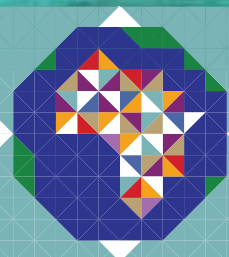


# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

2025/2026



 **DUT**  
DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE



**INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION AND  
PARTNERSHIPS**



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# CHECKLIST FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The checklist below is designed to help you be prepared for your stay, and take some of the stress out of studying in a different country.

- ☐ Have I obtained the necessary visa?
- ☐ Is my visa valid?
- ☐ Do I have medical insurance? N.B. This has to be taken with a South African medical aid society (see page 10 for details).
- ☐ Do I have South African currency?
- ☐ Do I have the money to pay my tuition fees?
- ☐ Do I have sufficient money to tide me over for the first few days?
- ☐ Have I packed my study materials?
- ☐ Have I remembered the charger for my laptop?
- ☐ Have I organised accommodation for my stay in Durban?
- ☐ Have I paid the accommodation deposit (if applicable)?
- ☐ Have I taken travel insurance? This is voluntary.
- ☐ Have I complied with all the requirements as conveyed to me by DUT?
- ☐ Have I arranged for transport from the airport to my accommodation in Durban?
- ☐ Have I checked that my electronic appliances will work on 220V electricity?



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## DEAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT,

On behalf of the Durban University of Technology (DUT), I greet you; whether you are an international student about to register at our University, or a potential student still in the process of finalising your future studies.

DUT is a vibrant university situated on the east coast of South Africa in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. Durban is a welcoming city with a subtropical climate, outstanding beaches, and a vibrant sporting and social life. Add to this a high-class university, and you have all the ingredients to make this the ideal place to come and study.

DUT comprises of six faculties with seventy different programmes in Accounting and Informatics, Applied Sciences, Arts and Design, Engineering and the Built Environment, Health Sciences, and Management Sciences. Your studies with us will qualify you well for the world of work. Our undergraduate programmes deliver qualified personnel who can seamlessly enter the work environment, and our postgraduate programmes are at the cutting edge of research. Our University is spread over seven different campuses, five in Durban, and two in the city of Pietermaritzburg, 90 kilometres inland.

Being an international student in a new environment can be a challenge. We have produced this guide to help you with your integration into DUT, and South Africa in general.

Our office is here to help you should you need our help. If you have any problems, or general queries, then please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact details are included on page 25.



**Finally, again, a warm welcome to the Durban University of Technology. I know you will be happy at our university, living in the land of sun, surf and a super environment. We look forward to helping you meet all your personal aspirations and desires.**

**Dr Lavern Samuels**  
**Director: International Education**  
**and Partnerships**

# ABOUT DURBAN

(Information sourced from [www.brandssouthafrica.com](http://www.brandssouthafrica.com))

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) is based in the city of Durban in the eThekweni municipality in the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Durban is the third largest city in South Africa, with a population of 3.5 million. It is the home of Africa's best-managed, busiest port, and is a major tourist centre due to its warm subtropical climate and extensive beaches. Durban Harbour is Africa's largest port, handling around 75 million tons of cargo annually.

Our sophisticated and cosmopolitan city attracts many visitors from all over the globe. Durban's nightlife is defined by trendy clubs, pubs and restaurants. The city is also blessed with some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and is one of the most surf-friendly cities (even housing a unique surfer's museum).

Durban has the largest concentrated population of Indians outside of India, who have contributed to the city's culture. We have spice markets, temples, and mosques, as well as several Indian restaurants offering the hot and spicy Durban Indian curry.

Durban has many cultural attractions, and examples of magnificent architecture. The city hosts several cultural festivals and events, numerous trade shows, trade fairs, exhibitions, expositions, and conventions.

## CLIMATE

As South Africa is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are the opposite to the Northern Hemisphere. With this in mind, our summer months range from mid-September until late April. In South Africa, our winters are very mild; they are nothing close to a European or North American winter. During May to August we have moderate days with cool evenings as well as in the early mornings. The sun intensity is strong in South Africa, and we recommend sun block throughout the year, even if travelling in our winter. In summer, a hat and sunglasses are strongly recommended.

## SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES

We live in a country that's rich in diversity and culture! South Africa has eleven official languages, with English being the most universally spoken. All South Africans understand, speak, and most often write in English, so there is no need to worry about any language barriers. For your information, the other languages are isiNdebele, Northern Sotho, siSwati, Xitsonga, Setswana, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Tshivenda, Sepedi, and Afrikaans.

**Did you know that the first South African Surfing Championship took place in 1966 at Durban's Golden Mile?**





# ABOUT DUT

DUT boasts a world-class reputation as a member of the International Association of Universities and the Commonwealth Universities. This reputation has translated into successful and longstanding partnerships with leading universities around the globe. Moreover, we are committed to offering you a student-centred education: at DUT, it's about you reaching your full potential.

