8. **South African Police clearance certificate**

2.4.9. **If married: Spouse ID and Marriage Certificate**

2.4.10. **Proof of repatriation deposit paid**

For more information regarding study visa applications, please click the link below:

https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/individuals/index.html

2.5. **Are there specific South African medical schemes that are recommended for international students?**

As recommended by IEASA (International Education Association of South Africa), international students can directly access the accredited medical schemes and obtain further information by following the links below and complete the application electronically once they have made final decision.

CompCare Medical Scheme | Umbono: http://www.studentplan.co.za

Momentum Medical Scheme | Ingwe: http://www.studenthealthcare.co.za

2.6. **Can I work while studying?**

International students may work part-time (up to 20 hours per week) with a valid study visa endorsement.

3. **FEES & FUNDING**

3.1. **Is there an application fee for international students?**

Yes, an application fee of R120, 00 must be uploaded on the application portal prior to being granted the option to submit your application.

3.2. **What are the tuition fees for international students?**

Fees vary by program. Your admission letter will include a quotation and 100% of the total fee must be paid upfront prior to registration.

3.3. **How do I pay my fees?**

Payments can be made via bank transfer, online payment portals, or at the university finance office. Please use your **VUT STUDENT NUMBER** as reference

**Banking details for Vaal University of Technology**

- VUT PHYSICAL ADDRESS : Andries Potgieter Blvd, Vanderbijlpark
- BANK : ABSA BANK
- BANK ADDRESS : Eastgate Business Centre 1st Floor,

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | : | Block D, East gate Office Park |
| | : | South Boulevard, 2198, South Africa |
| • BRANCH CODE | : | 632005 |
| • ACCOUNT NUMBER | : | 40681 26832 |
| • SWIFT ADDRESS | : | ABSAZAJJ |
| • IBAN NO. | : | No IBAN number |

3.4. **How do I make payments from outside South Africa?**

International bank transfer using Vaal University's banking details. **Please use your VUT student number as reference**.

3.5. **What happens if my payment is delayed due to international banking processes?**

You must send proof of transfer at statement@vut.ac.za . Registration may be provisionally allowed pending clearance.

3.6. **Are scholarships available?**

We currently do not offer scholarship opportunities for first time international students. Please contact the Internationalisation Office delsilem@vut.ac.za for international exchange programmes available.

4. **PRE-REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION**

4.1. **What is the difference between pre-registration and registration?**

Pre-Registration is the initial step where you confirm your intent to study and submit required documents. Registration is the formal enrolment process where you are officially added to the student system.

4.2. **What pre-registration steps must take place before registration day?**

4.2.1. Receive your acceptance letter and pay the acceptance deposit fee (R850)

4.2.2. Submit proof of acceptance deposit fee (R850) to siphelelel@vut.ac.za / malejone@vut.ac.za

4.2.3. Receive your study visa letter

4.2.4. Apply for a South African medical aid cover

4.2.5. Secure a valid study visa

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4.2.6. For immigration clearance, request a registration checklist from the Internationalisation Office at internationalveri@vut.ac.za , complete and send it back with certified copies of valid passport, study visa or VFS receipt as proof of application and proof of medical aid valid for the whole academic year.

- Holders of permanent residence permits, and asylum seeker/refugee permits must also request a registration checklist from the Internationalisation Office at internationalveri@vut.ac.za , complete and return it together with certified copies of the relevant permit. Please note that medical aid is **not** a registration requirement for students holding these permits.

4.2.7. Submit proof of payment of the total upfront fee payment as per your quotation to statement@vut.ac.za for finance clearance.

**NB**: If you have not received your quotation, please request it from the Finance Department at quotation@vut.ac.za . Attach your acceptance letter when submitting the request.

4.3. **How do I proceed with registration once both the international and finance clearance has been granted?**

Registration is completed online www.vut.ac.za . Students must log into their ITS student account using their student number and PIN to finalise the registration process.

4.4. **Can I register late if my visa is delayed?**

Please do not delay registration while awaiting the outcome of your study visa, as registration is conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. **You can register by submitting your VFS receipt as proof of visa application.**

4.5. **What happens if I miss the registration deadline?**

You risk forfeiting your place, please contact the Registrar's Office immediately to enquire about available options and whether an extension of the registration period may be possible.

4.6. **Can I change my status from asylum seeker/refugee back to a passport holder while in South Africa?**

Under South African immigration law, international students cannot automatically change from asylum/refugee status back to passport holder status while inside the country. Applications for a new visa or residence permit must be lodged from the applicant's country of origin or permanent residence.

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Exceptional circumstances under **regulation 9(5) of the Immigration act** allows changes of status inside South Africa under exceptional humanitarian grounds (serious illness, legal proceedings etc). "**A foreigner who is in the Republic and applies for a change of status or terms and conditions relating to his or her visa shall— (a) submit his or her application, on Form 9 illustrated in Annexure A, no less than 60 days prior to the expiry date of his or her visa; and (b) provide proof that he or she has been admitted lawfully into the Republic, Provided that no person holding a visitor's or medical treatment visa may apply for a change of status to his or her visa while in the Republic, unless exceptional circumstances set out in subregulation (9) exist**".

## 5. ACCOMMODATION & ARRIVAL

### 5.1. Does VUT provide accommodation for international students?

On-campus residences are available, but spaces are limited. Early application is advised.

Apply early to secure a spot.

### 5.2. What support is available upon arrival?

Orientation programs and student mentors are provided to help you settle in. Orientation introduces you to campus facilities, academic expectations, and student life. Attendance is strongly recommended.

### 5.3. Are there any accredited private accommodations that the university recommend?

Yes, the online residence registration becomes available on the system only after a student has completed academic registration. Once university residences reach full capacity, students will be directed to the VUT website, where a list of accredited off-campus accommodation options is provided.

#### 5.3.1. Who can I contact regarding residence placement related queries?

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|---|---|
| **Placement Acting Manager**: Ms Seipati Mzizi: seipatim2@vut.ac.za | |
| **Placement Officers**:<br><br>Mr Senzo Msibi: senzom@vut.ac.za<br><br>Mr Selby Khoza: selbyk@vut.ac.za<br><br>Ms Katlego Direro: katlegod@vut.ac.za | **Placement Officers**:<br><br>Mrs Caroline Miya: carolinem@vut.ac.za<br><br>Mrs Anickey Mahloko: anickeym@vut.ac.za |