South Africa
Stellenbosch

Stellenbosch University Undergraduate Courses
2015: Semester 2 (July-December) | 2016: Semester 1 (January-June)

Host University:
Stellenbosch University

USAC Partnership Program:
Overseas credit

Credits:
60 South African credits (approx. 15 US credits)

Maximum program enrollment: 10

Language of instruction: English | Afrikaans

Minimum GPA: 2.6

Minimum class standing: Sophomore

Deadlines:
Semester 2 (July-December): February 15
Semester 1 (January-June) and Semesters 1 & 2 (January-December): August 15

Program Highlights:
- Live in the mountains of South Africa’s beautiful Western Cape Province, in a small, historic town only 45 minutes from Cape Town
- Study at the third-highest ranked university in all of Africa, focused on student, faculty, and staff diversity and inclusivity, and on developing a multicultural campus culture
- Enroll in courses in a variety of disciplines taught in English, from the required South Africa history and culture course, to local and indigenous languages, sciences, liberal arts, mathematics, social sciences, and more
- Immerses yourself in the local culture by participating in the Voluntarism and Community Engagement (VCE) program, or by joining the International Student Organization (ISOS) and participating in club-organized events such as mountain climbing excursions, theatre visits, summer concerts, and trips to tourist destinations like Robben Island
- Enjoy local outdoor sports and activities including road biking, hiking, and canoeing, as well as one of National Geographic’s World’s 20 Best Surf Towns less than an hour away

Find more information:
usac.unr.edu/study-abroad-programs/south-africa/stellenbosch
WHY STUDY IN STELLENBOSCH?
Live and study in one of the most beautiful parts of South Africa, featuring historic architecture, rich cultural heritage, and easy access to outdoor and sporting activities. Stellenbosch is in the heart of South Africa’s wine country, providing the cuisine, culture, and stunning scenery that entails. Surrounded by mountains in the Jonkershoek Valley, it offers the best of both worlds: a small, historic, university town with convenient access to the amenities of the bigger metropolitan area of Cape Town.

The program at Stellenbosch University (SU) offers the opportunity to create an educational program that meets your personal and academic goals. Choose courses for international students designed to familiarize you with South Africa’s unique culture, history, and politics, and “Mainstream” courses offered in a wide variety of disciplines that are open to all SU students.

SU focuses on inclusivity, diversity, and using its academic excellence and research activities to find sustainable solutions to some of South Africa and Africa’s greatest challenges. Specifically, the university promotes a science-for-society approach, aimed at improving people’s lives by eradicating poverty, and promoting human dignity and health, democracy and human rights, safety and security, and a sustainable environment and competitive industry.

ON-SITE STAFF AND SUPPORT
The Stellenbosch program is administered in the US by the USAC Central Office and in South Africa by the Stellenbosch University Postgraduate and International Office (PGIO) staff. The PGIO staff is responsible for the overall operations of the program abroad. Once you arrive on-site, the PGIO staff will provide a mandatory orientation, help you find immersion activities, and oversee your general well-being while on the program.

STELLENBOSCH AND SOUTH AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICA
Capital: the three capitals of South Africa each serve a different governmental function: Pretoria (administrative), Cape Town (legislative), Bloemfontein (judicial). Official languages: English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele, Afrikaans, isiSoto, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, Tshivenda, Xitsonga. Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)

STELLENBOSCH
Population: 150,000
Distance from Cape Town: 30 miles
Distance from Johannesburg: 850 miles

Stellenbosch is located in South Africa’s Western Cape Province, approximately 30 miles from Cape Town’s city center. Stellenbosch is the second oldest town in South Africa (founded in 1679), and has been able to retain historic elements, such as its iconic Cape Dutch colonial architecture, while also embracing new technology and conveniences.

The small size of the town, combined with its proximity to large, cosmopolitan Cape Town, work together to maximize local cultural immersion opportunities while facilitating access to beaches, museums, cultural centers, and places of historic importance. Stellenbosch itself is a major destination for art, culture, dining, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, and wine connoisseurs, but students interested in exploring beyond the local area can utilize public transportation for daytrips into the Cape Town area to visit Table Mountain, Robben Island, Greenmarket Square, the city’s 20+ museums, and the Cape of Good Hope, among other attractions.

Known informally as “the Rainbow Nation,” South Africa is a nation defined by its diversity. The country is home to over 50 million people, who represent a variety of cultures, languages, and religions. Since the end of apartheid (the government-mandated, forced segregation between racial groups), the country has become focused on multicultural inclusion in all its forms. To demonstrate this inclusivity and a respect for the cultures of all its peoples, the South African government promotes social cohesion by recognizing 11 official languages, supporting indigenous knowledge systems, and encouraging multilingualism.

South Africa is also sometimes described as “a world in one country,” because visitors are able to experience variety not only in peoples and cultures, but also in geography, biodiversity, and economy. Modern, cosmopolitan cities with advanced infrastructure contrast with huge tracks of undeveloped land where it is not unusual for motorists to have to stop to allow giraffes, baboons, or herded cattle to cross the road. South Africa also hosts 8 UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the Cradle of Humankind, the world’s richest hominid site and home to over 40% of the world’s human ancestor fossils.
Sport—from rugby to road biking and more—is a huge part of Stellenbosch's local and campus culture; you'll have all sorts of options to choose from!