Currently there are approximately 33 000 students registered at DUT. The university is spread across seven campuses in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Pietermaritzburg has both unique courses, and programmes duplicating those offered on the Durban campuses.



## DURBAN

- ML Sultan Campus (The International Office is located here)
- Steve Biko Campus
- Ritson Campus
- City Campus
- Brickfield Campus

## PIETERMARITZBURG

- Riverside Campus
- Indumiso Campus



## BIBHUTI RANJAN

International Student (India)  
Faculty of Applied Sciences

The metal extraction industry is crucial to the world's infrastructure, but unfortunately it has some toxic side effects, including producing dangerous cyanide. Dr Ranjan's work in the Faculty of Applied Sciences is on microorganisms that can feed off cyanide, leaving only harmless by-products. His work has global implications, so it's not surprising that he has spent time in the USA as well as his native India and, of course, DUT. It's all about partnerships, and DUT allows him to partner with the very best in the field.

# STUDY VISAS OVERVIEW

International students – including students from Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries – are required to have study visas to study in the Republic of South Africa. DUT is not permitted to register a student unless they have a valid study visa.

Your study visa needs to be valid at all times, and is issued for the duration of your study period (i.e. the minimum time it takes to qualify for the diploma/degree you are taking).

If you are currently studying at a South African high school, or at another tertiary education institution in South Africa, please note that you will need to apply for a new study visa valid for DUT.

## WHO IS EXEMPT FROM THIS REQUIREMENT?

The following persons do not need a study visa, but must submit other documents to the university to register:

- Political Asylum Seekers and Refugees – An asylum seeker must have an Asylum Seeker Temporary Permit that entitles the holder to work and study. A Refugee document for two years automatically grants the right to study.
- Diplomatic Representatives and their families – A letter is needed from the Protocol Section at the Department of Foreign Affairs, confirming diplomatic status in South Africa.
- Persons with permanent residence of South Africa – A South African Identity Documents or a Permanent Residence permit document must be submitted.

## VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

Study visas must be applied for at a South African embassy, mission or consulate in your country of origin, or at Visa Facilitation Services (VFS) Global Centres across the country. VFS have 11 centres in the Republic of South Africa, and the Durban Centre for KZN is within walking distance of Durban University of Technology:

Visa Facilitation Services Unit 101A, 1st Floor, 91-123 Cowey Road (Problem Mkhize), Essenwood, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

The VFS global helpline is +27124253000. Should you wish to renew or make an application, visit <http://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/>

## STUDY VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST TIME APPLICANTS

You will need:

1. A Department of Home Affairs application form (BI-1738).
2. A valid passport, which must be valid for at least 30 days after the end of your proposed stay in South Africa (otherwise your permit will only be granted for the period up to 30 days before the expiry date). It should also have at least one unused page when arriving in South Africa.
3. The application fee for the visa. This is non-refundable even if your visa is refused.
4. An official letter from DUT confirming acceptance and the duration of the course, together with proof of your acceptance of the offer.
5. A Letter of Undertaking from the International Office at DUT.
6. Medical and radiological reports (less than six months old).
7. Yellow fever vaccination certificate if relevant.
8. The relevant certificate if married, widowed, divorced or separated.
9. Proof of medical insurance cover registered in South Africa.
10. Details regarding arranged accommodation.
11. Proof of sufficient funds to cover tuition fees, maintenance and incidental costs.
12. A police clearance certificate (less than six months old).



# STUDY VISAS OVERVIEW CONT.

Please note that the documents must be originals or certified copies. A certified copy is a photocopy of the original document with an original certified stamp indicating that the authorised person, e.g. a Commissioner of Oaths or police officer, has seen the original document.

As it takes time to process these applications, it is advisable that applications for new study visas should be submitted at least six to eight weeks before the intended departure date for DUT.

## RENEWING AN EXISTING VISA

All applications for an extension of a study visa should be submitted to the Department of Home Affairs at least 60 days before the expiry date. Failure to do so will mean that you will have to satisfy the Director General that there was good cause for the delay.

In order to extend your study visa, you will need to take the following to the Visa Facilitation Service:

1. Valid passport (valid for at least 30 days more than the required extension period).
2. Completed Home Affairs application form BI 1739.
3. Application fee and a handling fee (to be paid to the Visa Facilitation Services).
4. Proof of sufficient financial means to cover tuition fees, subsistence and incidental costs (in the form of a bursary, or bank statement).
5. A Police Clearance Certificate less than six months old (for anyone 18 years old or older).
6. Medical and radiological reports less than six months old.
7. Official letter from your faculty/department administrator/supervisor confirming that you will be continuing studies at DUT including the duration for which an extension is required.
8. A letter of Undertaking from the International office.
9. Proof of South African medical cover.
10. Proof of accommodation (e.g. copy of lease arrangement, letter from landlord, etc.).

