

EASE-OF-REFERENCE GUIDELINE

SOUTH AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1 Application for Exemption

Matriculation exemption is a legal requirement for first-degree study at a South African university. If you have completed an international curriculum or foreign schooling system, you will need to make sure that you meet the requirements for matriculation exemption set by Universities South Africa (USAf) www.usaf.ac.za

Please check that you meet the requirements for your chosen degree programme, and that you have attained the indicated grades in the subjects listed in this booklet, on the indicated levels.

Please consult this booklet in conjunction with the USAf requirements.

<https://mb.usaf.ac.za/qualification-bycountry/>

2 Converting International Grades

The following conversion tables will guide you in applying to the North-West University

% Awarded by the NWU	The percentage in this column is awarded for the symbol or number grade presented by the different systems in the shaded areas	HIGCSE/NSSC Level Higher	Higher International General Certificate of Secondary Education / Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Higher level
APS	Academic Performance Score calculated with the best six (6) subjects excluding life orientation	IGCSE	International General Certificate of Secondary Education
SA NSC	South African National Senior Certificate (from 2008)	BGCSE	Botswana General Certificate of Secondary Education
M-Score	Merit Score calculated based on 4 subjects depending on the field of study. Only relevant for South African Senior Certificate pre-2008	LGCSE	Lesotho General Certificate of Secondary Education
SC HG	Senior Certificate Higher Grade	SGCSE	Swaziland General Certificate of Secondary Education
SC SG	Senior Certificate Standard Grade	NSSC O-level	Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary level
Namibian German School	Abitur	GCSE	General Certificate Secondary Education
IB HL	International Baccalaureate Higher level	ZimSec O-level	Zimbabwe Secondary Education Ordinary level
IB SL	International Baccalaureate Standard Level	Cambridge AS-level	Cambridge International Advanced Subsidiary level
ACE	Accelerated Christian Education	Cambridge A-level	Cambridge International Advanced level
GED	General Education Development	ZimSec A-level	Zimbabwe Secondary Education Advanced level
NCV	National Certificate Vocational	Cambridge UK Grades	Cambridge International United Kingdom grade 1 - 9

South African and Foreign Qualification Conversion Table

% Awarded by NWU	APS	SA NSC (achievement level)	M-Score	SC HG	SC SG	Namibian German School / Arbitur	HIGCSE/NSSC HL	IGCSE/BGCSE/L GCSE/NSSC O-level/GCSE/Zim Sec O-level	Cambridge AS-level	Cambridge A-level /ZimSec	Cambridge UK Grades	IB HL	IB SL
100		90-100% (7)											
95	10					15				A*	9	7	
90	8					14				A	8	6	7
85	7	80-89% (7)	6	A		13	1		A	B	5-7	5	6
80						12							
75	6	70-79% (6)	5	B	A	11	2		B	C	3-4	4	5
70								10					
65	5	60-69% (5)	4	C	B	9	3	A	C	D	1-2	3	4
60												8	
55	4	50-59% (4)	3	D	C	7		B	D	E		2	3
50												6	
45	3	40-49% (3)	2	E	D		4	C	E			1	1
40													
35	2	30-39% (2)	1	F	E			D					
30													
25	1	0-29% (1)		G	F				ungraded	ungraded	ungraded		
20													
15				H									
10													
5													
0													

2.1 South African National Senior Certificate

Legal requirement for 1st degree (Bachelor) study at a South African University:

- Obtain a “4” (50-59%) or better in at least 4 x 20-credit subjects
- Obtain a “2” (30-39%) or better in at least 1 official language
- Obtain a “3” (40-49%) or better in Life Orientation

Meeting the minimum requirement for bachelor’s degree pass does not guarantee admission to the North-West University.

