

University NBT requirements for admission in 2025



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A note from our Head of Education

Many of you will be wondering about the NBTs this year and starting to ask the many natural questions that you need to for your own unique context. Do I need to write the NBTs, when should I write, where should I write? These are all important questions that you need to answer so that you can plan what steps you need to take to launch you into your next phase beyond High School. It is, indeed, an exciting time but it can be daunting, too, with lots to navigate. That is why we put this summary together for you to help you on your way.

This guide is continuously updated as and when universities release their updated admissions requirements for 2025. In cases where universities have not yet released their updated requirements,

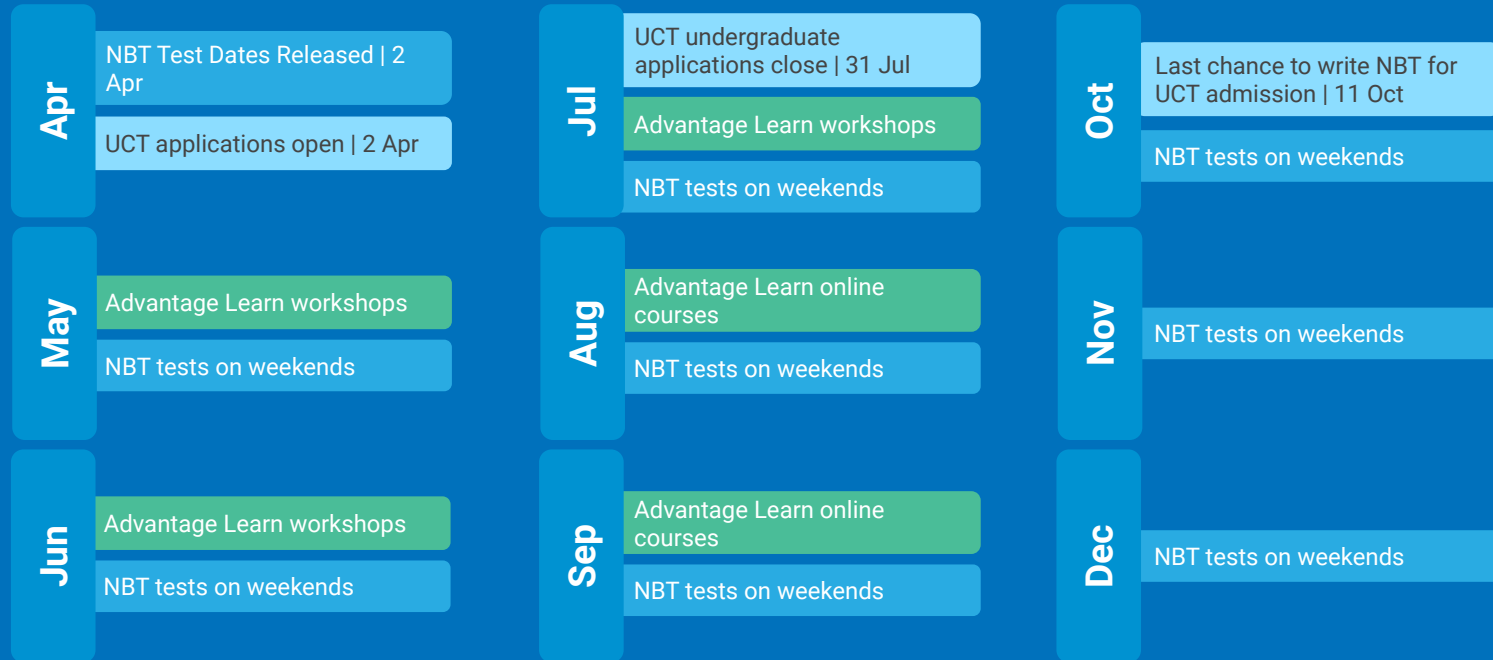
we present their previous requirements as a reference point and note that fact to keep you fully informed. Bookmark the URL via which we share this guide and you will always be able to access the most up to date requirements.

Read on for a brief update on the salient, need-to-know points related to university NBT requirements for admission in 2025. We wish you much success for the year ahead.



Crispian Lees
Head of Education
Advantage Learn

Key NBT dates you need to know!



NBT Project Dates

University of Cape Town Dates

Advantage Learn Dates

Answering some frequently asked questions

When do bookings for the tests open?

The National Benchmark Tests Project of the Centre for Educational Assessments generally publish the test dates and open for booking at the start of April each year. This will likely happen on the 2nd of April in 2024 and this happens via nbt.ac.za as the administrating portal.