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

The Stellenbosch University main campus is located in the Boland Mountains of South Africa’s Western Cape Province, in a historic, oak-lined university town. The university is a unique mix of the old and new, with centuries-old buildings and new, state-of-the-art facilities sharing the campus.

Today, SU is focused on student, faculty, and staff diversity and inclusivity, and on developing a multicultural campus culture that welcomes individuals regardless of origin, ethnicity, language, gender, religious and political conviction, social class, disability, or sexual orientation. The university is committed to remaining a national asset, and to leading South Africa’s efforts to increase sustainability and the quality of life of all its citizens. Toward this end, SU leadership has made a conscious decision to utilize its expertise for the benefit of society at large. This science-for-society approach is reflected in SU’s HOPE Project, a campus-wide initiative through which the University uses its core business—teaching and learning, research, and community interaction—in search of sustainable solutions to some of South Africa and Africa’s greatest challenges.

RESOURCES

- Pocket Guide to South Africa 2013/14 (available by request online)
- www.stellenbosch.travel
- www.capetown.travel

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Residence Hall—Student housing is available in several on-campus locations. Each location offers 24/7 security, internet access, and a private bedroom with shared kitchen, bathroom, and laundry facilities. Depending on your placement, you may also have access to private study centers, on-site shops, braai (BBQ) areas, and a variety of sports facilities.

FIELD TRIPS AND IMMERSION ACTIVITIES

As a student at Stellenbosch University, you will have access to many sport and student club opportunities.

Sport

Students are able to pay to join the Stellenbosch University Sport Performance Institute (SUSPI), a world class gymnasium that caters not only to students but to high performance athletes as well. SUSPI boasts 3 weight training areas; a dedicated high performance area; a circuit; a cycling studio; saunas; a heated, indoor swimming pool; and 6 aerobic halls that host more than 90 aerobic classes per week.

There are also 29 official sports clubs at Stellenbosch University that international students can join for a fee, ranging from badminton, to chess, to fencing, surfing, and more.

Clubs and Student Organizations

USAC students can join the International Student Organization Stellenbosch (ISOS) for a nominal fee, which covers transportation costs to club organized events during the semester. Past events have included mountain climbing excursions, theatre visits, summer concerts, and trips to tourist destinations like Robben Island and other locations in and around Stellenbosch and Cape Town. In the event that an outing involves a ticket for entry, the student covers this entry fee by him or herself. Students may also pay to join other student organizations and societies on campus. A full list of Stellenbosch University student organizations can be found here.

Matie Buddy

International students are able to sign up for the Matie Buddy program, a peer-based experience that pairs you with a more experienced Stellenbosch student who can help you adjust to life in South Africa. Your Matie Buddy can show you how to navigate the city, where to shop, how to find the hot spots—all the things you need to know to feel like a local! Information on how to register for a Matie Buddy will be available from your Program Advisor after acceptance to the Stellenbosch program.

Volunteer Opportunities

International students have the opportunity to participate in the Voluntarism and Community Engagement (VCE) program. VCE enables students to work with communities around Stellenbosch, with efforts primarily focused on positive and supportive interactions with local youth. Participation in the program requires a mandatory training workshop followed by practical work. This program is managed by Stellenbosch University, and more information will be available at the on-site orientation.
ACADEMICS

Studying abroad can be a more meaningful and invigorating learning experience than at home—both inside and outside of the classroom—because you will be in a different place. You may be more curious and alert than you usually are; use this heightened energy to enhance your studies as well as your cultural and geographical explorations.

You may also encounter different teaching styles and course processes. Classes may be more lecture-based and less interactive than in the US and may require considerable independent research, reading, and study. Grades may be based on only one or two major assignments or exams. Be prepared to adapt and to learn.

AREAS OF STUDY AVAILABLE AT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

Taught in English

Through our agreement with Stellenbosch University, an array of courses will be made available for you to take. Areas of study believed to be of most interest to USAC students are included below as a sample of what the University offers. Courses are subject to availability and approval of prerequisites which are determined by Stellenbosch University.

A full-time load at Stellenbosch University is 60 South African (SA) credits per semester (equivalent to approximately 15 US credits). Students may only enroll in up to 60 SA credits while abroad. All students are required to enroll in a USAC-selected course designed to familiarize you with South Africa's unique history and current social, cultural, and political climate while at Stellenbosch University. The title and content of this course will vary slightly by semester, with options anticipated to include courses like Sociology: Politics and Cultural Change in Contemporary South Africa or South Africa towards 2034. The required course will be part of your 60 SA credit load, and for planning purposes, please anticipate that the course will be 12 SA credits (3 US credits).