USAf approved Governing bodies:

- Umaluzi
- Independent Examination Board (IEB)
- South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute (SACAI)

2.2 South African Senior Certificate (Pre-2008)

Legal requirement for endorsement and access to degree study at a South African University:

- Complete four (4) Higher grade (HG) subjects including two (2) official languages at first and second language level and one of which must be a university language of instruction.
- In addition to the languages take subjects from three (3) of groups B to F
- In addition to Group A, pass HG subjects from two of groups B to F
- Meet the aggregate requirement of 950 (45%+) at one examination sitting

Group A First and Second Languages HG (all 11 official languages)	Group D Any Third language HG or SG Languages offered from Group A as third languages	Group F Geography (if not taken in group E) Accounting HG or SG
Group B Mathematics HG or SG	Group E Biblical Studies HG or SG Economics HG or SG Geography HG or SG History HG or SG Jewish Studies HG or SG	Additional Mathematics HG Agricultural Sciences HG or SG Animal Husbandry SG Business Economics HG or SG Computer Studies HG or SG Dance SG
Group C Natural Sciences HG or SG Biology Higher HG or SG Physiology HG or SG		Home Economics HG or SG Music HG or SG Technical Drawings HG or SG Technika (Civil, Electrical, Mechanical) SG

2.2.1 M-Score Calculation

Medium of instruction of proposed qualification (Afrikaans or English) x 2 + 3 best subjects.

A maximum of 4 subjects are used to calculate the M-Score.

N.B. The score of the most appropriate subject presented for the relevant field of study will carry double weight.

Candidates qualify for age exemption based on the following criteria:

- **Age 23 and older**
- Requires 1 HG subject at least Grade E (40-49%) preferably language of tuition and 3 other HG/SG subjects on at least Grade E (40-49%)
- Official Language or Second Language will only be recognised as HG if at least Grade E (40-49%) is obtained
- **Age 45 years or older** do not require matric certificate only a compulsory Senate approved and Matriculation Board recorded selection test/programme which proves they are capable of university study.

- **Any candidate who completed their NSC in or after 2008** will not qualify for age exemption. They need to complete a registered Higher Certificate, N4/N5 subjects or 3-year Diploma to qualify for Bachelor's degree Endorsement.

2.3 South African School-leaving certificates other than the NSC and IEB

2.3.1 Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)

This qualification is no longer accepted at the North-West University.

2.3.2 School of Tomorrow

This qualification is no longer accepted at the North-West University.

2.3.3 General Education Development (GED)

South African GED graduates cannot be considered for admission to the North-West University as the Diploma is not accredited by USAf and will not be considered for exemption.

2.3.4 National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) Level 4

(Refer to Government Gazette 7 December 2018)

The North-West University will consider NCV candidates, provided they meet exemption criteria as well as the programme admission requirements.

Minimum requirements to qualify for admission to the North-West University

- NCV Level 4 issued by the Council for General and Further Education and Training
- At least 50% in three (3) *Fundamental subjects* including the language of tuition (English, Life Orientation and Mathematics/Mathematical Literacy)
- At least 60% in four (4) compulsory *Vocational subjects*.
- Must meet the minimum requirements for Bachelor's degree exemption.

2.4 Namibian German School – Abitur

The five examination subjects must include at least one subject from each subject area. The three subjects taught at a higher level of educational requirement, German, mathematics, and the advanced foreign/local language, shall be examined at a higher level.

The subjects in the written Abitur examination must be selected from at least two subject areas.

- The first written examination subject is German.
- The second written examination subject is Mathematics, or an Advanced foreign/local language taught at a higher requirements level.
- The candidate shall select the third written examination subject from the qualification subjects:
 - Mathematics or an advanced foreign or local language (provided the subject is not already the second examination subject)
 - A social science subject from History, Geography, Social studies / Politics, Economics group of subjects
 - A science subject (Physics, Chemistry, Biology).
 - The candidate shall select the fifth examination subject from the qualification subjects that are not included in his/her other examination subjects.

