



Admission Requirements of the School of Medicine

Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences Health Sciences University

Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) offers opportunities to Southern African and Southern African Development Community (SADC) nationals an opportunity to undergo a career in medicine. SMU in keeping up with international standards, bases selection on academic and non-academic measurable variables and ensures that selected students have the ability/ potential to successfully complete their studies in the requisite minimum time. SMU endeavours to attract talented students from all demographic groupings in South Africa whilst prioritising transformation. In this regards, a quota system based on a principle that promotes equitable chances and fairness to students from all population groups (Indigenous Africans – 80.2%; Coloureds – 8.8%; Whites – 8.5%; Indians/Asians – 2.5%) is applied in all selection process excluding the special foundation medicine programme. This proportion is based on the census demography of the SA population and will apply from one census to the other annually.

The selection process is done in three phases.

Preselection (will usually be completed by end November of year before admission)

Students are offered a provisional place based on their final Grade 11 results. Pre-selected Grade 11 students are expected to have attained an admission point score (APS) of at least 35.

Students will be preselected based on the performance in the following four subjects: English, Life Sciences, Physical Science and Mathematics (shown in Table 1).

A preselection offer is withdrawn if the applicant's performance in these four subjects drops below their performance in the Grade 11 results. The application is then returned to the general pool of applicants in which applicants will be considered on the basis of their Grade 12 performance only using the four subjects previously listed.

Table 1: Pre-Selection Criteria

Subjects	Proposed APS Minimum Points	SMU Admission Score for preselection
English	6	6
Mathematics	6	6
Physical Science	6	6
Life Sciences	6	6
Additional subject 1	5	
Additional subject 2	4	
Life Orientation	4	
Total	35 points	24 points

Table 2 Admission Point Score Conversion Table (These scores represent a basic minimum entry. Selections are usually made at a much higher competitive level)

NSC – National School Certificate South Africa

APS	NSC	IGCSE/GCSE/NSC		HIGCSE	AS - Level	A - Level	IBHL	IBSL	APS
		Grade 11	Grade 12						
10						A	7		10
9									9
8						B	6		8
7	80-100%	7		1	A	C	5	7	7
6	70-79%	6		2	B	D	4	6	6
5	60-69%	5	7	3	C	E	3	5	5
4	50-59%	4	6		D		2	4	4
3	40-49%	3	5	4	E		1	3	3
2	30-39%	2	4					2	2
1	0-39%	1	3					1	1

IGCSE - International General Certificate of Education

NSSC – Namibian Senior Secondary School Certificate A Level – Advanced Level

O-level – Ordinary Level

AS-level – Advanced Subsidiary Level

IB – International Baccalaureate Schools (higher levels and standard levels)

Phase 2 Final selection (to be completed and communicated in late January)

The second phase of selection is done soon after the GRADE 12 results have been released. Pre-selected students who either maintained or improved their Grade 11 SMU selection score are given substantive offers. Those whose scores fall below the level at which they received a pre-selection offer are then included in the general pool of applicants for consideration.

In order for students to be selected from the main data pool they should comply with the following admission requirements:

- a) Must achieve the minimum APS score of 35 as described above in Table 2
- b) Compete on the basis of the four subjects in the preselection criteria. Students will be selected by *order of merit using the percentage marks in these subjects: Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science, English Language*. These will be done on a demographic basis using the census data.
- c) A first degree in a profession or natural sciences. An applicant with a degree may not be admitted into the ECP (extended curriculum programme)
- d) Have excelled in First year BSc courses at SMU. Eligibility means the attainment of at least three distinctions during their first year.
- e) A relevant matriculation or examination process that qualifies enrolment into a degree programme (for SADC nationals mainly Lesotho and Swaziland, with an APS to be determined by the enrolment committee on basis of Table 2)

A total of 250 spaces are offered during the second phase of selection based on the following distribution:

- 155 (One hundred and fifty) students
 - ✓ this number comprises of pre-selected students now given substantive offers on grounds of either having maintained their performance in the SMU Admission Score
 - ✓ Students selected from the remaining pool of applicants from other school leaving assessments.
- Five (5) students from SADC sponsored by their governments (in term of governments agreements preference to Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia)
- Thirty (30) who have completed their First Degree at SMU. This includes students who have health professional degrees such as nursing, physiotherapy, dietetics and occupational therapy. Selection will be based on a calculation of points for each symbol.
- Five (5) students who have completed a first degree at another university.