**Did you know that Moses Mabhida Stadium was built for the first FIFA World Cup held in Africa in 2010?**

## VISAS FOR POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES

The visa renewal requirements above are also applicable to postdoctoral students who wish to extend their visas. Postdoctoral students require an official letter from the research department at DUT confirming continuance of research at DUT, the terms of the studies, the amount of any award, and the duration for which an extension is required. Postdoctoral Fellows must apply for the Visitor's Visa Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) and not for a study visa

Please note that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the application is complete and has all the accompanying documentation required. The International Office does not accept liability for applications that are incomplete, returned, invalid, or refused.

Should you have originally applied for a study visa in Durban for the first time, or you are extending a visa that was already extended in Durban before, you do not need to re-submit medical and radiological reports. The Department of Home Affairs requires that you provide a handwritten and signed undertaking confirming that you had already lodged these reports previously and that the Department has copies of the reports on your record.

In case you applied for your study visa for the first time in your home country and are now applying to renew it in Durban, the Home Affairs office will not have copies of your medical and radiological reports on record and you are therefore required to provide a medical report from a General Practitioner with regard to your general state of health, and a radiological report certifying that you do not have active signs of pulmonary tuberculosis.



# STUDY VISAS OVERVIEW CONT.

## STUDENTS COMING INTO SOUTH AFRICA FOR 90 DAYS OR LESS

Students from countries exempt from South African visas for visits to South Africa for 30/90 days or less are **NOT** required to apply for a study visa. In those cases, students get issued with a temporary residence permit (TRP) or a stamp on arrival at the port of entry in South Africa.

For a list of visa-exempt countries according to the intended duration of stay (30/90 days) please access: <http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/index.php/countries-exempt-from-sa-visas/>. Students who are not from visa-exempt countries, and who will be in the country for 90 days or less, must apply for a visitor's visa at the South African Embassy in their home country.

## HOLDERS OF TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS

A holder of a valid temporary residence visa issued for the categories mentioned below will be allowed to register and undertake part-time studies with Institutions of Higher Learning as defined by the Immigration Regulations of the Immigration Act, (Act No. 13 of 2002) during the validity period of their respective visas:

- General Work Visa
- Critical Skills Work Visa
- Intra-Company Transfer Work Visa
- Business Visa

This provision allows for **part-time study only**. The duration of the course/qualification must not exceed the period of validity of the primary visa.

## WORKING ON A STUDY VISA

The holder of a study visa may conduct part-time work, provided that they do not exceed 20 hours of work per week.

Did you know that Durban City Hall is a twin of the



# APPLICATION PROCESS

The Central Applications Office (CAO) – [www.cao.ac.za](http://www.cao.ac.za) – processes applications for first time admission to universities in KwaZulu-Natal, including DUT. You may apply to several institutions at the same time via the CAO.

Applications for Masters and Doctoral studies do not go through the CAO, but are made directly to the relevant department.

All International undergraduate and postgraduate applicants should apply as early as possible. You will need a letter of acceptance from the chosen department, as well as a Letter of Undertaking from the International Office before you can apply for your Study Permit.

## EQUIVALENT INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

DUT recognises for admission purposes for Diploma programmes only the following qualifications without the need for further evaluation:

1. Any General Certificate of Education (GCE), or General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) that is quality assured by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), provided that the holder of such a Certificate has, at one or more examination sitting/s, passed a minimum of five approved Ordinary (O) Level subjects, of which:
  - a. At least four must be at symbols A, B, or C;
  - b. No more than one may be a symbol D; and
  - c. At least one must be English Language or English Literature;
2. Certain other international qualifications. Further details are obtainable from the Student Admissions Office or relevant Faculty Office.

## OTHER INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

If you have foreign qualifications and wish to study in South Africa, the department to which you are applying will require you to apply to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) or the Matriculation Board to have your qualifications

evaluated. Those applying for diploma programmes will have to have a SAQA evaluation, and those applying for degree programmes will have to have a Matriculation Board evaluation.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

### SAQA Application

- Obtain the application form from SAQA offices, or download it from the SAQA website ([www.saqa.org.za](http://www.saqa.org.za)), or complete your application online on the SAQA website.
- Complete all the sections of the application form.
- Ensure that proof of the necessary payment (always to be made in ZAR currency) accompanies the application.
- Provide legible and certified copies of all documents required.
- Provide a certified copy of a legitimate identification document.
- Certificates in foreign languages must be accompanied by sworn translations into English.

