



**Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University**

*f o r t o m o r r o w*

## **SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### STUDY@SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING

#### **Why do I want to study an Accounting programme?**

If you have the following skills:

- numeracy skills;
- communication skills;
- an ability to work hard;
- a logical mind;
- an ability to work with people; and
- a commitment to ethical conduct.

The programme will offer you a challenging and stimulating career, international mobility and financial reward.

#### **Why study Accounting at NMMU?**

- Our CA programme has been awarded the best accreditation rating available by the SA Institute of Chartered Accountants.
- We have highly qualified and experienced academic staff, who hold top leadership positions in the accounting profession.
- We offer a student-centred teaching approach which means that students are provided with extensive academic support from staff and tutors as well as comprehensive and up-to-date course material.
- NMMU graduates have consistently obtained outstanding results in SAICA's Qualifying Exams.
- We maintain links with national and international professional accounting bodies.
- Bursaries are available for both merit performance and financial need.
- Our alumni hold top positions in the auditing profession, finance departments, commerce and industry.
- We offer international study abroad opportunities for students.
- Students can participate in vibrant student societies to interact with fellow-students on a social basis.

#### **What is the difference between BCom Chartered Accountancy and BCom General Accounting?**

The 3-year BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) or 4-year BCom Rationum programme is prescribed for students who intend becoming Chartered Accountants and focuses on Financial Accounting, Auditing, Taxation and Management Accounting. Graduates of this programme need to complete a Bachelor Honours degree in Accounting, followed by a period of practical training and professional examinations in order to register as Chartered Accountants.

This programme is offered for students wishing to major in General Accounting. The General Accounting stream is intended for students who wish to qualify as Professional Accountants and who may wish to join other professional institutes such as the SA Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA).

**I want to become a Chartered Accountant but I only have Mathematics Literacy at school?**

Should you wish to become a Chartered Accountant, but you do not meet the requirements for admission to the BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) programme, you can register for the BCom (General Accounting) programme. Should your academic performance be good enough (as prescribed in the Faculty Prospectus) you will be able to transfer to the BCom (Accounting for Chartered Accountants) programme during your period of study.

**Is accounting as a school subject compulsory?**

**No.** The programme is designed both for students who have done accounting at school and for those who have not. Research has shown that students who do not have accounting at school are not academically prejudiced.

**What is BCom Rationum?**

This degree is aimed at students wishing to qualify as chartered accountants, but an additional major subject area (Economics, Business Management, Law or Information Systems) is studied. The degree is also followed by the BCom Accounting (Honours), whereafter candidates also proceed to the professional examinations of SAICA.

**Should I consider BCom Rationum?**

- Do you have a particular interest and want to further your knowledge in Accounting and one of the following:
  - Law;
  - Computer Science;
  - Business Management and Economics?
- Are you academically strong?

If your answer is yes to all the above questions, you can consider the BCom Rationum programme.

**BCom Honours degree in Accounting?**

This one year full-time honours degree is designed specifically for candidates wishing to qualify as chartered accountants. The NMMU Accounting Honours degree is accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), allowing graduates to write the professional examinations of SAICA.

**How to calculate your APS score:**

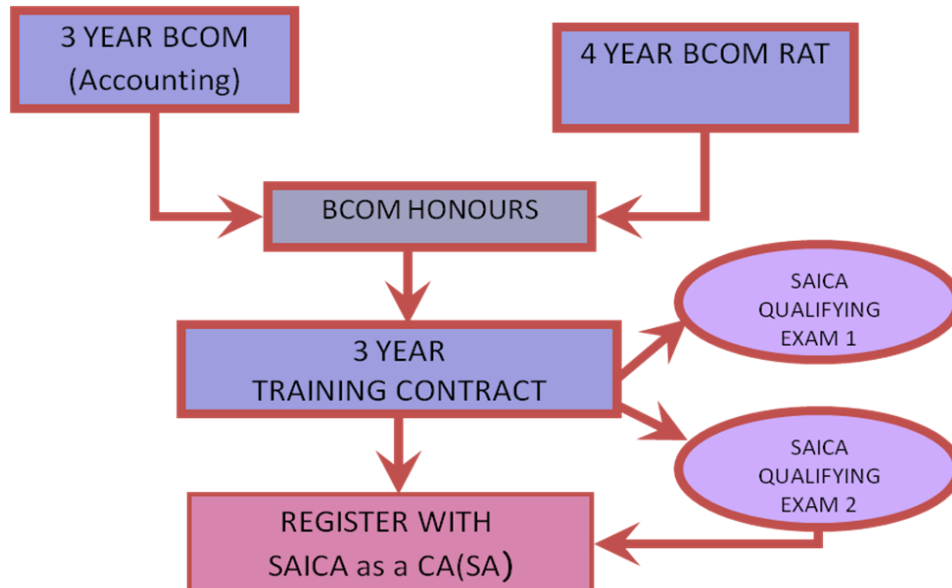
Subject %	0 - 29%	30 - 39%	40 - 49%	50 - 59%	60 - 69%	70 - 79%	80 - 89%	90 - 100%
APS point	0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Having determined the APS point for each of your seven subjects (including Life Orientation), add these together to compute an overall APS total score (which is the "Admission Points Score").

