



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS POLICY

Version 3

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Policy Title	RESIDENCE ADMISSIONS POLICY
Policy Officer	CAMPUS HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE
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1. Context/ Background

The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) aspires to be amongst the top universities globally. This aspiration is underpinned by a strong commitment to academic excellence, enhancing Wits' reputation of a research-intensive university and ensuring that appropriate support mechanisms are in place towards students' success. At Wits, creating a living and learning environment is the foundation for the kind of residence culture we are trying to create. Through an approach that is student centered, we seek to work with students on a journey of academic success and holistic development. Residence life is a special experience, one that seeks to promote a cosmopolitan student experience, rooted in the Wits values, and one which prepares Wits students to make a meaningful contribution to the world beyond the university.

This Residence Admission Policy sets out the criteria by which students are provided with accommodation in University controlled residences. This includes both University owned residences and those with which the University has entered into lease agreements. The policy provides an outline of the requirements that applicants and students have to meet in order to qualify for admission into residence.

2. Definitions

'New 'student	New to Wits
'Returning' student (RET)	Registered student currently in residence
Internal student (IN)	Registered student not in residence
Under Age	16 yrs -17yrs
VCO	Vice Chancellors Office
SET	Senior Executive Team
Dean	Dean: Student Affairs
AMH	Amani House
BAR	Barnato Hall
BRC	Braamfontein Centre
CPL	Campus Lodge
EOS	Ernest Oppenheimer
INL	International House
JCT	Wits Junction
KNS	Knockando self-catering
NOS	Noswal Hall
RES	Reith self-catering
WCV	West Campus Village

3. Principles

Several factors impact on residence placement, especially in light of the limited number of beds available in university residences. Academic merit and progression, amongst others as outlined below, are the key factors regarding residence placement.

The University Residence Admission policy (RAP) is in line with the University's strategic purpose in attracting academically excellent students from diverse backgrounds. First-year undergraduate students are considered the most vulnerable and priority will be given to their placement in residences. In giving priority to first year students, the university will increase their capacity yearly with a minimum of 50% in 2021. It is accepted that the RAP will contribute to the academic success and retention of its students by providing an environment that is conducive for learning.

To be eligible to reside in a University residence, a person must, at least –

- a) be registered as a full-time student at the University.
- b) have no family home in the vicinity of the University.
- c) meet specific academic criteria.
- d) have an exemplary disciplinary record

4. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the criteria that determines selection and allocation of rooms to both Undergraduate and Postgraduate students.

In assessing applications for admission to residences, the following factors are considered:

1. Closing dates for applications	Applications will only be considered if received within the cut-off dates as advertised annually by the Central Accommodation Office within Campus Housing & Residence Life. No late applications will be accepted.
2. Academic application status	Residence decisions will be finalized only after an academic offer is made to and accepted by the applicant.
3. Financial Standing	“RETURNING” (RET) and “INTERNAL” (IN) residence applicants who have outstanding fees as at 30 November in respect of the current year are not eligible for residence admission for the following year. This is not applicable to students funded by NSFAS and Wits approved sponsors/donors.
4. Home address	Other than those who are physically disabled, persons living within a 30km radius of the University will not be eligible to be admitted to any University residence. Consideration under exceptional circumstances may be given to students who are within commutable distance.

5. Academic standing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To qualify to be in residence, students will be required to pass all their full-time academic courses, or they should have an overall outcome of PCD (at undergraduate level). Thereafter, depending on space availability, further considerations may be given to students who have a successful appeals outcome from the Wits Readmission Committee and Residence Appeals Committee and is applicable to both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Offers of admission can be made only after the release of a student's end-of-year examination results.
6. Length of stay	<p>The maximum permissible number of years in a residence is as follows:</p> <p>Undergraduates: 1st Degree = n years Continuing degree (e.g. BA Law, GEMP) = n years</p> <p>Postgraduates: Honours or Diploma = 1 year Masters by Coursework = 1 year Masters by Research = 2 years PhD = 3 years</p> <p>where "n" is the approved length of the curriculum for the degree for which the student is registered.</p>
7. Age Limits (Ages as at 1 January of the year of admission)	<p>Catered residences: 16 to 24 years of age</p> <p>Self-catering residences: BAR; BRC; CPL; NOS; KNS; EOS; RES; AMH 17 to 35 years of age INL 18 to 45 years of age (4th year onwards) WCV 18 to 45 years of age (All postgraduate programmes) JCT 17 to 35 years of age (UG) or 45 years of age (PG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only undergraduate students will be permitted to stay in catered residences whilst postgraduate students may only stay in self-catered residences which is in line with their academic term. Under age students will be placed in single sex catered residences. However, due to limited spaces, CHRL may opt to accommodate some of these students in specific self-catered residences.
8. Disciplinary and Criminal Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A record of repeated minor disciplinary infractions or a single major infraction may lead to a refusal to admit a student to a residence. Unacceptable conduct might lead to formal disciplinary processes as outlined in the Student Rules for Discipline. A student with a criminal record acquired prior to, or following admission to the university, will not be admitted to a residence.

<p>9. Special exceptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants with disabilities are not disqualified on the grounds of their home address/distance from the University but must nevertheless achieve the necessary Residence Admissions Rating (RAR) thresholds and must have demonstrated satisfactory academic performance to secure admission. • An agreed number of places shall be reserved for academically excellent students who would have applied for residence by the closing date; or who would have been referred to by SET in writing. • Any deviation to the above criterias set out in this document will require the approval of the Dean and may require further approval from VCO and or SET as determined by the Dean, this includes any fee concessions relating to admission to residences.
<p>10. High-Level Sporting Achievement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recognising the University’s aspirations towards greater sporting success at Wits, high-level sportspersons may be allocated accommodation provided they meet the minimum requirements for full-time admission to a programme.
<p>11. Promotion of Diversity</p>	<p>In the interest of promoting diversity and a cosmopolitan residence life experience within the residences of the University, the Director of Campus Housing and Residence Life may apply such additional reasonable measures at his/her discretion in placing a student.</p>

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Campus Housing & Residence Life (CH&RL) is responsible for the development of a clear and transparent residence admissions policy & clearly communicates the admissions process, requirements, and deadlines to prospective and current students. Ensures that residence admissions policies align with the institution's mission, goals, and non-discrimination policies.

5.2 The Central Accommodation Office together with administrative staff in the various residences receipts, processes, and reviews the residence applications and ensures students meet the eligibility criteria set by the residence admissions policy.

5.3 Students submit residence applications within the specified deadlines, providing accurate and complete information.

6. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Summary	Changed by
01	2011	Approved by Council	CH&RL
02	June 2019	Review/Updated	CH&RL
03	August 2023	Review/ Updated	CH&RL