**Note: SAQA needs both the document in the original language and the sworn translation.**



# APPLICATION PROCESS CONT.

## Who to contact:

Evaluation of Foreign Qualifications Call Centre:

Tel: +27 12 431 5070 or 0860 103 188

General enquiries switchboard:

Tel: +27 12 431 5000 • Fax: +27 12 431 5147

Email: [dfqeas@saqa.org.za](mailto:dfqeas@saqa.org.za)

Address: SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria  
or Postnet Suite 248, Private Bag X06, Waterkloof, 0145

## Operating hours:

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 08:30 - 16:30

Thursdays: 09:00 - 16:30

## Matriculation Board Application

For Matriculation Board evaluation log on to

<http://mb.usaf.ac.za>

## Who to contact:

Email address: [applications@usaf.ac.za](mailto:applications@usaf.ac.za)

Telephone number: +27 10 591 4401/2



# MEDICAL INSURANCE

In terms of the Immigration Amendment Act 19 of 2004, any international student coming to study in the Republic of South Africa must provide proof of medical cover registered under the Medical Schemes Act 131 of 1998. This does not apply to those on Asylum Seekers', Refugees', or Diplomats' visas.

You cannot register at DUT without providing the International Office with proof of medical aid registered under the above-mentioned Act. It is therefore compulsory for international students to have a **South African medical aid**, which must be paid for upfront on an annual basis for the duration of your studies.

**Should you rely on sponsorship, please ensure that you advise your sponsor of this requirement as soon as you get your sponsorship or acceptance.**

It is not sufficient to produce a letter indicating medical health cover sponsorship. The sponsor must organise payment for the required medical aid cover directly to the medical aid company, separate to that of the tuition fees.

The two recommended service providers, as approved by the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) are:

- Momentum Health  
<http://www.studenthealthcare.co.za>  
Email: Nikita.Balram@momentum.co.za
- Compcare (The Network Option)  
<http://www.studentplan.co.za>
- Email: Viresh.Makhan@universal.co.za



# ARRIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA

The majority of international flights terminate at OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg. There you will be cleared through customs, then board a domestic flight to King Shaka International Airport. There are a limited number of international flights that do fly directly to Durban, including Emirates Airlines, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Air Mauritius and British Airways.

## ABOUT KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

South Africa's newest international airport, King Shaka International Airport (KSIA) is located 35 kilometres north of Durban. In 2012, KSIA was named the third best airport in Africa in the World Airport Awards. The airport is named after the great 19th-century Zulu warrior-king, King Shaka.

King Shaka currently handles around 5 million passengers. Its 3.7-kilometre runway can accommodate the world's largest aircraft, including the double-decker Airbus A380. The airport offers the full range of banking, forex and car rental services, along with a wide choice of restaurants, bars and duty-free shops.

## CUSTOMS GUIDE WHEN ENTERING SOUTH AFRICA

Whether you fly directly to Durban, or through Johannesburg, you will need to clear customs. Please note that the following is a guide only (sourced with permission from [www.southafrica.info](http://www.southafrica.info)).

- When you arrive in South Africa you may be questioned and your baggage may be scanned or searched for dutiable, restricted or prohibited goods.
- On arrival, travellers with goods to declare must complete a Traveller Card and make a verbal declaration of their goods to a customs officer, who will then generate a Traveller Declaration (TRDI).
- If you're found with undeclared, restricted or prohibited goods, you could be fined or even face prosecution. To help you avoid this, and make your arrival in and departure from South Africa as smooth as possible, here's a quick guide to moving goods in and out of the country.



## WHAT YOU CAN BRING IN DUTY-FREE

You can bring the following goods into South Africa without paying customs duty or value added tax (VAT):

- Consumable goods in accompanied baggage.
- Cigarettes - up to 200 per person.
- Cigars - up to 20 per person.
- Cigarette or pipe tobacco - up to 250g per person.
- Perfume - up to 50ml per person.
- Eau de toilette (scented liquid lighter and/or cologne) - up to 250ml per person.
- Wine - up to 2L per person.
- Spirits and other alcoholic beverages - up to 1L in total per person.

People under 18 can also claim this duty-free allowance on consumable goods (excepting alcohol and tobacco products) provided the goods are for their personal use.

You are allowed to bring in one month's supply of pharmaceutical drugs or medicines for your personal use. Any other pharmaceutical drugs or medicines must be accompanied by a letter or certified prescription from a registered physician, and have to be declared.

You can bring in personal effects, sport and recreational equipment, either as accompanied or unaccompanied baggage, for your own use during your studies.

In the case of very expensive articles, you may be required to lodge a cash deposit to cover the potential duty/tax on their re-export.



## ARRIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA CONT.

The deposit will be refunded on departure after a customs officer has inspected the items and verified that they are being re-exported.

Travellers from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) or Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states are allowed to bring into South Africa handmade articles of leather, wood, plastic, or glass if the goods do not exceed 25kgs in total, without the payment of duties and taxes.

In addition to the personal effects and consumables duty-free allowances, you are allowed to bring in new or used goods in accompanied baggage to the value of R5 000, or R25 000 if arriving from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia or Swaziland.

### WHAT IF I AM OVER THE DUTY-FREE LIMIT?

Once the above limits are exceeded, all goods brought into South Africa are subject to the payment of customs duty and value added tax (VAT), including goods bought duty-free on aircraft or ships or in duty-free shops.

