

# 9. International Applicants

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## 9.1 Who is considered an international applicant?

An international applicant is a person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of South Africa, or a refugee/asylum seeker with a permit allowing study

## 9.2 Where do I send my application as an international applicant?

If you are applying for short-term study, apply directly to the institution.

If you are applying to UKZN only, apply directly to the institution.

For other institutions and choices at more than one institution, apply through the CAO at [www.cao.ac.za](http://www.cao.ac.za)

## 9.3 How do I apply as an international applicant?

You may apply to the CAO if you wish to study at DUT, UNIZUL and MUT. Follow the process to apply online.

If you wish to apply to UKZN, apply directly to the institution.

DUT and UKZN do not accept international applicants into their access programmes.

Applications to study Medicine at UKZN are considered ONLY from citizens of Lesotho and Mauritius and applicants must apply via their governments.

You will require a study permit if you wish to come to South Africa to study. This does not apply to distance learning students who study in their home countries.

Once you have a letter offering you a place from the further or higher education institution, you can apply to the South African embassy, high commission, consulate or trade office for your study permit. The permit application will take up to eight weeks to be processed.

Acceptance by an institution does not place any obligation on the South African government to issue or renew study permits. DO NOT leave home before your study permit is granted – you will not be allowed to study on a visitor's permit. You cannot apply for your first permit after you arrive in South Africa.

People who are in South Africa for study purposes are not eligible to apply for South African citizenship. Refugee and asylum seeker applicants require documentation from the Department of Home Affairs granting permission to study in South Africa.