



Stellenbosch
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Stellenbosch University International

SUMMER SCHOOL

19 June – 16 July 2026

forward together · sonke siya phambili · saam vorentoe





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About the Summer School

The Stellenbosch University International Summer School presents students the opportunity to embark on a truly immersive learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. Stellenbosch University makes use of a holistic approach to a Summer School programme—introducing students to their chosen field of study in a way that's both engaging and dynamic.

The academically enriching programme strikes the perfect balance between theory and practice, allowing students to not just learn, but experience their subjects in action. But that's not all! The carefully crafted social programme enhances one's academic journey by offering a deep dive into the cultural richness of Stellenbosch and the Western Cape, bringing you face-to-face with diverse cultures and unforgettable experiences.



About Stellenbosch University

With our African roots and global reach, Stellenbosch University (SU) has grown into a true asset to South Africa, our continent and beyond over more than a century.

We combine world-class knowledge production and cutting-edge technological innovation to be a thriving, transformative and systemically sustainable university.

Our relevant, impactful research makes us ever more agile and responsive to the needs of society, enabling us to confront the complex challenges of our country, region and the globe. Future-fit, inclusive and collaborative, we are moving forward, together.

The charming university town of Stellenbosch is situated in the heart of the Cape Winelands, surrounded by magnificent mountains. Stellenbosch is only 20 minutes from the nearest beaches and 30 minutes from Cape Town.







Academic Courses

The Stellenbosch University Summer School offers 3 programmes: The *General Elective Programme*, the *Doing Business in Southern Africa Programme* and the *Global Service Learning (GSL) Programme*. Students can only do one of these programmes as they run simultaneously over the span of the Summer School. These academic programmes consist of lectures, group discussions and field

trips aligned with the content covered during lectures and are taught by Stellenbosch University faculty and other South African experts.

For full course descriptions please visit the Stellenbosch University Summer School website:

<https://www.sun.ac.za/english/SUInternational/SummerSchools/Pages/june-july.aspx>

General Elective Programme

Students following the General programme have the option to enrol for 1 – 3 courses during their period of study in Stellenbosch.

The courses cover a variety of fields of study, which includes: Philosophy, Botany, Political Science, Economics, Literature, Art and Media, History, HIV/AIDS, International Relations & Chinese Studies. All Summer School students. This course serves as contextual base for the upcoming courses and fosters understanding of South Africa political and historical

landscape to be expanded upon through other disciplines varying on the courses selected. **Students can only choose one Elective 2 course and one Elective 3 course.**

*Students following the General Elective Programme can Top Up their courses to receive (1 US/ 2ECTS credits) per course.

*Please note that if Top Up option is selected and students choose to cancel this after being invoiced, they will still be charged for the Top Up option.

Elective 1 courses

19 June – 29 June 2026

Course 1:

Introduction to South Africa's Political History

Field of Study Political Science and History

**Course
Description**

This course serves as an introduction to South Africa's political history, aimed at familiarising students with the historical context that shaped, and continues to shape, the country and its people. Understanding the interplay between the country's political, social and economic issues and how the colonial and apartheid past impacts on the present allows us to better comprehend the challenges currently facing South African society.

**Academic
weight** 2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits

Top up option 1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits

Elective 2 Courses

30 June – 7 July 2026

Course 2

Bio-Diversity: Plants for the People in the Western Cape

Field of Study	Botany
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Course Description	The extraordinary botanical diversity of the Cape Flora and the ecological processes that helped shape it are explored. Once a basic understanding is gained through lectures and two field excursions, the course adopts a more applied focus. We explore the horticultural potential of local plants in the international cut flower industry and visit local flower farms. Finally, we explore traditional plant use by local people, especially traditional healers, through lectures and visits to healers and/or traditional medicinal markets.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 3

Visual Narratives and South-North Interactions

Field of Study	Art and Media
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Course Description	In this course, we will track major developments and changes in South African art, media and especially film during the Apartheid era (1948-1994) and after (1994-present). The point of this broad historical perspective is not so much to provide a condensed history of South African media, as it is to explore the relationship between South Africa's turbulent socio-political landscape and its visual culture. In particular, we aim to explore the notion of collective identities as they manifested and still manifest in visual culture. We are interested in how South African visualities and identities borrow from and influence those from the Global North. We compare art, magazines and films from Africa with those from dominant, western cultures in an effort to understand the political power of visual, cultural and textual entanglement.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 4