For goods of up to R20 000 in value, you have the option of paying customs duty at a flat rate of 20%. Flat-rated goods are also exempt from payment of VAT.

**This is valid only once per person per 30-day period. People under 18 can opt for the flat-rate assessment, provided the goods are for their personal use.**

Certain goods are restricted, and may only be brought into South Africa if you have the necessary authority or permit, and these must be declared on arrival. They include any firearms, as well as:

- South African bank notes in excess of R25 000.
- Foreign currency above \$10 000.
- Gold coins, coin and stamp collections, and unprocessed gold.
- Endangered plants and animals.

- Species of plants or animals that are listed as endangered, whether they are alive or dead, as well as any parts of or articles made from them. Food, plants, animals and biological goods.
- All plants and plant products, such as seeds, flowers, fruit, honey, margarine and vegetable oils. Also, animals, birds, poultry and products thereof, such as dairy products, butter and eggs.



## ARRIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA CONT.

### GOODS YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING

The obvious illegal goods such as narcotics apply. However, if you're in any doubt about the goods you want to bring into South Africa, contact your nearest South African Embassy or High Commission abroad or the nearest South African Revenue Services (SARS) customs office.

### HOW MUCH MONEY YOU CAN BRING TO SOUTH AFRICA

As a foreign visitor, you can bring in up to R25 000 in South African currency, plus an unlimited amount in foreign currencies and traveller's cheques, provided you declare this.



## NYAMWEZI NDARHWA PARFAITE

International Student (DRC)  
Faculty of Accounting & Informatics

Nyamwezi is a 2nd-year student studying IT in the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics. Since being at DUT she's been able to learn two new languages: English for classes, and Zulu for socialising. "My friends and my church help me a lot, and some of the lecturers are also from French-speaking countries, and help me if I have any trouble." For Nyamwezi, IT is about designing the future, and DUT is the perfect place to study.

## TRANSPORT FROM KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Having arrived in Durban, how do you get to your accommodation? There is public transport available, in the form of shuttle services in a minibus taxi, as well as in airport accredited taxis. In general, the cost of shuttle services is cheaper than taxis. The cost of a trip on the shuttle service is R80 per person. This shuttle has a fixed route and stops at:

- All Durban Hotels
- Durban City
- Durban Beachfront
- Durban ICC
- Suncoast Casino
- North and South Beach

The cost on a private taxi ranges from R300 upwards. An Uber taxi ride is slightly cheaper at ±R280. There are no public buses (other than the shuttle service detailed above) from the airport as well as no metro or rail service to Durban central.

Generally, there is no need to book a shuttle or taxi from the airport as both are available from the airport taxi rank. Please note that you might have to wait for the arrival of the shuttle. However, if you prefer, you can book a taxi and be welcomed outside the Arrivals Hall with the driver displaying your name. Should you prefer this then pre-book through the taxi company.



The below is a list of accredited service providers.

- A Hassan's..... **+27 31 564 0734**
- Airport Bus Shuttle Service..... **+27 31 465 5573/**  
**+27 82 340 9990**
- Boshoff's..... **+27 31 307 6176**
- Cab 4 U..... **+27 82 530 3745**
- Checker Taxi's..... **+27 72 672 6547/**  
**+27 84 666 1535**
- City Cabs..... **+27 82 086 6888**
- Eagle Taxis..... **+27 31 337 8333/**  
**+27 80 033 0336**
- Ivory Cabs..... **+27 84 060 1973**
- Khumalo's..... **+27 82 894 2572**
- King Shaka Taxi..... **+27 74 790 7505**
- Magic Bus..... **+27 31 263 2647**
- Rikki Cabs..... **+27 72 408 0418**
- Shashi's Taxi..... **+27 31 303 1356/**  
**+27 78 426 0265**
- Sikelela Taxis..... **+27 83 329 8670**
- Triangle Cabs..... **+27 31 208 3862**
- U Cabs Umhlanga Rocks..... **+27 82 454 1577/**  
**+27 31 561 1846**
- Uber..... **Mobile app**
- Yes Please Coach-PMB..... **+27 86 111 3002**

## TRANSPORT FROM KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONT.

### TOLL PLAZA NEAR KSIA

Should you decide to rent a car at the airport, please note that when leaving the airport and travelling southbound towards Durban, you must pass through the La Mercy Ramp Toll Plaza. This involves, currently, the payment of a toll fee of R7,50.

Please check at <https://pathfinda.com/en/la-mercy/airport-area/shops-services/king-shaka-toll-plaza-south-ramp/2608> to see what the toll fee is when you will be arriving, as it may change.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN DURBAN

Durban's public transport system is limited. The mode of transportation used by most Durbanites is the minibus taxi (or kombi), which are independently operated.

### MINIBUS TAXIS

Minibus taxis are the most prevalent, affordable, and popular mode of transport for most of South Africa's population. They do not operate with timetables, and have no formal stops. Minibus commuters are charged fixed amounts for travelling on particular routes. These routes are generally known without being published.