### What subjects do I have in the first year of the BCom Accounting programmes?

- Accounting
- Business Management
- Commercial and Company Law
- Computing
- Economics
- Mathematics and Statistics

### Steps to become a Chartered Accountant



### What are the job opportunities after I graduate?

Accounting graduates and professionals are sought after throughout South Africa and internationally. Every organisation, whether it is a business, university, non-profit organisation, municipality or province, requires financial managers to manage the organisation and particularly to manage the finances and investments. One very seldom hears of an accountant out of work!

Accountants and financial managers do not sit behind desks all day looking at figures. They make significant contributions to organisations to achieve their goals. They work with people at all levels in managing the activities of an organisation. All major corporations have numerous accounting professionals on their boards of directors and accountants are amongst the highest paid professionals in South Africa and in the world.

### Examples in which areas Accountants can find job opportunities:

- Public practice: Auditor, Tax, Consulting
- Commerce and industry: Financial Director, Financial Manager
- Financial services: Banking, Asset Management
- Education

### Which professional bodies are the NMMU accounting degrees and diploma programmes accredited with?

- South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)
- South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA)
- Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

# STUDY@NMMU

## **How do I apply to NMMU?**

First you have to make sure that you meet the direct admission requirements of the programme of your choice. If you do not meet the direct admission requirements you can be referred to write the Access Assessment Test before a decision is made on whether or not you will be admitted to the programme.

Obtain a copy of the undergraduate programme guide as well as an application form from the admissions office or download it from our website ([www.nmmu.ac.za/application](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/application)).

Once completed, you must submit your application together with the relevant documentation and application fee to the admissions office by hand or by post.

All prospective applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

## **Is there a deadline for applications?**

Yes, applications for undergraduate programmes close on the first working day of August each year. Applications will still be accepted after this date but at a higher application fee.

## **Will my second choice be considered if I am unsuccessful with my first choice?**

Yes, applicants are first considered for their first choice, and if they do not meet the direct entry requirements but their Admission Point Score (APS) falls within the testing band, they are referred to write the access assessment test. If they do not meet the direct entry requirements for their first choice or their APS score falls below the APS testing band, their second choice will be considered provided that there is still space available in that particular programme.

## **If my June/July school results are not good should I still apply to NMMU?**

Applicants can use their Grade 11 final exam results to apply to the university before the final closing date in August. They will, however, need to submit their Grade 12 June/July and September results in order to gain provisional admission to NMMU. The final decision is based on the final Grade 12 exam results.

## **Are all qualifications at NMMU internationally recognised?**

Yes, programmes offered at NMMU are internationally recognised and accredited by the relevant professional bodies.

## **Does NMMU assist graduates in finding work after they have graduated?**

The university strives to make as much information and services available to students in order to better equip them after they have graduated. The Graduate and Student Placement division assists students in finding suitable employment through a number of initiatives, including the annual careers fair.

# MONEY MATTERS

## **What bursaries/funds are available at NMMU? And how do you apply for these?**

### Scholar Merit Awards

The Scholar Merit Award scheme rewards top performing students for the marks achieved in the final Grade 12 exams. The better the learners' marks, the greater the discount on their fees. No application is necessary – the bursary is awarded automatically.

Points are awarded for the symbols obtained in each of your seven NSC subjects and the amount is linked to the total merit points achieved.

### NMMU Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships

The Vice-Chancellor recently introduced a premier scholarship to top achievers in the country. The scholarship, valued at R60 000 a year, is renewable annually for the first undergraduate degree or diploma, provided academic performance remains of the highest standard. Up to 25 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships are granted each year. For more information phone: Marketing & Corporate Relations on 041 504 3084.