Social Justice in the Global Classroom

Field of Study	Political Science
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Course Description	This interactive experiential learning module will equip participants to critically reflect and evaluate their contextual worldview around contemporary global social justice issues. We will journey to deepen our understanding of how to achieve equality in an unequal society by exploring modern racism, privilege, discrimination, oppression and structural injustice.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 5

Violent Histories and Repair

Field of Study	Interdisciplinary
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Course Description	Violent Histories and Repair is a multidisciplinary course that seeks to engage decolonial critical approaches to the study of the legacies of violent histories. We will take an intersectional approach and examine the structural aspects of systemic violence, including its racial and gendered dimensions, as well as the more insidious and symbolic forms of its expression that are embedded in institutional cultures and practices.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 6

Understanding HIV in South Africa

Field of Study	HIV/AIDS Management
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Course Description	This interactive course aims to develop a global understanding of HIV and AIDS, gender and sexuality through a health and social justice perspective. We will have a specific focus on the South African experience, evaluating how far have we have come regarding HIV and Aids, gender, sexuality and health social justice in post-apartheid South Africa.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 7

Global Health Systems and Equity

Field of Study Medicine and Health Sciences

**Course
Description**

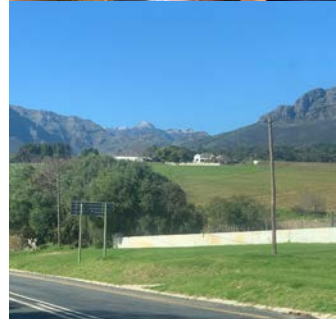
This course offers an exploration of how evidence can drive equitable health systems. It combines theory, systems analysis, field engagement and participatory design in engaging with Stellenbosch University's Division of Health Systems and Public Health's core research areas: non-communicable diseases, health systems, health economics, quality improvement and community-engaged research through interactive sessions, simulations, field experiences and innovation labs. This course integrates analytical learning and creative problem solving approaches to translate research into meaningful impact.

**Academic
weight**

2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits

Top up option

1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits





Elective 3 Courses

5 July – 16 July 2026

Course 8

Transitional Justice

Field of Study	Political Science
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Course Description	Among the pressing challenges facing societies emerging out of war or authoritarianism is how to respond to human rights violations perpetrated in the mayhem of conflict. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission represents one model that has been both celebrated and heavily critiqued. Offered by a practitioner who has worked with the UN in the African Great Lakes region, Nepal, and north Africa, this course sets the commission in historic and comparative context, critically highlighting questions about truth recovery, justice, reparations, and enabling non-recurrence.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 9

China in Africa

Field of Study	International Relations and Chinese Studies
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Course Description	This course offers a comprehensive introduction to China's engagement on the African continent. The course includes an overview of Chinese investments on the continent, including infrastructure, extractive industries and trade relationships; it also examines China-Africa relations within the context of global groupings such as BRICS and FOCAC, the role of historical and political relations and the growing role of Chinese security within Africa. The course familiarizes students with the controversy surrounding the relationship, including issues of labour and environmental degradation as well as mechanisms which African countries draw on to command more co-operative interaction.
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Academic weight	Academic weight: 2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 10

Travel Photography

Field of Study	Art & Media
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Course Description	Course Description: The aim of the course is to teach students about photography with a focus on travel photography theory. Students will gain knowledge of their own cameras, improve their photography skills and gain practical experience in the areas of landscape and portrait photography as well as wildlife photography
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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OR

Course 11

Global Surgery

Field of Study	Medicine and health Sciences
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Course Description	The Global Surgery course aims to provide an introductory yet immersive experience for students interested in global surgery. The course explores key challenges, innovations, and ethical considerations in surgical care, with a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The course is structured over five days, each focusing on a critical aspect of global surgery, combining lectures, hands-on activities, and field visits to create an engaging learning experience.
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Academic weight	2 USA Credits/ 4 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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Specialised Programmes

19 June – 16 July 2026

Doing Business in Southern Africa (DBSA) Programme

Course Description

The course will give students an acute knowledge of the development challenges facing Southern African countries and understand the growth of emerging Southern African markets and identify future growth potential. Students will have the ability to discuss and debate current and future policy issues in a developing country context. Furthermore, they will get awareness of the additional social, environmental and ethical considerations for African businesses.

PLEASE NOTE

All summer school students follow the course – Introduction to South Africa's Political History – in the first week (22 - 26 June 2026). After the first week the summer school group splits up into the different academic programmes.