Catching one requires an expert knowledge of the taxi sign language. You stand by the side of the road in a known, but unlabelled spot, and make a hand signal. More adventurous travellers will find minibus taxis an interesting African experience.

### METERED TAXIS

Durban has several reputable metered taxi companies, but these can be expensive for long or regular journeys. It is always advisable to use a branded cab – such as Zippy (+27 82 632 7410) & (+27 78 886 2780), Mozzie (+27 31 303 5787), and



Eagle (+27 31 337 8333) – rather than an unmarked vehicle. Prices can be negotiated upfront, or the meter can be used. Most cabs do take credit cards, and tipping is customary.

### DURBAN TRANSPORT

Durban Transport operates the Mynah and Aqualine bus services. The Mynah covers most of the city and local residential areas. Trips cost around R5, and you get a slight discount if you pre-purchase 10 tickets. Stops include North Beach, South Beach, Musgrave Rd/Mitchell Park Circle, Peter Mokaba Ridge/Vause, Botanic Gardens and Kensington Rd. The larger Aqualine buses run through the greater metropolitan area.

### DURBAN PEOPLE MOVER

The useful Durban People Mover shuttle bus operates along several routes. Tickets (around R16) can be purchased on board, and allow you to get on and off as many times as you like within a day. Single-leg tickets cost around R5.50. The service runs daily between 5am and 10pm. The bus links the beachfront to the City Centre and runs the length of the beachfront from uShaka Marine World to Suncoast Casino, with designated stops (including the Victoria Street Market and City Hall) along the way.

### UBER

Uber is an increasingly popular option in South Africa. Uber connects you with a reliable ride in minutes, using a dedicated app: one tap and a car comes directly to you! Payment is completely cashless, but you will need a credit card linked to the app. To access Uber, download the Uber app to your smartphone.

# TRANSPORT FROM KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CONT.

## RENTAL CARS

Rental cars are widely available and reasonably priced, especially if you are using converted foreign currency. Car rental companies are usually located at airports or in busy city centres. Car rentals have a range of vehicles to suit a variety of budgets and space requirements, as well as specialised vehicles such as luxury cars, convertibles, SUVs, and hybrid or electric cars.

For more information, see:

- <http://www.south-africa-tours-and-travel.com/getting-around-durban.html>
- <http://traveller24.news24.com/TravelPlanning/>

There are rules and regulations that must be followed when you rent a car. These vary from company to company, but in general the vehicle needs to be returned to the company in the same condition in which it was received, and you must not exceed mileage restrictions. Note that you will also need a valid driver's license or international driving permit to hire a car. Car hire may also attract an added fee for insurance. This is often mandatory, and definitely worth having. Details of fees are displayed when booking online.

Rates are cheaper when you book your car in advance, because the rates depend on how many cars the company has available at the time of the rental.

**Some car rental companies that offer affordable car rental in Durban:**





# SAFETY & SECURITY

As in many parts of the world, crime can be a problem in South Africa. However, staying safe is just a matter of taking some sensible precautions and following some basic safety rules.

## PERSONAL SAFETY

Avoid walking alone at night, or through dangerous areas. Know where you are going before you set out, and plan to avoid areas that are known to be risky. You can find out about dangerous areas by asking your fellow students, residents, or the police.

Pay attention to your belongings: don't leave them unattended, and avoid carrying lots of cash, wearing visible jewellery, carrying expensive cameras, or showing off your cellphone in less safe areas. Don't make yourself a target for opportunistic criminals. Avoid hitchhiking, and don't carry items for strangers.

**Lock your doors, especially at night.**

## ATM AND CREDIT CARD SAFETY

When using automatic teller machines (ATMs) in South Africa, stay alert. Never accept help from strangers, under any circumstances. Keep your eye on your card at all times, and if you see anything suspicious, cancel the transaction and alert a security guard. If your ATM card is withheld by the machine, call the helpline number found at the ATM, or visit the bank to have it released.

When using your credit card in restaurants or other stores, you will often be brought a portable card machine to use. If your card is declined, check with restaurant management before using a second machine, to make sure it is one that they own. Always report stolen or lost cards immediately.



# EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

## GENERAL

Police (Flying Squad):	<b>10111</b>
Ambulance:	<b>10177</b>
Durban Fire Department:	<b>+27 31 361 0000</b>
Pietermaritzburg Fire Department:	<b>+27 33 845 5900</b>

If you have difficulties with any of these numbers, dial **112** from a cellphone, or **1022** from a landline.