### Student Merit Bursaries

Returning students automatically qualify for merit bursaries based on the final results in their previous year of study. Students who pass all their modules with a weighted average mark of 70% (subject to change) or higher, receive a student merit bursary, the rand value of which is determined on a sliding scale. The minimum value is R3000. This award is only made to SA citizens.

### Sport Bursaries

The NMMU Sport Bureau offers sport bursaries of varying amounts to those who have demonstrated the ability to play sport at a high level of competition. Application forms are available from their office. Email: [Charmain.button@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:Charmain.button@nmmu.ac.za) or phone 041 504 2496. Closing date: Before the end of October each year.

### National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)

NSFAS is a government loan scheme, with the added incentive of a maximum of 40% being converted into a non-repayable bursary depending on academic performance. The purpose of these loans is to assist financially-needy students who have the academic potential to succeed. As loans do not necessarily cover all costs, students are encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources.

Only students whose GROSS combined family income (mother and father) does not exceed R140 000 per annum can apply. Application must be made on the prescribed application form BEFORE 30 October each year. Application forms are available from all financial aid offices from May each year. Incomplete application forms will not be considered.

### Bursaries administered by NMMU

Bursaries are also available to full-time students using funds provided by private donors or trustees. Applications for financial assistance from funds administered by NMMU must be made on a financial aid application form. Application forms can be obtained from the Financial Aid Office on North Campus.

### **Contact the Financial Aid Office:**

Tel: 041 504 2550/3182

Email: [financialaid@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:financialaid@nmmu.ac.za)

# THUTHUKA BURSARY PROGRAMME

The Thuthuka Bursary programme aims to assist academically talented South African Black and Coloured students to pursue a BCom (Accounting) degree followed by a BCom Accounting degree in order to become Chartered Accountants. Funding is administered by SAICA and is provided by the Thuthuka Trust, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and the Sector Education and Training for Finance (FASSET). Due to available capacity constraints the number of students that can be accommodated on the programme is limited.

## **The NMMU Thuthuka programme provides its students with the following:**

- Full funding for studies at NMMU (comprising a bursary/loan scheme);
- Dedicated residence accommodation;
- Textbooks, stationery and allowances for airtime, travel and daily food are included;
- Dedicated lectures for financial accounting in the first two years;
- Dedicated tutorials in financial accounting in all undergraduate years;
- Formal study sessions in dedicated venues presided over by appropriately qualified tutors.

### **Enquiries**

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## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### **How does the academic year work at NMMU?**

Our academic year consists of two semesters. The 1<sup>st</sup> academic semester runs from February with exams in May/June with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester starting towards the end of July with exams in November.

### **Where do lectures take place?**

Lectures will take place on one of 3 campuses in Port Elizabeth: South Campus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Campus or Missionvale Campus. Please make sure you know where your classes will be offered. Your classes will be at one campus and you don't need to travel between campuses.

### **What happens if I should fail a subject?**

Should a student fail a subject, then he/she will be required to repeat the subject in the following academic year, which may cause timetable clashes. The Faculty has official requirements for readmission, eg number of completed credits after one year, two years of study etc. These requirements appear in the Faculty Prospectus.

### **Are textbooks provided?**

No, textbooks are not provided. These need to be purchased. Textbooks can be purchased from Van Schaik Bookstore in the Student Village or at the bookshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Campus. Second hand text books can be purchased at Rehab Bookstore at the Student Kraal on South Campus.

### **What should students provide other than text books?**

Normal stationary (writing pads, files etc). Your studies will also require that you have a calculator with certain required functions. Please make sure you buy the correct one. It is also preferable that you have access to a personal computer.

### **Are reports handed out at the end of each term?**

No, reports are not handed out to students at the end of each term. A notice of results is sent to each student after the June and November examinations are written. Regular updates of marks of tests written can be obtained from the university website: [www.nmmu.ac.za](http://www.nmmu.ac.za)

### **What will be expected of students?**

Students should attend all classes as an absolute requirement. Furthermore, self or independent study is an integral element of university study and, in addition to your normal self-study, assignments are given regularly to students to complete. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they apply themselves and comply with requirements such as submitting assignments.

### **Who do I contact if I have a problem?**

The School of Accounting promotes an open-door policy and the lecturers and Head of Departments are available as a 1<sup>st</sup> port-of-call.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Visit our website: <http://accounting.nmmu.ac.za/Home>

Search for “**NMMU School of Accounting**” on Facebook and Youtube.

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