Academic weight

7 USA Credits/ 14 ECTS Credits

Top up option

2 USA/4 ECTS additional Credits

OR

Global Service Learning (GSL) programme

Course Description	The course has theoretical and practical components aimed at enabling social impact and transformation. It is a collaborative venture with local schools and non-profit organisations, located in historically disadvantaged communities and it provides a valuable means of promoting internationalisation.
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PLEASE NOTE	<u>All summer school students follow the course – Introduction to South Africa's Political History – in the first week (22 - 26 June 2026). After the first week the summer school group splits up into the different academic programmes.</u>
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Academic weight	8 USA Credits/ 16 ECTS Credits
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Top up option	1 USA/2 ECTS additional Credits
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Application Process



STEP 1

Complete the online application form.

<https://forms.gle/TEDeMXeTWpoZp7Rm6>

**Scan Application
QR Code**

STEP 2

Send the following documents to the following email address:

[summer@ sun.ac.za](mailto:summer@sun.ac.za)

1. Official Academic Transcript
2. Copy of the Identification Pages of Your Passport
3. Proof of Medical Insurance; must include the following: *
 - Details of Membership (independent member or dependent on parents / guardian)
 - Declaration that the cover will be valid for the period spent outside home country
 - Short summary of medical cover provided*ONLY NEED TO PROVIDE AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED TO THE SUMMER SCHOOL.
4. Although not required, travel and personal insurance is recommended.

STEP 3

Wait for feedback; feedback is normally given within 10 working days, upon which the student will be informed if they have been accepted.

AFTER APPLICATION

1. An invoice will be issued to the student with payment instructions;
2. After payment of the indicated summer school fees in full, a (LOA) Letter of Admission will be issued.
3. Pre- Course Information will be provided.

Academic Policies

Examinations:

Students will be evaluated during and at the end of each course. The format of the examination will be determined by the academic coordinator. Please refer to the course descriptions for more information.

Transferable Academic Credit:

The programme allows students to earn academic credits that may be transferred to their home university. After successful completion (100% class attendance) of the respective academic programme and a pass mark of at least 50% for all tests, assignments and essays, Stellenbosch University will issue an academic transcript and send it directly to the students' home university or service provider.

Grades & Transcripts:

Transcripts will be issued within 4 – 6 weeks after the end of the summer school. The transcripts will be issued with a transcript supplement / key which will assist with the conversion of South African credits.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Please see the Stellenbosch University Yearbook for more information regarding plagiarism and

Stellenbosch University's policies in this regard. It will be expected from students to fully comply with the rules and regulations regarding plagiarism. Students will also be required to comply with the Academic Guideline for the Summer school. The latter document will be made available on SUNLearn.

Virtual Learning Environment & Course Management System:

Students will make use of the SUNLearn (the official University Learning Management System) platform. SUNLearn orientation will be given to students on arrival. Various study materials will be made available before the start of the summer school via Moodle-based platform.



Evening and Social Programme

The academic programme is supported by a well-developed social programme consisting of day and weekend excursions to places of historical and touristic importance.

Places that will be visited and are included in the programme fee are: Robben Island, Table Mountain, Cape Point & Boulders Beach as well as a Weekend away. (For the General Elective Programme these trips are dependent on the Elective you choose)

The summer school evening programme includes: film screenings, traditional South African barbecues "Braai", karaoke, quiz night, dinner parties and many more. These are optional events activities

Those who would like to see a bit more of South Africa can join the optional Garden Route Tour at the end of the summer school.

Housing

Students are housed in a centrally located student dormitory on the Stellenbosch University campus. The student residence is determined closer to the start of the programme.

What to expect:

- The residence is situated on

campus and is a 5-10 minutes walk from the lecture halls.

- Access controlled entrance
- Double room
- Bedding is provided
- Towel is provided
- Your own study desk and lamp
- Separate male and female bathrooms
- Wifi access
- No central heating, but heaters are provided
- Cafeteria which provides breakfast and lunch
- Cooking facilities are not provided
- Recreational facilities

Optional Garden Route Tour

16 July – 21 July 2026

At the end of the summer school students are offered the opportunity to attend an optional (not included) 6-day Garden Route Tour. The tour is offered by a trusted service provider.

