



Comprehensive Guide for Lesotho Students Applying to South African Universities

1. Academic Requirements & Eligibility

South African universities generally do not accept **LGCSE** or **IGCSE** alone for degree-level entry (some diploma qualification, however, might, It is important to conduct thorough research). To be eligible, you must possess one of the following:

- **Advanced Qualifications:** A-Levels, IB (International Baccalaureate), the LASC (Lesotho Advanced Secondary Certificate) or a Diploma from a recognized institution such as Lerotholi Polytechnic.
- **Transfer Credits:** Completion of a first year at a recognized university.
- **Matriculation Exemption:** If you are admitted "conditionally," you must apply for a **Matriculation Exemption** via USAf (Universities South Africa). This is a legal requirement to prove your results are equivalent to a South African National Senior Certificate.

Please note: If you are still waiting for your final results, apply using your **most recent examination results**. You may be granted **provisional admission** pending your final grades.

2. Research and Finding the Right Course

Don't fly blind. Use the tools provided by the universities to ensure you meet the specific criteria for your dream career.

- **The University of Johannesburg (UJ) Example:** UJ's website is an excellent benchmark. Their online **Prospectus** contains a breakdown of every course, the required subjects, and the minimum APS (Admission Point Score) needed.
- **SAQA Evaluation:** If a university requests a formal evaluation of your Lesotho qualifications, you must engage with the **South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)**. Research their application process early, as it can take time.

3. The Application Process: Step-by-Step

Follow this specific order of operations to ensure a smooth transition:

1. **Apply to the University:** Visit the official university website and follow the application prompts carefully.
2. **Receive Admission:** Once you have a provisional or conditional offer, move to the next steps.
3. **Apply for Matriculation Exemption:** Necessary for full, unconditional admission.
4. **Apply for a Study Visa:** You cannot register or enter the country for study without a valid visa from the South African Department of Home Affairs.

4. Funding & Sponsorship (NMDS / Manpower)

If you are seeking sponsorship through the **National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS)**, keep these points in mind:

- **Priority Lists:** Sponsorship is usually tied to specific "priority" fields of study. Refer to last year's list as a guide, but be aware that **the list is subject to change every year**.
- **Timeline:** NMDS typically releases the new priority list around **July**, with applications opening in **August**.
- **Stay Updated:** Follow the **"NMDS Updates"** page on Facebook for real-time announcements.
- **The Contract:** Any issues regarding your funding are between you and Manpower. You are the contract holder; visit their offices or contact them directly for assistance.

5. Final Advice: Be Proactive

The most successful students are the ones who treat research like a full-time job.

- **Use the Internet:** Almost every form, deadline, and requirement is available online.
- **Verify Everything:** Don't rely on hearsay. Check the university websites and NMDS portals frequently.
- **Take Ownership:** Your education is an investment—make sure every decision you make is an informed one.

- **Do not be afraid to enquire:** The institution that knows the next steps best are always the ones you are applying to. It is important to share information with your peers and those that came before you, however, always fact check with the appropriate institutions (SAHC, NMDS, the University you are applying to etc.)