

Useful Information

1. Travelling to the Vaal Triangle Campus:

Directions:

1.1 R59 from Johannesburg

Follow the R59 past Alberton to Vereeniging, go through Vereeniging and take the R42 to Vanderbijlpark. At the traffic light at the Pick 'n Pay turn left, go over the four way stop and continue straight over the next four way stop. At the three-way stop (River Spray on your left), turn right, cross the set of robots into Hendrik van Eck Boulevard, the campus is on the left hand side.

1.2 N1 (Cement Highway) from Johannesburg

Follow the highway through the tollgate. Go past the four way stop, past two sets of robots, drive in the direction of Sasolburg and then take the slipway on the left side, turn left and follow the road signs to the campus.

Vaal Triangle's Geographic Location: GPS coordinates:

S26°43'31.0"

E27°52' 45.2"

2. Travel Arrangements to Vaal Triangle:

If prior arrangements are made with the International Office , one may also be transported directly to the campus from the OR Tambo Airport.

3. Potchefstroom Department of Home Affairs:

The local Department of Home Affairs is a fifteen-minute drive to the west side of the city.

4. Entertainment in Vanderbijlpark:

INFORMATION STILL MISSING

[Link to Map of Vanderbijlpark](#)

5. Internet Access:

If you are a registered NWU student, you will automatically be given Internet access and an E-mail address.

6. Opening a bank account:

Before you open a bank account, first come and see the international office. You will need the following documents to open an account: your Passport, residential address, your NWU student card and a letter from the International Office.

7. Tourism:

South Africa is a beautiful country with friendly people, game reserves such as Pilanesberg and Sun City (Rustenburg), Hartebeespoortdam, Tourism hot spots such as, Water Front, Table Mountain (Cape Town), Gold Reef City and Monte Casino (Johannesburg).

For backpacking travel in South Africa contact Coast to Coast (P.O. Box 564, Simon's Town, Tel: 021 786 1742, Fax: 021 786 2081, Email: info@coastingafrica.com).

8. Transport:

Vaal Triangle does not have a public transport system.

Students can rent bicycles and cars:

Business #1

Business #2

9. SA Driver's Licence:

International students and academics from SADC countries can use their driver's license in South Africa.

Other international students and academics are entitled to use the driver's licences they obtained in their home countries as long as they are in English. If the original licence is not in English, a translation/certificate of authenticity must accompany it. However, it is strongly recommended that an international driver's licence be obtained in your own country.

If you would like to study for a driver's licence in South Africa, please contact any driving school for more details and information. There is also a driving school on campus

10. General Safety and Security:

Please take note of the following to avoid possible trouble and ensure that you stay safe.

- Keep your bedroom / home locked at all times, particularly when you are away.
- Do not leave any documents or bags unattended.
- Beware of pickpockets and purse-snatchers.
- Lock your bicycle.
- Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.
- Do not display any money, jewellery or other valuable items.
- Do not walk in lonely places, particularly at night.
- Learn what parts of town you should avoid.
- Use caution with strangers that are too friendly, offer gifts or ask you to accompany them to unknown places.
- Avoid confrontations.
- Never hitchhike.
- Never drink and drive or allow yourself to be driven by someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Do not accept any drinks from strangers in a pub.

- Keep emergency numbers and the contact details of the International Office and your country's nearest embassy/consulate at hand.
- If a crime is committed, report it at the International Office. Your statement will be taken and the local authorities will be informed.

10.1 Shopping Malls:

Although shopping malls are quite safe and have good security, you need to be aware that groups of pick pockets tend to target these kinds of places looking for opportunities to steal your money or cell-phone.

10.2 The South African Police Service:

- The SAPS (South African Police Service) are here to serve you.
- You are allowed to ask anyone claiming to be a member of the SAPS for their identification card:
 - In front the SAPS ID card displays a police star and a photograph of the SAPS member
 - At the back the SAPS ID card displays an appointment date, rank, service number and date of issue.
- Members of the SAPS are allowed to wear their firearms unconcealed.
- In any crime related matters you are welcome to report the crime at the International Office and we will inform the appropriate authorities.

10.3 Security tips:

- Do not carelessly trust new girlfriends/boyfriends that you might meet in South Africa
- Never give your keys to anyone except the International Office personnel on request.
- If you are ever invited to visit places of interest or are asked to go on trips other than the ones officially organized by your faculty or the International Office, please, first consult with the International Office.
- Always have your keys with you, do not leave them lying around in your bedroom / home.
- Bank cards, cameras, credit cards, student cards and other personal belongings should be safely and securely stored away.
- Ensure that your doors (especially the main security door) are locked when you have visitors in your home and before you go out.
- Do not easily allow unknown persons or strange visitors into your home or bedroom.

11. For University Residences:

- You are responsible for the cleanliness of your own bedroom and your linen. No cleaners are allowed into your bedroom during your period of residency.
- Disposables or waste should be placed into the dustbin outside your place of residence.
- Don't put any expensive laptops, cell phones, or any other valuables items close to an open window.

- Take very careful note of your surroundings before you withdraw money from an ATM.
- If anyone offers to help you at an ATM ignore them and double check that you really have your bank card in your possession. Never put your bank card into an ATM if you are in any doubt about your safety.
- If your bankcard will not come out of the ATM do not leave the scene but immediately phone the toll free number on the ATM and call security to assist you.
- Never keep all your money in the same place. Rather split it up and store it in different secure places.
- When possible, students should try and move around in pairs/groups particularly at night, during the weekends, and when out partying (socializing).
- Always remember that real security begins and ends with your own actions. Do not blame the NWU or the International Office for the loss or theft of your belongings.

12. HEALTH

The North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) has a Health Service on campus (Tel: 018 299 4345).

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND SERVICES

STILL AWAITING MATRIX AND DATA

Protection services (on campus)
Police
Crime Stop
Fire Brigade
Ambulance

13. Places of Worship in Vanderbijlpark Region

The following religions and/or Christian denominations have places of worship in or around the Vaal Triangle Campus: Anglican, Dutch Reformed, Islam, Methodist, Pentecostal, Reformed, Roman Catholic etc.

14. Services Offered by the NWU Vaal Triangle Campus International Office:

Providing a logistic support function in co-operation / consultation with the relevant faculty and/or research entity for visiting international staff and students for:

- Travel and accommodation arrangements;
- Visa, study and work permits;

- Foreign Language study;
- Access to campus, facilities and laboratories;
- Orientation on Campus as well as in the relevant neighbourhood;
- Participation in extra-curricular activities such as students' clubs and associations, cultural and sports events; and
- Academic support such as library access, access to ITC, including academic and other software recognition of prior learning.

15. In this context the International Office is there to assist you with the following services:

- Emergency contact point for parents and families of international students
- Providing information apropos accommodation
- Providing information and assisting with application for health insurance and visa issues.
- Assisting with problems regarding study permits (applications, renewals and extensions)
- Providing a database apropos international students as required by the Department of Home Affairs.
- Providing semester reports on the study progress of all international students as required by the Department of Home Affairs.
- Ensuring the well-being of all NWU international students.
- Providing assistance apropos travel and tourism within South Africa.
- Providing support in the case of serious illness, accidents or death.
- Providing updates on upcoming events, changes to registration procedures and news applicable to international students.

Useful PDF Downloads:

[Basic Overview: Applying for a New Study Permit](#)

[Basic Overview: Applying for an Extension To A Study Permit](#)

[Map of Vaal Triangle Campus](#)

[Map of Vanderbijlpark](#)

[Major routes to Vanderbijlpark](#)