2.5 Cambridge International / Namibian Secondary School Certificate

The Matriculation exemption requirements for candidates who completed schooling on any of the Cambridge qualifications can be found in the next tables.

Complete Exemption	Number of required subjects	Minimum Qualification Combination	Minimum grade required	Subject group requirements	Notes
Cambridge International A Level	5	2 subjects at A level PLUS 3 subjects at IGCSE / O-level	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and another two subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V. English First Language must be offered and passed at an appropriate level. NB. <i>Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption</i> .	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met.
		C			
Cambridge International A Level	4	3 subjects at A level PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE / O-level	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A level or IGCSE/O-level. The fourth subject for either A-level or IGCSE/O-level may be taken from any of the groups.	
		C			
Cambridge International AS Level	5	4 subjects at AS level PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE / O-level	D	Students must choose ONE subject from Group I or II and another TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V. English First Language must be offered and passed at an appropriate level. N.B. Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption.	
		C			
Cambridge AICE	5	5 subjects at AS Level (full credit)	D	Students must achieve passes in: - English Language - at least one subject from Group II - at least one of the following: Biology, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, 3rd Language The fourth and fifth subjects may be taken from any of the groups.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met. Two examination sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting.
Cambridge HIGCSE	5	4 subjects at HIGCSE PLUS 1 subject at IGCSE / O-level	3	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V. The fifth subject for either HIGCSE or IGCSE / O-level may be taken from any of the groups. English Language must be passed at HIGCSE level. NB. <i>Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption</i> .	
		C			
NSSC	5	4 subjects at Higher NSSC PLUS 1 subjects at NSSC Ordinary Level	3	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and TWO subjects from two of Groups III, IV and V at Higher NSSC. The fifth subject for either Higher NSSC or NSSC O-level may be taken from any of the groups. English Language must be passed at Higher NSSC level with a 3. NB. <i>Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption</i> .	
		C			
A Level AS level Plus LGCSE BGCSE SGCSE	5	2 subjects at A level PLUS 3 subjects at either LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE OR 4 subjects at AS level PLUS 1 subject at LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE	E	Students must choose ONE subject from each of Groups I, II and III at either A level or LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE level. NB Two languages must be offered to qualify for complete exemption.	More than one subject can be chosen from a group providing that the minimum requirements have been met. Two examination sittings only. Where a subject is not examined in Oct/Nov session the following or preceding June session will be regarded as the same sitting.
		C			
		D	The fourth subject for either AS-level or LGCSE, BGCSE, SGCSE level may be taken from any of the groups.		
		C			

Recognised subject list for the Cambridge Curriculum					
Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	Group V	Ungrouped but recognised subjects
English language	Afrikaans	3rd Language (which is not offered as part of Group II requirement)	Art and Design	Accounting	Literature in English (see note below)
English language and literature	Arabic	Biology	Biology	Business	Applied Information and Communication Technology
Any other recognised First language (see note)	Chinese	Chemistry	Chemistry	Computer Studies	Drama
	Czech	Combined Science	Economics	Computing	Travel and Tourism
	Dutch	Co-ordinated Science	Environmental Management	Computer Science	
	French	Mathematics	Geography	Design & Technology	
	German	Physics	History	Divinity	
	Greek	Physical Science	Mathematics	Further Mathematics	
For the AS Level exemption, students not offering AS English First Language or AS Language and Literature for Group I must offer IGCSE English First Language for Group II. For the A Level exemption, students may offer IGCSE English First Language, AS English Language, AS English Language and Literature or A Level Language	Hindi		Music	Information Technology	
	IsiZulu		Physics	Religious Studies	
	Italian		Physical Science		
	Japanese				
	Korean				
	Latin				
	Malay				
	Marathi				
	Nepali				
	Portuguese				
	Russian				
	Swahili				
	Setswana				
	Spanish				
	Tamil				
	Telugu				
	Thai				
Turkish					
Urdu					
				All Group V subjects at Cambridge International AS Level are only recognised for grouping purposes if the candidate has passed IGCSE or O Level Mathematics with a minimum of Grade C.	Ungrouped subjects are recognised/acceptable subjects but do not meet any grouping requirements and therefore will not be taken into account for grouping purposes.

