

# South African National Senior Certificate

The following information is provided to assist domestic students who have completed or are undertaking their senior secondary studies in South Africa and intend to seek admission to undergraduate study at The University of Queensland (UQ).

## ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

In 2008 the South African National Senior Certificate (NSC) replaced the Senior Certificate as the senior leaving exit qualification. For the NSC, all subjects are now offered at the same level, which is the same as the former higher grade level. Each subject is worth 20 credits, except Life Orientation which is worth 10 credits. In order to receive NSC a student must have gained 130 credits exclusively in Year 12.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For entry to all undergraduate programs at UQ applicants must meet two basic entry requirements:

1. Eligibility (i.e. satisfy the subject prerequisites and other requirements)
2. Merit (i.e. possess a selection rank high enough for a place in the program<sup>†</sup>)

<sup>†</sup> Selection ranks range from 1 to 99 (maximum). As admission is competitive the minimum selection thresholds for programs can fluctuate from year to year.

For detailed program information, including prerequisite requirements and minimum selection thresholds from previous admission periods, please refer to [future-students.uq.edu.au](http://future-students.uq.edu.au).

## SATISFYING SUBJECT PREREQUISITES

The successful completion of the following South African senior secondary subjects at the specified grade level will meet the listed subject prerequisites for admission to most UQ undergraduate programs\*.

Qld Year 12 Subject Prerequisites	South African Senior Certificate (pre-2008)	South African National Senior Certificate (since 2008)
English (4,SA)	English 1st Language (Higher Grade)	English Home Language or English (Additional First Language)
Mathematics A (4,SA)	Mathematics (Standard Grade)	Mathematics
Mathematics B (4,SA)	Mathematics (Higher Grade)	Mathematics
Biological Science (4,SA)	Biology (Higher Grade)	Life Sciences
Chemistry (4,SA)	Physical Science (Higher Grade)	Physical Science
Physics (4,SA)	Physical Science (Higher Grade)	Physical Science

### Minimum grades required to pass prerequisites:

South African Senior pre-2008: grade of D (or 50%) or better  
South African NSC since 2008: grade of 4 (or 50%) or better

\*Contact UQ Admissions if applying for an Education program with this qualification.

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## GAINING A SELECTION RANK

For senior studies completed prior to 2008, an aggregate score from a maximum of six Higher Grade subjects is used to derive a selection rank.

South Africa – Senior Certificate or Matriculation Certificate (pre-2008) <sup>1</sup>	
Aggregate score – maximum of six subjects at the higher grade <sup>2</sup>	Selection Rank
29	99
28	98
27	97
25	96
24	95
23	94
22	93
21	92
20	91
18	90
17	89
16	88
15	87
14	86
13	85
11	84
10	83
9	82
8	81
7	80
6	79
4	78
3	77
2	76
1	75

<sup>1</sup> Senior Certificate Matriculation Endorsed (M)

<sup>2</sup> Based on: A=5; B=4; C=3; D=2; E=1

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### UQ International Admissions

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South Africa – National Senior Certificate (NSC) (since 2008) <sup>1</sup>	
Grade Average of best five subjects in final year <sup>2,3</sup>	Selection Rank
6.9	99
6.8	98
6.6	97
6.5	96
6.4	95
6.3	94
6.2	93
6.0	92
5.9	91
5.8	90
5.7	89
5.6	88
5.4	87
5.3	86
5.2	85
5.1	84
5.0	83
4.8	82
4.7	81
4.6	80
4.5	79
4.4	78
4.2	77
4.1	76
4.0	75
3.8	70
3.7	65
3.6	60
3.5	55
3.4	50

<sup>1</sup> **Note:** As certified by Umalusi with an achievement of the minimum requirement for admission to Diploma or Bachelor degree study.

<sup>2</sup> Based on: 7 = 80-100%; 6 = 70-79%; 5 = 60-69%; 4 = 50-59%; 3 = 40-49%; 2 = 30-39%; 1 = 0-29%

<sup>3</sup> Excluding the subject *Life Orientation* and *Mathematics (Third Paper)*.

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