

2025 university application dates: Everything you need to know

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Prospective matriculants across South Africa are gearing up to take the next step in their educational journey: applying to universities. For many, this process can be daunting, with numerous deadlines and requirements to keep track of. To help ease the stress, here's a comprehensive guide to the [application dates for South African universities](#) in 2025.



Understanding the application timeline

The application process for South African universities typically begins in the year prior to the intended year of study. For example, students planning to start their studies in 2025 should start preparing their applications in 2024. It's essential to familiarise yourself with the specific deadlines for each institution, as they may vary.

Researching universities and programmes

Before diving into the application process, it's crucial to research the universities and programmes you're interested in. Consider factors such as academic reputation, location, facilities, and course offerings. This research will help you narrow down your choices and make informed decisions when applying.

Key university application dates for 2025

While exact dates may vary according to each programme, the following are general timelines for first-year university applications for the 2025 academic year:

- [Cape Peninsula University of Technology \(CPUT\)](#): June 2024 to September 2024
- [Central University of Technology \(CUT\)](#): May 2024 to September 2024
- [Durban University of Technology \(DUT\)](#): 1 March 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [Mangosuthu University of Technology \(MUT\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [Nelson Mandela University \(NMU\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [North-West University](#): Applications opened in April. Closing dates are dependent on the programme you are looking to pursue.
- [Rhodes University \(RU\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 15 November 2024

- [Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University \(SMU\)](#): 2 April 2024 to 31 July 2024
- [Sol Plaatje University \(SPU\)](#): April 2024 to November 2024
- [Stellenbosch University \(Maties\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 31 July 2024
- [Tshwane University of Technology \(TUT\)](#): April 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [University of Cape Town \(UCT\)](#): 2 April 2024 to 31 July 2024
- [University of Fort Hare \(UFH\)](#): April 2024 to November 2024
- [University of Johannesburg \(UJ\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024
- [University of KwaZulu-Natal \(UKZN\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [University of Limpopo \(UL\)](#): March 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [University of Mpumalanga \(UMP\)](#): June 2024 to November 2024
- [University of Pretoria \(TUKS\)](#): 2 April 2024 to 30 June 2024
- [University of South Africa \(Unisa\)](#): August 2024 to October 2024
- [University of the Free State \(UFS\)](#): Applications opened in April. Closing dates are dependent on the programme you are looking to pursue.
- [University of the Western Cape \(UWC\)](#): 2 April to 30 September 2024
- [University of the Witwatersrand \(Wits\)](#): April 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [University of Venda \(Univen\)](#): Applications are set to open in May 2024
- [Vaal University of Technology \(VUT\)](#): 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024
- [Walter Sisulu University \(WSU\)](#): 2 April 2024 to 31 October 2024

Tips for a successful university application

Before you hit that “apply” button, make sure to follow the below tips in order to ensure your university application is a success:

- **Start early:** Begin preparing your applications well in advance to avoid last-minute stress.
- **Double-check requirements:** Make sure you fulfil all the necessary criteria and submit all required documents.
- **Personalise your application:** Tailor your application essays and personal statements to each university and programme.
- **Seek assistance if needed:** Don't hesitate to reach out to university admissions offices or guidance counsellors if you have any questions or need support.

Conclusion

The university application process is a significant milestone in every student's academic journey. By familiarising yourself with the application dates and requirements for South African universities in 2025, you can navigate this process with confidence and ease. Remember to stay organised, plan ahead, and put your best foot forward in your applications. Good luck!

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