



DIPLOMA IN NAUTICAL STUDIES



FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF MARITIME STUDIES

01 JAN - 31 DEC 2026

Diploma in Nautical Studies (sea going)

NQF Level: 6

SAQA ID: 9483 I

Qualification Code: DINAUI

Location: Steve Biko Campus (S6, Level 5)

Description of the Programme

The Diploma in Nautical Studies represents a level of qualification that recognises the ability to gain and apply a range of focused, specialised, skills and understanding. Graduates of the diploma would be able to display competence in the application of knowledge in a broad range of varied work activities associated with an international career at sea.

Career opportunities

The first line of employment may lie within a shipping company or with Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), where the graduate will enter the industry as a Deck Cadet, and on completion of the requisite sea-time, further study/training and ancillary courses, could one day aspire to the command of an ocean-going vessel or work in a number of divisions within TNPA (including tugs, pilotage, dredging and vessel traffic services).

Opportunities also exist with the South African Navy (SAN). However, the student will need to meet the stringent physical and medical requirements of SAN. A graduate with the Diploma in Nautical Studies with sea-going experience can transit ashore into a number of positions in areas such as surveying; technical management; education, training and development; and crewing management.

Explanation of Points scale:

SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)		
SYMBOL	HIGHER GRADE	STANDARD GRADE
A	8	6
B	7	5
C	6	4
D	5	3
E	4	2
F	3	1
NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC)		
%	LEVEL	POINTS
90-100	7	8
80-89%	7	7
70-79%	6	6
60-69%	5	5
50-59%	4	4
40-49%	3	3
30-39%	2	2
20-29%	1	1

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A person will only be considered for registration for an instructional programme approved by the Institution's Senate if the person complies with:

- The minimum admission requirements stated in DUT general handbook (refer to DUT website for general handbook).
- Institutional faculty, departmental and/or instructional programme specific rules; and

MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS IN TERMS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK (HEQSF)

G7 rule: For Diploma:

“a National Senior Certificate (NSC) as certified by the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), with a minimum of achievement rating of 3 for English and a minimum achievement rating of 3 in four recognised NSC 20-credit subjects.”

Entry Requirements (Diploma in Nautical Studies) (Sea Going)

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) (01 January 2009) NSC DIPLOMA ENTRY		SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC) (PRE 2009) SENIOR CERTIFICATE (SC)			NATIONAL CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL (NCV) (NCV) LEVEL 4 (with statutory requirements for a diploma)	
Compulsory Subjects	NSC Rating Code	Compulsory Subjects	HG	SG	Compulsory Subjects	Mark
English	4	English	E	D	English	60%
Mathematics	4	Mathematics	E	D	Mathematics	60%
Physical Science	4	Physical Science	E	D	Physical Science	60%
In addition: TWO recognized NSC 20 credit subject as per G7 rule (As stated above)	3					
OR NATED (N4)						
N4 Certificate in appropriate subjects with pass in English NSC 4 and one of the following credit combinations:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 recognised 20 credit NSC subjects and Mathematics with rating of 4 and N4 Engineering Science with a minimum achievement of 50%; OR 2 recognised 20 credit NSC subjects and Physical Science with a rating of 4 and N4 Mathematics with a minimum achievement of 50%; OR 3 recognised 20 credit NSC subjects with rating of 4 and N4 Engineering Science and Mathematics with a minimum achievement of 50% 						
Additional Entry Requirements: SAMSA eyesight to be completed once Firm Offer has been made.						

OR

Admission Requirement based upon Work Experience, Age and Maturity

For admission to entry level DIPLOMA and certificate studies:

A person may, subject to such requirements as the Senate may determine, be admitted to the Institution even if such a person is not in a possession of a National Senior Certificate, Senior Certificate, or an equivalent certificate, provided that:

- The person shall have reached the age of 23 in the first year of registration and shall have at least:
 - three years' appropriate work experience and/or
 - capacity for the proposed instructional programme, which shall be assessed at the discretion of the respective Head of Department by a Senate approved admission assessment comprising of a DUT Standardised Assessment Test for Access and Placement (SATAP), Academic Literacies (AI) & English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and/or an appropriate subject or programme specific written assessment designed and marked by the relevant Department; and
- The relevant Faculty Board shall be satisfied that the person's standard of communication skills, ability to study successfully and/or work experience are such that the person, in the opinion of the relevant Faculty Board, should be able to complete the proposed instructional programme successfully. If required, the communication skills and study skills should be tested; and
- The person's application for admission in terms of work experience, age and maturity is approved prior to registration.