Optional Garden Route Tour cost:
tbc

2026 Garden Route Tour itinerary:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/>

fi/hi5gnuazie2rj6hivn8us/6-Day-Garden-Route-Tour_July2025.df?rlkey=5yiioa6z8w9urvlpizdjwlb6v&st=qzxic4oq&dl=0

More information:

<https://hotspots2c.co.za/tour/absolute-gardenroute>

Sign up and payment link:

<https://t.ly/su-6daygar>

Please note:

- Drop-off in Stellenbosch on 17 July 2025 by about 3-4 pm. Please make sure to book your flights departing Cape Town from about 7pm onwards.
- The Garden Route tour is independent of the Stellenbosch Summer School and students book and pay directly with the company.

Calendars & Important Dates

- Application Deadline: 15 April 2026
- Arrival dates: 19-20 June 2026
- Summer School Orientation and Welcoming Dinner: 21 June 2026
- Closing Dinner: 15 July 2026
- End of Summer School: 16 July 2026
- Start of Garden Route tour: 16 July 2026
- End of Garden Route tour: 22 July 2025

Course dates

- General 1 elective course: 19 June – 29 June 2026
- General 2 elective courses: 28 June – 7 July 2026
- General 3 elective courses: 5 July – 16 July 2026
- Doing Business in Southern Africa course: 29 June – 16 July 2026
- Global Service Learning course: 29 June – 16 July 2026

Excursion dates:

- Robben Island: 25 June 2026
- Table Mountain: 27 June 2026
- Route 44 Market: 4 July 2026
- Cape Point & Boulders Beach: 5 July 2026
- Weekend away: 10-12 July 2026
- See Course excursions in course outlines

*Each course also includes an excursion/s relevant to the content covered





Stellenbosch University International Summer School June/July 2026 – General Elective courses

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 WEEK 1 Elective 1 Classes	23 Elective 1 Classes	24 Elective 1 Classes	25 Elective 1 Classes – Robben Island Visit	26 Elective 1 Classes	27 Excursion to Table Mountain & the V&A Waterfront – Red Buss City Sightseeing	28 Free day Arrival of Elective 2 Students
29 WEEK 2 Free day Orientation of Elective 2 Students	30 Elective 2 Classes	1 Elective 2 Classes	2 Elective 2 Classes	3 Elective 2 Classes	4 Day Outing to Route 44 & Wine Tasting	5 Excursion to Cape Point and the Cape Peninsula Arrival of Elective 3 Students

Stellenbosch University International Summer School

June/July 2026 – General Elective courses

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
6 WEEK 3 Elective 2 Classes	7 Free Day	8 Elective 3 Classes	9 Elective 3 Classes	10 Elective 3 Classes	11 Weekend Away	12 Weekend Away
Orientation Elective 3 Students	Elective 2 Students Depart for Home			Weekend Away		
13 WEEK 4 Elective 3 Classes	14 Elective 3 Classes	15 Free Day	16 Students Depart on Optional Garden Route Safari	17	18	19
		CLOSING FUNCTION	Elective 3 Students & All other stu- dents Depart for Home			
20	21 Return from Garden Route					

Stellenbosch University International Summer School

June/July 2026 – Specialized Courses

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				Arrival of Students	Arrival of Students	Orientation All Students
22 WEEK 1	23	24	25	26	27	28
Intro to political History	Intro to political History	Intro to political History	Intro to political History—Robben Island Visit	Intro to political History	Excursion to Table Mountain & the V&A Waterfront—Red Buss City Sightseeing	Free day
29 WEEK 2	30	1	2	3	4	5
Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	Day Outing to Route 44 & Wine Tasting	Excursion to Cape Point and the Cape Peninsula

Stellenbosch University International Summer School June/July 2026 – Specialized Courses

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
6 WEEK 3 Doing Business & Public Health & Global Service Learning Courses	7 <u>Free Day</u>	8 Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	9 Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	10 Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses <u>Weekend Away</u>	11 <u>Weekend Away</u>	12 <u>Weekend Away</u>
13 WEEK 4 Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	14 Doing Business & Global Service Learning Courses	15 <u>Free Day</u> <u>CLOSING FUNCTION</u>	16 <u>Students Depart on Optional Garden Route Safari</u> <u>Elective 3 Students & All other students Depart for Home</u>	17	18	19
20	21 <u>Return from Garden Route</u>					



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Journey with us

Contact Details

Summer School Coordinator: Curtley Solomons
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Email: summer@sun.ac.za
Website: <https://www.sun.ac.za/english/SUInternational/SummerSchools/Pages/default.aspx>

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