2.6 International Baccalaureate

To earn an IB qualification, you must take a minimum of six subjects: one each from groups 1-5, and either one from group 6 or a substitute from groups 1-4.

You must take at least three (but no more than four) subjects at Higher Level (HL). The rest of your subjects will be taken at the Standard Level (SL).

To qualify for the IB Certificate you need to pass 2 Higher level subjects (grades 4 – 7) and 3 Standard Level subjects (grade 4 – 7).

To qualify for the IB Diploma, candidates must receive a minimum of 24 points or an average of four (4) (or C) out of a possible seven points for six subjects. Candidates must also receive a minimum of 12 points from their Higher Level subjects and a minimum of 9 points from their Standard Level subjects.

Results are graded on a scale of 1-7, with a 4 considered passing and a 7 being the highest score possible.

IB Subject List and Groupings					
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
<i>Studies in Language and Literature</i>	<i>Language Acquisition</i>	<i>Individuals and Society</i>	<i>Sciences</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>The Arts</i>
English	Italian	Business Management	Biology	Mathematics: analysis and approaches	Dance
Spanish	Russian	Economics	Computer Science	Mathematics: Application and Interpretation	Music
French	Japanese	Geography	Chemistry		Film
German	Chinese	Global Politics	Design Technology		Theatre
	Portuguese	History	Physics		Visual Arts
	Greek language	IT	Sports, Exercise and health sciences		
	Swedish	Philosophy	Environmental Systems and Societies		
	Hindi	Psychology			
	Turkish	Social and Culture			
	Indonesian	Anthropology			
	Dutch	World Religions			
	Arabic				
	Korean				
	Polish				
	Croatian				
	Latvian				
	Icelandic				

2.7 American High School Diploma

If you are applying from the USA, you will need the following:

A High School Graduation Diploma, as well as a certificate of eligibility for admission to study at any USA university with a valid senior college accreditation issued by any of the following accreditation bodies:

- Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)
- Distance Education and Training Council (DETC)
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges – Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (NEASC-CIHE)
- North Central Association of Colleges and Schools – Higher Learning Commission (NCA-HLC)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC-ACSCU)

OR

A SAT I score of 1 600, with a subminimum of 550 for Critical Reading and 500 for Mathematics

A SAT II score of 1 050 for English and either Physics or Chemistry, with a subminimum of 500 for either the English or one of the Physics, Chemistry, Biology or World History scores obtained at one or more sittings.

NEW SAT scores as of **2017**:

Evidence-based Reading and Writing = 610 Mathematics = 530

Total score = 1 130

OR

ACT mean of 22, with a 22 subminimum in English and 21 in Mathematics

American grading						
% Awarded by NWU	APS	Letter Grade	%	Core	Honours	AP (Advanced Placement) / Dual Enrollment
95	10	A+	97-100	4.3	4.6	4.8
	9	A	93-96	4.0	4.3	4.5
90	8	A-	90-92	3.7	4.0	4.2
85	7	B+	87-89	3.3	3.6	3.8
		B	83-86	3.0	3.3	3.5
80		B-	80-82	2.7	3.0	3.2
75	6	C+	77-79	2.3	2.6	2.8
		C	73-76	2.0	2.3	2.5
70		C-	70-72	1.7	2.0	2.2
65	5	D+	67-69	1.3	1.6	1.8
		D	63-66	1.0	1.3	1.5
60		D-	60-62	0.7	1.0	1.2
55	4	F	0-59	0.0	0.0	0.0

2.8 National Benchmark Test (NBT)

The North-West University does not require the results of the NBT test for admission. Faculty specific selection processes may be required.