Stellenbosch University

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BSci Natural Sciences with a study year abroad

About Stellenbosch

- Wine capital of South Africa
- Established in 1679
- Located 26 miles East of Cape Town
- Famous for its Cape Dutch architecture
- Second oldest European founded town in SA
- Cheap amenities

The University

- Founded in 1918
- Teaching primarily in English but originally an Afrikaans University
- Contains just over 35,000 students
- Ranked #3 in Africa and #275 globally

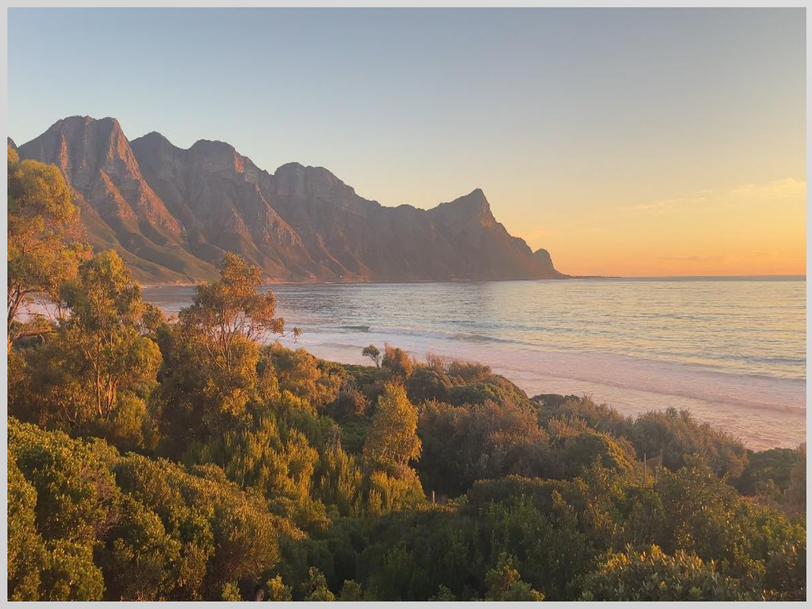
Courses

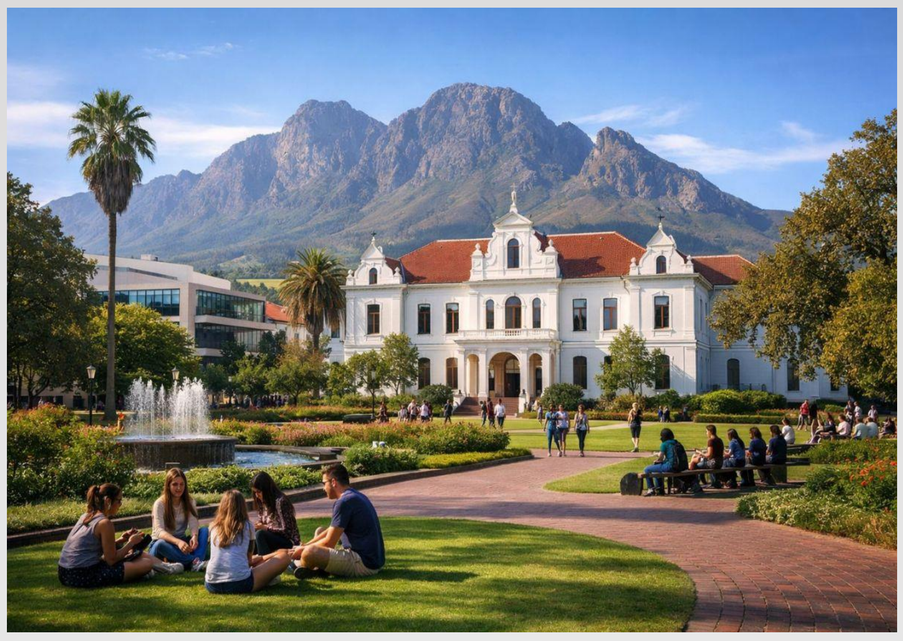
Semester 1	Semester 2
Organic chemistry 8 ECTS	Green chemistry 8 ECTS
Inorganic chemistry 8 ECTS	Analytical chemistry 8 ECTS
Grapevine sciences 4 ECTS	Food and beverage chemistry 8 ECTS
Introduction to Afrikaans 6 ECTS	Introduction to Wine Science 6 ECTS
Sustainable Agriculture 6 ECTS	

These were the courses I picked for my two semesters, I found there were more lab hours for chem than I had in NatSci at home, with each module having about 3 hours/ week which was nice, and my favourite non-chem module was Grapevine sciences 142 in the first semester

Travel

South Africa borders 6 countries and has many beautiful places to travel to.
I was lucky enough to travel a lot on my year abroad and my favourite, must-travel places were:
- Kruger national park
- Namibia - Cederberg
- Drakensberg mountains and Lesotho









Fees and visa

- I paid £6500 (R145,000) for the 12 months at Academia Student Accommodation. I would recommend, it was very social and close to campus. (10 min walk) I would apply as soon as they release it since its in high demand.
- There is a £400/ semester admin fee for the University as well.
- The Visa was a hassle, they say it takes 8 weeks to come so make sure you get all documents in as early as possible.

Leisure and activities

- Many run clubs
- Beautiful terrain to hike
- I played lots of golf and beach volleyball
- Wine tastings are cheap ~R120 (£6) for 5+ wines
- Travel is accessible – Ubers are cheap and safe
- In the summer there is a wine soiree, R200 (£10) for 12 wines in 2 hours

Cape Town

- First Thursday of every month is a large party in the city centre
- Close proximity to Stellenbosch, only £5 each way if you Uber with a group of 6
- Beautiful mountainous hikes – Lions head + Table Mountain
- Many important heritage sites e.g., Bo Kaap a brightly coloured neighborhood
- One of the three capitals of SA

My Experience

Overall, I have had an amazing experience abroad and have made friends and memories for life. I would highly recommend Stellenbosch for a year abroad if you're an outdoorsy person and love to travel.



Tips and tricks

- Buy a SA wild card, this saves you so much money travelling to national parks (Kruger, local mountain ranges etc.)
- The Gonow scooters are cheap and a good way to get around Stellenbosch
- Ubers are cheap and safe
- Don't stress too much about the safety, Stellenbosch is safe if you're with a group
- Try your best to apply for the Turing scheme early. I didn't get it, but the money would be very helpful
- Car rentals are cheap and so useful to see the country