

International Students FAQ's 2021

Registration

Q: The SA Embassy gave me a study visa for another tertiary institution. Can I register on this visa?

No, you have to apply for rectification on the VFS Global website. We may only register you on a valid visa for UKZN.

Q: Can I register if I do not have 12 months of medical aid?

No, not if you have a valid study visa.

Q: I have a study visa for my high school / another tertiary institution; can I register on this visa?

No, you should have a study visa for the University of KwaZulu Natal. You can apply for the Change in Existing Conditions on the VFS Global website. <https://www.vfsvisaonline.com/DHAFOSOnlineVAF/gatewaypage.aspx>

Q: I am accompanying my parents/spouse/ partner, may I register on this permit?

No, you must apply for an endorsement for studies at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal. You need to be accepted for a programme and submit an acceptance letter when you are applying for an endorsement.

Q: I have a work visa; can I use it to register at UKZN?

Yes, you can use a critical skill or work visa to register at UKZN, provided you are studying part-time. Remember, you are not allowed to work full time and study full time, your primary activity is to work in South Africa, studying is your secondary activity.

Q: What is the number validity for certified copied documents?

A: Documents are to be no older than 3 months certified.

Q: Can a student use an expired passport to get international clearance?

No, a student's passport needs to be valid at all times.

Q: How can I get international clearance since we are not allowed to be on campus before registration?

Documents must be emailed to their respective ISO office, contact details for International officers are as follows:

Edgewood, Medical School, and Howard College Campus: Londeka Mzobe (MzobeL1@ukzn.ac.za) 031 260 2205 OR Nombuso Mtshali (MtshaliN@ukzn.ac.za) 031 260 2819

Edgewood and Westville Campus: Ntombizethu Gcaba (GcabaN1@ukzn.ac.za) 031 260 8223

Edgewood and Pietermaritzburg Campus: Sithokozile Mtshatsha (MtshatshaS@ukzn.ac.za) 033 260 51943

Q: How often should international students pay the international levy?

A: An international levy of R260 is payable every year during registration for all international students. An international levy of R1900 per semester is payable annually for undergraduate and honors

students. Masters and PhD students only pay the R1900 per semester in the first year of their course. It is not required of them in subsequent years of their degree. NB: All levies are paid to our finance department, amounts are subject to change from time to time.

VISA and Immigration

Q: Where can I search for information about visa requirements?

On the VFS Global website <https://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/>

Q: My study visa is expiring on 31 December and I am in the final year of my studies. What should I do if I have a supplementary exam in January the following year?

You must return to your country before your visa expires and return to South Africa on a visitor's permit to write your supplementary exam. Please note that all expired visas will be regarded as "valid" until 31 March 2021, this is because of the current lockdown in South Africa.

Q: What should I do if I am repeating modules and my study visa is expiring on 31 December?

You should request a study visa- renewal letter from your College and apply for your study visa before the expiry date.

Q: I am accepted to study at UKZN and the SA embassy requires a letter confirming my accommodation, however, I do not have accommodation yet. Can the university issue such a letter?

The University may only issue an accommodation confirmation letter if you applied before the deadline, and admitted for residence. You can apply for off-campus accommodation and your property owner should be in a position to provide you with proof of accommodation.

Q: I am in the final year of my studies, my study visa is expiring on 31 December and I might only receive my admission letter for postgraduate studies during December or January. What should I do?

You have to return to your country before your study visa expires.

Your visa renewal application is due for submission at least 60 days before the expiry date of your current visa. Please note that all expired visas are regarded as "valid" until 31 March 2021, this is because of the current lockdown in South Africa.

Q: Can students of Asylum status apply for a study visa in South Africa?

No, you should return to your country with a valid passport and a cancellation letter for your Asylum permit from the Immigration authorities. Remember to prepare the required documents for the study visa application before you return to your country.

Study visa documents required <https://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/study-visa-content.html>

Q: Can students on refugee status apply for permanent resident status in South Africa?

Yes, they can apply for PR status after 5 years, if the situation does not change in their home countries.

Q: I have a Valid South African study visa but will be studying from my home country, and only coming to South Africa to meet with my supervisor from time to time; do I need to pay for medical aid?

There is no need for a study visa if the student does not reside in South Africa

Section 12.1 (f) of the immigration Act 13 of 2002, clearly states that students must have medical cover at all times, renewed annually for the period of their study Visa. This requirement is irrespective of the student's whereabouts. If students choose to have a study visa, they must comply at all times.

Should they wish to terminate their Study Visa and use a Visitor's visa to meet with their supervisors, they can send their requests to permitcompliance@dha.gov.za and attach the following documents:

- Certified copy of the first page of the foreigner's passport
- Certified copy of the temporary residence visa in the foreigner's passport indicating the purpose for which the visa was issued
- Letter from the learning institution stating that the foreigner has left their learning institution (College), or the letter should state that they would be studying remotely.

Medical aid

Q: Can I submit my current proof of medical cover for the study visa renewal?

No, you have to renew your medical cover for the following academic year; your medical aid is renewable annually.

Q: Do I need medical aid if I am using critical skills, accompanying spouse, or work visa?

No, medical aid is optional if you are not on a study visa.

Q: Can I register and pay for medical aid at a later stage?

No, you must pay for 12 months of medical aid upfront before you can register as a student at a higher education institution in South Africa.