The structure of Stellenbosch courses will vary between departments. Some courses will be presented via large lectures, others may be held seminar-style, and others will combine lectures with weekly practicums or tutorials. Most courses offered in English at Stellenbosch University run for the entire semester, but some will run either the first term (six-seven weeks) of the semester or last term (six-seven weeks) of the semester. Six- to seven-week courses are typically 6 SA (1.5 US) credits, and full-semester courses are typically 12 SA (3 US) credits.

Keep in mind that you must enroll in the equivalency of at least 12 US credits per semester (even if host university requirements are lower). Be sure to have plenty of primary and alternate course options in mind as schedules are subject to change and registration in your preferred courses is not guaranteed.

Grades are typically not ready until one or two months after exams are completed. The transcript evaluation and grade reporting process at your home university will also take time after your overseas transcripts arrives. If you plan to study here during your senior year, review your home graduation requirements carefully, especially if you plan to study in the spring semester. You may need to consider attending in the fall of your home university will also take time after your overseas transcripts arrives. If you plan to study here during your senior year, review your home graduation requirements carefully, especially if you plan to study in the spring semester. You may need to consider attending in the fall of your senior year to allow enough time for grades to be posted for graduation. Plan to work ahead with your academic advisor if you will be using your study abroad coursework to meet prerequisites back at home.

COURSES

• USAC-determined South Africa history and culture class (required for all students; TBD-rotates between courses, depending on semester)

In addition to the required introductory South Africa history and culture course, USAC students may choose from any IPSU (International Programmes Stellenbosch University) or Mainstream courses offered at Stellenbosch University, subject to course availability and host university approval of prerequisite requirements.

IPSU COURSES

IPSU courses have been created for international students apart from the mainstream course offerings and all IPSU courses are offered in English only. Past IPSU courses have included the following, and you can view a more thorough description of IPSU courses that may be available during the selected semester via the USAC website.

Languages
• Afrikaans
• Literature Electives in English
• Beginning French, German, Spanish
• isiXhosa: Language and Culture

Arts
• Introduction to Jewelry Design
• Digital Photography and Picture Framing

Political Science
• China-Africa Relations
• Gender and Culture in Africa

• Transitional Justice in Africa

Social Studies
• Sociology: Politics and Cultural Change in Contemporary South Africa
• South Africa towards 2034

Other
• Economic and Developmental Problems in South Africa and Africa
• HIV and Aids: A South African Perspective
• Public Theology
• Learning for Sustainable Community Engagement (LSCE)
• Principles of Economics, with a South African Focus

MAINSTREAM COURSES

Mainstream courses are all the other courses offered by Stellenbosch University that form part of the university's degree programs. Some Mainstream courses are taught entirely or in part in Afrikaans, so make sure you are selecting courses that are taught in English. English Mainstream Course offerings are available in the below listed faculties and you can see a list of Mainstream courses that may be available during your selected semester via the USAC website.

• Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
• Faculty of Science
• Faculty of Law
• Faculty of Agrisciences
• Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
• Faculty of Education
• Faculty of Engineering

...
PROGRAM FEES AND DEADLINES
See the Money Matters section of the USAC website for more financial information, including help with financing and scholarship resources.

2015: Semester 2 (July–December)—$5,920
2016: Semester 1 (January-June)—not available at time of printing; please check the USAC website

PROGRAM FEE INCLUDES:
• tuition and fees for up to 15 US credits
• preloaded credit of 2,950 ZAR on the student account, which can be used for campus printing, gym membership, internet, and student club membership, etc.
• host university housing information assistance
• personalized pre-departure advising
• immigration visa guidance
• parental support and advisement
• scholarship advising and assistance
• transcript assistance
• student health and liability insurance
• airport pick-up upon arrival (dependent on arrival date)
• mandatory orientation provided on-site by Stellenbosch University

ESTIMATED EXPENSES NOT INCLUDED IN FEES:
Expenses incurred on-site are listed in local currency as exchange rates fluctuate daily. Many expenses will vary, depending on your lifestyle and budget.

Housing and Meals
• housing (single room)—26,400-31,500 ZAR/semester
• meals—12,500-20,300 ZAR/semester

Transportation
• airfare—$1,300-2,100
• local transportation—1,125-1,680 ZAR/semester
• transportation to/from program site—200-400 ZAR

Other Expenses
• personal expenses—2,240-4,480 ZAR/semester
• textbooks and class supplies—3,360-5,045 ZAR/semester
• student visa—$88

PAYMENT DEADLINES
The deposit and position hold payment apply to your program fee; they are not additional charges.

All Semesters
• $300 due with application ($200 deposit, plus $100 non-refundable application fee)

2015: Semester 2
• Cancellation deadline to receive deposit refund: February 15
• $800 position hold payment due February 15
• Balance due April 15
• First installment of housing fee due June 15 (paid directly to the host university)

2016: Semester 1 or Semesters 1 & 2
• Cancellation deadline to receive deposit refund: August 15
• $800 position hold payment due August 15
• Semester 1 balance due October 15
• First installment of housing fee due December 15 (paid directly to the host university)
• Year: Semester 2 position hold payment due February 15
• Year: remaining Semester 2 balance due April 15

You will experience South Africa via course field trips (above left), campus involvement, and other opportunities to get into the local community.