Berea Police Station (closest police station to DUT main Durban campuses)	<b>+27 31 201 7327</b>
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eThekweni Metro Police (Municipality police)	<b>+27 31 300 3230</b>
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## DUT EMERGENCY NUMBERS

DUT Security Control	
Steve Biko Campus:	<b>+27 31 373 2181/2</b>
ML Sultan Campus:	<b>+27 31 373 5177/9</b>
City Campus:	<b>+27 31 373 6657</b>
Ritson Campus:	<b>+27 31 373 5664</b>
Brickfield Campus:	<b>+27 31 373 3740</b>
Ambulance	<b>+27 82 911</b>
City Med (DUT campus emergencies):	<b>+27 80 000 0024</b>
City Hospital (Private hospital - DUT contracted)	<b>+27 31 204 1300</b>

Hospitals close to DUT's Durban main campuses with emergency wards:

Addington (State hospital)	<b>+27 31 309 4646/ +27 31 309 6065</b>
Entabeni (Private hospital)	<b>+27 31 360 3111</b>
King Edward (State hospital)	<b>+27 31 314 2200</b>
St. Augustine (Private hospital)	<b>+27 31 268 5000</b>



# ACCOMMODATION

## APPLYING FOR ACCOMMODATION AT A DUT STUDENT RESIDENCE

DUT recognises the importance of providing residence accommodation to its students, especially first year students. However, space in residences is limited, so it is important to apply in good time.

Admission to residence is based on:

1. Being offered a place in a course of study.
2. The passing of 50% of the previous year's subjects (for returning students).
3. Payment of tuition registration fees and residence registration fees prior to registration. Proof of payment (via an approved sponsor, a bank loan approval authority, or any other payment arrangement approved through the Student Housing Office) is acceptable in lieu of full payment.
4. A good disciplinary record.
5. Applicants outside the Durban metropolitan are given first preference.

All applications must be made by completing the relevant application form, which is available to first time applicants on request from the Central Applications Office (CAO), or the Student Admissions Office. You can request the form by phone or by email. Completed forms must be returned to the Student Admissions Office with your application. All DUT residences are self-catering.



## CONTACT DETAILS

Senior Finance Officer	Indira Khiramen Tel: +27 31 373 2494 indirak@dut.ac.za
Administrative Officer	Nomaledi Ndlungwana Tel: +27 31 373 2492 nomalediz@dut.ac.za
Administrative Officer	Precious Zwane Tel: +27 31 373 2217 preciousz@dut.ac.za

For further information see: [http://www.dut.ac.za/support\\_services/student\\_services\\_and\\_development/student\\_housing/](http://www.dut.ac.za/support_services/student_services_and_development/student_housing/)

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

International exchange students are not eligible for acceptance into DUT student residences. There are many places where you can seek accommodation if you are an International Exchange Student. The following list of recommended venues is not exhaustive, but includes accommodation used by past international students. You should feel free to arrange your own accommodation.

- **BOTANY BAY LODGE B&B**

Contact: Stacey Grundy  
Address: 27 St. Thomas Road, Berea, 4001  
Tel: +27 31 202 1829  
Cell: +27 82 571 9438  
[botanybaylodge@gmail.com](mailto:botanybaylodge@gmail.com)

- **PASTEL B&B**

Contact: Dennis or Heather  
Address: 46 Halford Road, Musgrave  
Tel: +27 31 207 2266  
[pastel@discoverymail.co.za](mailto:pastel@discoverymail.co.za)  
or [pastel@mweb.co.za](mailto:pastel@mweb.co.za)

- **TEKWENI BACKPACKERS**

Contact: Debbie Dlamini  
Address: 169 - 9th Avenue, Morningside  
Tel: +27 31 303 1433  
[info@tekwenibackpackers.co.za](mailto:info@tekwenibackpackers.co.za)  
[www.tekwenibackpackers.co.za](http://www.tekwenibackpackers.co.za)

- **COWEYS CORNER B&B**

Contact: Joan Oosthuizen  
Address: 42 Robarts Road, Berea  
Cell: +27 82 883 4051  
[info@coweyscorner.co.za](mailto:info@coweyscorner.co.za)  
[www.coweyscorner.co.za](http://www.coweyscorner.co.za)

- **SARAH'S PLACE**

Contact: Sarah Ismail  
Address: 31 Julia Road, Overport  
Tel: +27 31 208 9423  
Cell: +27 82 443 4691  
[sarah.ismail23@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.ismail23@gmail.com)  
<http://ridz25.wix.com/sarahsplace>

# INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS CONT.

- **BARBARA HERRIDGE**

Contact: Barbara Herridge  
Address: 12 Lancaster Road, Berea  
Cell: +27 82 377 1649  
[barbara.herridge@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara.herridge@yahoo.com)

- **THE BUS STOP**

Contact: Zakhele Myeza  
Address: 19 & 25 St Johns Avenue, Bulwer, Durban, 4001  
Cell: +27 82 683 8545  
[zakhele@busstop.co.za](mailto:zakhele@busstop.co.za)  
[airbnb.co.za/h/pvtcottage-pvtbath-pvtkitchen-durban-thebusstop](https://www.airbnb.co.za/h/pvtcottage-pvtbath-pvtkitchen-durban-thebusstop)