When are the tests?

The testing schedule typically presents 25 opportunities to take the tests during the course of the year, spanning from the middle of May to the first week of January next year. Tests are typically run every weekend (with the exception of some weekends) over that date range.

How will the tests be written?

The schedule enables learners to take the tests either in-person or online.

Should I write the test online or in-person?

As indicated by the administering organization, the Centre for Educational Assessments at nbt.ac.za:

"You should choose the test form that suits you the best. The tests are equilibrated so there is no difference in writing the online or pencil and paper form of the NBT. The online test is convenient as you would normally write the test at home, but you will need a computer that meets the minimum specification and have stable internet access and sufficient bandwidth or data. Or you may prefer to write in a test venue using the pencil and paper form of the NBT, in which case you should book your test in a venue closest to you on a date that suits you."

A significant factor to consider when deciding to write in-person or online is how you might be impacted during load shedding. If your power and connectivity is negatively affected during load shedding, then you should strongly consider writing in-person instead.

For more helpful Frequently Asked Questions, visit the [FAQ section](#) at nbt.ac.za.

Can I write the tests more than once?

While you are allowed to write the tests more than once, most Universities will only consider the results from your first attempt. It is very important that you do your best on your first attempt.

Which universities will be using the NBTs for admission to study in 2025?

This is always a tricky question to answer, especially since requirements vary between universities and then, further to that, requirements vary between faculties within universities. As it stands, with many Universities having released their undergraduate guidelines for 2025 enrolment, the requirements appear to be largely unchanged when compared with last year.

Having said this, our advice in this regard stands:

"In order to understand whether or not you need to write the NBTs, do your research for your first, second and third choice degree that you are applying to at all the universities that you are applying towards. If any of these require the NBTs, then you will need to write the NBTs. Work hard to give yourself the best chance of being admitted for your first choice university and degree but be prepared for the fact that you may not be."

In terms of understanding whether or not a university requires the NBTs for admission, the official university document that will indicate this is a university **Undergraduate Prospectus** or **Undergraduate Guide** for the year of admission (the year in which you would do your first year of study). So, for clarity, in 2024, you should look for the 2025 Undergraduate Prospectus or the 2025 Undergraduate Guide.

To help you on your way, please see a list of the major universities on the following page along with a summary of published information relating to NBTs for admission in 2025. We have also provided links to the undergraduate prospectuses where possible. Some universities have yet to publish their 2025 undergraduate prospectus and in these instances we present their most recent admissions requirements. This document continues to be updated as and when requirements are updated by the major universities in South Africa.

Note: Some Universities not only require the NBT but they also require it to be written by a certain date. Be sure to understand your requirements entirely.

Latest university NBT requirement for admission

Universities	NBT required	Faculties requiring NBTs	Source of information
University of Cape Town (UCT)	Yes, for all programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculties of Humanities, Commerce and Law - require NBT (AQL only) • Faculties of Health Sciences, Science and Engineering - require NBTs (both AQL and MAT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCT 2025 Undergraduate Prospectus
University of the Witwatersrand (WITS)	Yes, for certain programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculties of Health Sciences and Science - require NBTs (both AQL and MAT) • Faculties of Commerce, Law and Management and Engineering - no NBT required • Faculty of Humanities - Only Bachelor of Speech-Language Pathology and Bachelor of Audiology - require NBT (both AQL and MAT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WITS Guide for Undergraduate Applications 2025
Stellenbosch University (SU)	Yes, for certain programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Law - LLB and BA (Law) - require NBT (AQL only) • Faculty of Law - BCom (Law) and BAccLLB - require NBTs (both AQL and MAT) • ALL other faculties - do not require NBT with the exception of School of Tomorrow matriculants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Admission Requirements for Undergraduate Programmes
University of the Free State	Yes, for most programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences - require NBTs (both AQL and MAT) *except BAdmin (only AQL) • Faculty of Education - all require NBT (AQL only) • Faculty of Health Sciences - all require NBT (both AQL and MAT) *except BSportCoach and Bachelor of Nursing (AQL only) • Faculty of Law - require NBT (AQL only) • Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences - all require NBTs (both AQL and MAT) *except Bachelor of Sustainable Food Systems (AQL only); Construction Management and Quantity Surveying Compact Learning (does not require NBT) • Faculty of Humanities - require NBT (AQL only) *except HCert (Music Performance) and Dip (Music) • Faculty of Theology and Religion - require NBT (AQL only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of the Free State Prospectus 2025
Rhodes University	Yes, for all programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Faculties - It is recommended that all first-time university entering South African applicants write the NBT's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhodes Entry Requirements 2025