- Five (5) sponsored by the South African National Defence Force
- Five (5) students who have excelled in BSc or equivalent first year courses at SMU. These will be assessed on the basis of at least three distinctions and then in merit order. For general BSc (first year subjects) and for applicants from the extended curriculum programme in BSc using both ECP 1 and 2 averages. Please see detailed comments below.
- 50 MBChB-ECP 1 students who passed all the six Foundation Modules

Note:

- 1. Due to the limited number of places available and the competitive nature of the degree programme attainment of the minimum requirements stated in Table 1 does not guarantee admission.**
- 2. Students attaining high SMU Admission Score not selected in among the top 150 are placed on a waiting list.**

Phase 3 : Selection into Medicine Foundation (MBChB-Extended Curriculum Programme)

Non-quantifiable measurable variables that include social background (schooling and rural origin i.e. quintile 1 and 2 schools, rurality and socioeconomic circumstances) form the core policy of selection of MBChB-ECP students. The MBChB-ECP programme is meant to address historical inequalities with regard to access to a medical career. Students are selected from all disadvantaged schools country wide such that selected candidates reflect the demographic (socio-economic) profile of the country. However, students from quintile 1 and 2 have equal chances of being selected to the six year programme if they meet the requirements presented in Table 1.

The Medicine Foundation Programme at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University is a one year course that prepares students for entry into the six-year medicine degree course offered by the university. The foundation programme focuses on developing the students' knowledge in the sciences and study skills required when studying towards a medicine degree. The following modules are offered:

- Medical Foundation Biophysics and Numeracy
- Medical Foundation Biology
- Medical Foundation Biochemistry
- Medical Foundation English for Medicine.
- Medical Foundation Introduction to the Human Body (Anatomy and Physiology)
- Medical Foundation Study Skills and Information Management.

Eligibility

This programme is only available to students from disadvantaged schools who are South African citizens and are currently enrolled in quintile 1 and 2 schools during time of application who do not achieve direct entry into the six-year medicine degree programme. Applications that do not meet these criteria will be **declined**. The minimum academic requirements are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 MBChB-ECP academic requirements

Subjects	Proposed Minimum Points
Mathematics	5
Physical Science	5
Life Sciences	5
English Language	5
Life Orientation	4
Additional Subject 1	4
Additional Subject 2	4
Total	32

A student may be selected with a score of 4 in either English or Life Sciences provided that the overall score is still competitive.

Duration: 1 year

Progression rule to the six-year medicine programme (MBChB)

The student must pass all the six foundation modules with a minimum of 50%.

Note: A student who fails any of the six foundation modules cannot repeat. There is no credit offered to such student.

Procedure for an applicant who has already completed a degree or will complete the degree in the year of application.

Applicants with a previous degree will be selected to fill the allocated quotas referred to in the list above. Matric will be used to look at certain/specified subjects. Applicants must have done Mathematics (**not Mathematical Literacy**) and Physical Science/Life Sciences at Matric level.

A basic calculation will be applied to the performance of these applicants. The resultant score will be used in descending order to select applicants from this pool.

The process of the calculation will be as follows:

- Each subject is awarded a score based on the percentage achieved as per the table below. The percentage will be rounded off to the nearest decimal
- In the event a subject has been completed as a supplementary result, the score awarded will be 0
- In the event of year of study being repeated or a subject being repeated in a subsequent year of study, all attempts at the subject are scored and each counts as a course for the purposes of this calculation.
- These are then added together and divided by the number of subjects included
- The minimum score which will be considered eligible is 12

Table 4: Points awarded for particular scores on academic transcript

≥ 75%	24
70 – 74%	16
65 – 69	12
60 – 64	8
55 – 59	4
50 – 54	0
Fail	0
A subject passed after a supplementary examination	0

Table 5: Additional points to be awarded:

Completion of a BSc, BDS or other science based degree completed in minimum time	2
Honours degree in minimum time with distinction	3
Honours degree in minimum time without distinction	2
Four year professional degrees will be awarded points	2
Masters degree	2
Doctoral degree	2

Consideration of students from BSc 1 from SMU only

- Selection is on a competitive basis and only the top five places will be offered for this group of applicants.
- The top 5 students will be selected based on the total aggregated marks from BSc 1 or a combination of the ECP 1 and 2.
- Only BSc First Year students with 3 Distinctions in full year courses will be considered.
- Students from professional degree programmes at SMU will not be considered for admission at

the end of their first year. .

- Applicants will only be considered for MBChB I.
- Such a student must have distinctions ($\geq 75\%$) in **three full year courses** (e.g. Chemistry I) to be considered for selection. The successful candidates in the past have had an average of at least 70%.