- **THE SAILS**

Contact: Neil Sungeeth  
Address: 14 Timeball Square, Timeball Boulevard, Point Waterfront.  
Cell: +27 83 309 5686  
[neil@dpwp.co.za](mailto:neil@dpwp.co.za)  
[www.dpwp.co.za](http://www.dpwp.co.za)



# FINANCES

Managing your finances is an important part of studying in a foreign country. South Africa has a number of major banks at which you can open an account, including (but not limited to):



**FNB**  
First National Bank



*Today, tomorrow, together.*



**NEDBANK**



**CAPITEC  
BANK**



**Standard Bank**

Each bank has its own requirements for opening an account. However, the following documentation will more than likely be sufficient:

- A recent certified payslip or proof of income.
- A certified copy of your passport and a copy of your visa, entry stamp or letter of introduction.
- Three months' worth of latest bank statements from your bank in your home country.
- Proof of your physical address abroad, not older than three months.
- A utility bill (e.g. a monthly statement from your landlord) showing your name and current residential address. For more information look online or visit a nearby bank branch on your arrival.



# LIVING COSTS

These cost of living estimates are a guideline to help you plan your budget. Please note that prices may change, and will vary from place to place. In general, supermarkets are cheaper than small street outlets.

Expense	Approximate Cost Per Month
Rent	R5 000
Living Costs	R1 500
Food	R2 000
Transport	R1 000
Spending Money	R1 500
Total	R11 000 p/m

Item	Approximate Cost
Bread	R17 per loaf
Milk	R18 per litre
Cool Drink (Coke, etc.)	R16 per 2 litres
Breakfast Cereal	R35 per 400g
Beef	R80 per kg
Lamb	R90 per kg
Chicken	R40 per kg
Potatoes	R10 per kg
Tomatoes	R15 per kg
Washing Powder	R30 per kg
Bath Soap	R10 per bar
Shampoo	R30 per 350ml



## TIPPING

Durban and Pietermaritzburg have some wonderful restaurants to suit any taste. It is customary to tip wait staff either 10% or 12.5% of your total bill.

## CLOTHING

The South African dress code is usually limited to “smart casual”, which will allow you entry into most venues. During summer, lightweight comfortable clothing is recommended. Your graduation will likely be the only occasion requiring formal dress.

## ELECTRICAL GOODS

South Africa operates on a 220V/240V AC, 50Hz system. Be sure that any electrical or electronic appliances you bring with you are compatible with the South African system.

## CELLPHONES

There are five cellphone providers operating in South Africa:

- Cell C
- MTN
- Vodacom
- Telkom

## LIVING COSTS CONT.

These providers have outlets in most shopping centres, where you can buy sim cards, airtime, data, and phones. However, these shops can be expensive, and getting a cellphone can be a little complicated for foreign nationals.

Cellphone contracts are not available to students on visitor's permits or study permits. You can purchase a cellphone in South Africa, but they are not cheap. Your best option is to bring a cellphone with you from your home country and to purchase a pay-as-you-go sim card when you arrive in South Africa. This will let you top up your airtime and data as you use it. Please note that you can also convert airtime to data if required.

Under South African law, cellphone numbers need to be registered for RICA (the Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act). You can register your new number at the outlet where you purchase your sim card. To do so, you will need to provide your passport, along with proof of address.

Pay-as-you-go sim cards are very cheap and can be bought at a local supermarket. Airtime and data can also be purchased from a wide range of outlets, including supermarkets. Many of South Africa's biggest supermarket chains are within walking distance from DUT campuses.



## PHONE CARDS

If you wish to phone home from a landline phone, there are a number of different international calling cards (such as Worldcall) that you can purchase. These cards make international calls very affordable.

The use of public telephones in South Africa is very limited, but they do exist. Coin-operated phones are blue, while card-operated phones are green. Both types offer a reliable connection, high speech quality, and are affordable and easy to use. Telkom operated public telephones use coins, phone cards, or Worldcall cards. Phonecards and Worldcall cards can be purchased at most retail stores, petrol stations, tobacconists, post offices and airports.

## GOING ON SAFARI

One of the best things about South Africa is the wildlife and DUT is fortunate to be close to several game reserves. Here are some tips for making the experience comfortable and memorable:

- Take a warm jacket for the evenings. It can get chilly on the back of an open game-spotting vehicle when the sun sets, even in summer.
- Take comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots.
- Wear sunscreen!
- Pay attention to the dress code if you're staying in an upmarket hotel, especially for dinner.
- Don't forget your camera and a pair of binoculars.

Remember, the point of going on safari is to relax and enjoy your time under the wide African sky, listening to the sounds of the bush all around you, so leave your stress (and your work) behind.

# IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

**International Education and Partnerships Office:** 7th & 8th Floor D Block, ML Sultan Campus, Durban  
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