Latest university NBT requirements for admission

Universities	NBT required	Faculties requiring NBTs	Source of information
University of the Western Cape (UWC)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants with an endorsed National Senior Certificate who do not meet UWC's admission requirements can be admitted subject to faculty-specific requirements for the NBTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University of the Western Cape admissions requirements 2024 <p><i>*2025 intake requirements have not yet been released. This will be updated as soon as they are.</i></p>
University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UKZN Undergraduate Prospectus 2024 <p><i>*2025 intake requirements have not yet been released. This will be updated as soon as they are.</i></p>
North-West University (NWU)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWU Fields of Study 2025
University of Johannesburg (UJ)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners who have not written the National Senior Certificate (NSC), but fall in the categories listed below will be referred to the faculties for faculty-specific selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACE School of Tomorrow NCV, NASCA, SC(a) N3/N4/N5/N6 results Any other final school-leaving certificates not aforementioned. PsyCaD evaluation and NBT results may be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UJ Undergraduate Prospectus 2024 <p><i>*2025 intake requirements have not yet been released. This will be updated as soon as they are.</i></p>
University of Pretoria (UP)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UP Undergraduate Prospectus 2025

Latest scholarship & bursary NBT Requirements

Faculty	NBT required	Test required	Source of information
University of Cape Town Faculty Entrance Scholarships			
Faculty of Commerce	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT Required • AQL Required 	UCT Entrance Scholarships*
Faculty of Humanities	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQL Required 	UCT Entrance Scholarships*
Faculty of Law	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQL Required 	UCT Entrance Scholarships*
Faculty of Health Sciences	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	UCT Entrance Scholarships*
Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	UCT Entrance Scholarships*
Sanlam Bursaries			
Sanlam Actuarial Science Bursary	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT Required • AQL Required 	Sanlam Actuarial Bursaries

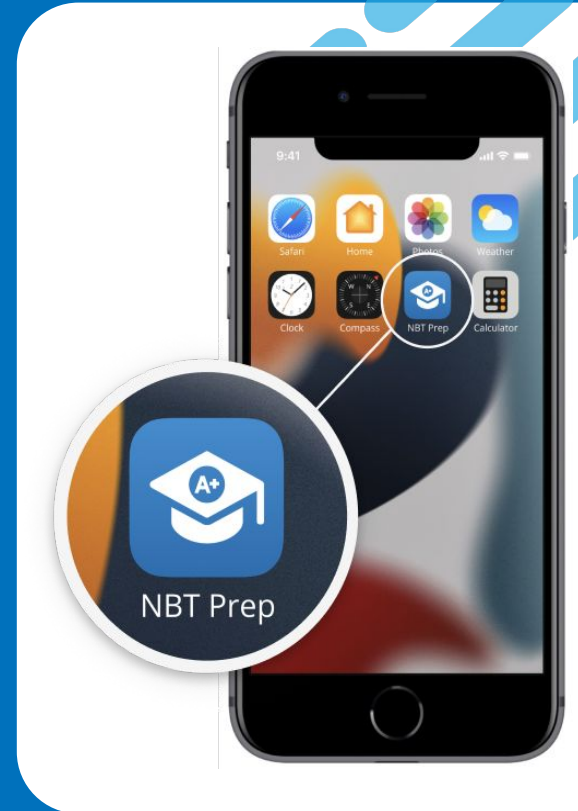
**2025 scholarship requirements have not yet been released for UCT Bursaries. This will be updated as soon as they are.*

Understand more about the NBTs with our FREE NBT Prep App

Understand your requirements

Benchmark your readiness

Access more information



Unsure of what you are going to do after Matric? Consider the following as it relates to the NBT...



- Your results are valid for 3 years from the year you wrote.
- If any of your University applications require it, you need to still write. It is unwise to give consideration only to your first choice.
- If you want to transfer course or university, or both, in 2025 or beyond, you may need an NBT score to do so.
- You will likely get the best results if you prepare and write in your Grade 12 year.
- Some bursary and scholarship programs require the NBTs to be written.



Want to learn more about the NBTs including information about where to book, what to expect on your test day and more?

[Prepare for your NBTs](#)

[Read more about NBTs](#)