Applicants intending to gain admission through work experience, age and maturity must submit their applications at least four months before commencement of the academic year inclusive of the date of scheduling writing a requisite eligibility assessment.

Tuition Fees

To assist you with your planning, the **2025** fees have been indicated. An increase for next year to accommodate the inflation rate can be expected.

Please Note: DUT cannot be held liable for the fees in this brochure as the **2026** fees are not yet final.

First Year Curriculum				
Name of the Module	Subject Code	HEQSF Level	SAQA Credits	2025 Fees
Semester One				
Marine Mathematics I	MRNM101	5	12	R3900.00
Marine Science I	MRSN101	5	12	R4870.00
Communication Skills I	CMSS101	5	12	R3900.00
Computer Skills and Information Literacy I	CMIL101	5	12	R3900.00
Cornerstone 101	CSTN101	5	12	R3910.00
Total				R20480.00
Semester Two				
Marine Mathematics II	MRNM201	5	12	R3900.00
Marine Science II	MRSN201	5	12	R4870.00
Introduction to Shipboard Operations	ISOP101	5	12	R3900.00
Electronic Navigation Systems I	NENSI01	5	8	R2600.00

Leadership (elective)	LDSH101	5	8	R2430.00
Values in the Workplace (elective)	VWKPI01	5	8	R2600.00
Applied Sciences and Society	APSS101	5	12	R3900.00
Violence and Non-violence (elective)	VNVL101	5	8	R2430.00
Total				R26630.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			124	
Second Year Curriculum				
Semester One				
Navigation Meteorology & Environ. Man. I	NMEN101	6	12	R2600.00
Navigation Electronic System II	NENS201	6	12	R2600.00
Shipboard Management I	SHPM101	6	16	R5200.00
Ship Stability and Construction, I	SSCN101	6	12	R2600.00
The Entrepreneurial Edge (elective)	TENE101	6	8	R2600.00
The Global Environment (elective)	GENVI01	6	8	R2450.00
Total				R18050.00
Semester Two				
Navigation-Meteorology & Environ. Man. II	NMEN201	6	12	R3900.00
Navigation-Electronic III	NENS301	6	12	R3900.00
Shipboard Management II	SHPM201	6	12	R3900.00
Ship Stability and Construction II	SSCN201	6	12	R3900.00
Applied Science and Wellness	ASWL101	6	12	R3900.00
Total				R19500.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			120	
Third Year Curriculum				
Semester One				
Navigation-Calculations I	NVCL101	7	12	R3900.00
Navigation-Ocean and Coastal Navigation I	NOCN101	7	16	R6490.00
Shipboard Management III	SHPM301	6	12	R3900.00
Ship Stability and Construction III	SSCN301	6	12	R3900.00
Equality and Diversity (elective)	EQDV101	6	8	R2430.00
HIV and Communicable Diseases in KZN (elective)	HCDK101	6	8	R2600.00
Total				R23220.00
Semester Two				
Navigation-Calculations II	NVCL201	7	8	R2600.00
Navigation-Ocean and Coastal II	NOCN201	7	8	R4870.00
Navigation-Simulation (Radar and ARPA)	NSMR101	7	8	R4870.00
Navigation-Simulation (ECDIS)	NSME101	7	12	R4870.00
Marine Engineering Systems (elective)	MESY101	6	12	R3900.00
Applied Sciences for Environment Sustainability (elective)	ASES101	6	12	R3900.00
Applied Sciences and Community Engagement (elective)	ASCE101	6	12	R3900.00
Total				R28910.00
TOTAL CREDITS SEMESTER 1&2			116	

Application

Applicants who wish to enrol for the programme must apply through the CAO system by no later than 30 September of the previous year.

CAO Online Application visit: <http://www.cao.ac.za>

CAO Contact Details

Private Bag X06
Dalbridge
4014
Tel: (031) 2684444
Fax: (031) 2684422

CAO Code: DU-D-NS3

Closing Date for Applications: 30 September 2025

For Further Information

Contact the Department of Maritime Studies Durban University of Technology
P O Box 1334 DURBAN 4000
Tel: (031) 373 2144
Fax: (031) 373 2137
Email: arshnar@dut.ac.za

Financial Aid

For Financial Aid application for a DUT programme please apply online at www.nsfas.org.za or call the NSFAS call centre on 0860 067 327.

For an explanation on how to fill out the application form, please go to www.nsfas.org.za or contact the call centre on the number above. **Please note** that completing a form does not guarantee Financial Aid. For further assistance, please consult the Department of Financial Aid and Scholarships on (031)373 2931/2557/2054.