



STPU PROGRAMMES

GUIDE BOOK

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU TRANSITION AT WITS UNIVERSITY



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Discover how the Student Transitions and Persistence Unit supports your academic, personal, and social success throughout your university journey.

3. FYE PROGRAMME

The First-Year Experience (FYE) Programme supports your smooth transition into university life, equipping you with the confidence to succeed. Through peer mentorship, resilience-building, and embracing diversity, you'll gain the tools and connections needed to thrive academically, socially, and personally thus laying the foundation for your success all the way to graduation

5. TESTIMONIALS

Be inspired by the voices of our students. Through the First-Year Experience (FYE) and Mentorship programme, they share how guidance, support, and a strong sense of community helped them overcome challenges, grow with confidence, and thrive in their first year at Wits.

7. STPU SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected with the STPU through our dynamic social media platforms, your go-to hub for updates, inspiration, and real student stories. Follow along to stay informed, celebrate success, and be part of a thriving Wits community.

2. STPU PROGRAMMES

Discover a wide range of student-centered initiatives designed to ease your transition into university, strengthen resilience, and build meaningful connections. The Student Transitions and Persistence Unit (STPU) empowers you with the skills, networks, and support you need to stay engaged, persist through challenges, and thrive from your first year to graduation and beyond.

4. FYE MENTORSHIP

The First-Year Experience (FYE) Mentorship programme pairs you with trained peer mentors who walk alongside you as you navigate your transition into university. They provide guidance, encouragement, and inspiration, helping you build confidence, connect with the Wits community, and lay the groundwork for success from your first year to graduation.

6. FYE CALENDAR

Your year at a glance. The First-Year Experience (FYE) Calendar keeps you on track with key dates, workshops, and events designed to support your academic success and personal growth. From orientation to milestone moments, the calendar helps you stay organised, connected, and fully engaged on your journey at Wits.

8. Virtual map QR codes

Access campus with confidence! Scan the QR codes for quick, interactive maps that guide you to lecture venues, libraries, study spaces, and essential student support services, making it easier for first-year students to navigate Wits.

STPU PROGRAMMES

Gateway To Success Programme

The Gateway to Success (GTS) Programme is a flagship two-week onboarding experience that welcomes first-year students into the Wits community. More than just an orientation, GTS is designed to equip you with the academic skills, confidence, and connections needed to thrive from day one. Through interactive workshops, peer engagement, and guided exposure to university-level expectations, you'll gain the tools to navigate your studies, discover support networks, and begin building the foundation for success.

First-year Experience Programme

The First-Year Experience (FYE) programme is designed to walk alongside students as they navigate the critical first year of university. By offering academic support, social connection, and personal development opportunities, FYE helps students adjust with confidence, build a strong sense of belonging, and thrive in their studies.

Postgraduate Experience Programme

The Postgraduate Experience programme supports students as they transition into the demands of advanced study and research. With a focus on academic success, research skills development, and opportunities to build professional networks, the programme also prioritises student well-being. By combining tailored support with a sense of community, it ensures postgraduate students feel connected, empowered, and equipped to thrive throughout their postgraduate journey.

First-Year Mentorship Programme

The First-Year Experience (FYE) Mentorship programme connects first-year students with trained senior mentors who serve as guides, role models, and sources of encouragement. Through one-on-one conversations and group sessions, mentors help you navigate academic challenges, adapt to campus life, and grow personally and socially. This supportive peer-to-peer relationship builds confidence, creates a sense of belonging, and ensures you are never alone on your journey through the first year.

Part-Time Transitions Programme

The Part-Time Transitions programme is designed to support students balancing the demands of work, study, and personal commitments. Recognising the unique challenges part-time students face, the programme provides tailored workshops available online to keep you connected and engaged.

Transitions Support Programme

The Transitions Support programme is designed to equip students with the skills and awareness needed to navigate key stages of their university journey and beyond. With a focus on diversity awareness and engagement, the programme fosters inclusive communities where every student feels valued and respected. It also prepares students for life after university by supporting the transition from study to the workplace, while providing practical tools to manage stress and maintain well-being. Together, these initiatives ensure students are resilient, adaptable, and ready to thrive both at Wits and in their future careers.

FYE PROGRAMME

Starting university is a big step. The FYE at Wits helps you settle in, make connections, and build the confidence to succeed. From mentorship to workshops, you'll find the support you need to thrive from your first year onward. "Start strong. Stay strong. Succeed with FYE."

1 Smooth Transition

FYE Programme helps first-year students navigate the shift from high school to university life, offering guidance and resources to make the transition seamless and less overwhelming.



2 Academic Success

Gain the skills and confidence to thrive academically. Through tailored workshops such as:

- Embracing Diversity
- Help Seeking Behaviours
- Balancing Work and Play
- Financial and Physical wellness

3 Personal Growth

Explore opportunities for self-discovery and development. The programme encourages students to reflect on their values, set goals, and foster personal growth through various activities and mentorship.



4 Student Life Engagement

Get involved in campus life! The FYE Programme connects students through workshops, activities and mentorship groups. Through these initiatives students build lasting friendships and a strong sense of community.

5 Holistic Support

From academic guidance to emotional well-being, the FYE Programme offers comprehensive support through faculty, peer mentors, and student support services, ensuring students feel supported in every aspect of their university journey.

6 Future Ready

The FYE Programme equips students with the tools and experiences they need to succeed not only in their studies but in their careers and life beyond university.



FYE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The FYE Mentorship Programme is a peer-to-peer support journey that connects first-year students with trained senior mentors who guide, encourage, and inspire. By fostering a strong sense of belonging, the programme helps students navigate academic, social, and personal challenges with confidence. Through this supportive community, first-year students are empowered to make a successful transition into university life at Wits.

Why Mentorship?

The programme promotes:

- Leadership, Confidence and Resilience
- Collaboration, Self-care, and Community-building
- Safe spaces for growth and transformation
- Development of help-seeking behaviour and flexibility
- Focus on support, friendship and guidance
- Referral networks to connect first years to key support structures
- Through active engagement in the mentoring relationship, students develop academic persistence which aids in their academic progression



FYE Mentorship Programme Benefits:

Through participating in FYE, students gain essential academic and life skills, including:

- 🕒 Time Management
- 📖 Learning and Studying Techniques
- 📅 Planning and Organising
- 💬 Communication Techniques
- 🧠 Self-Reflection
- 🎯 Goal Setting and Career Planning
- 🗣️ Active & Reflective Listening



Why it matters:

FYE is more than just mentorship — it's about building a culture of care, support, and shared success at Wits. Whether you're navigating your first week on campus or learning how to manage your time and stress, FYE mentors are here to walk the journey with you. **IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THERE BEFORE, WHY NOT ASK SOMEONE WHO HAS?**

TESTIMONIALS

At Wits, we believe that no student should journey through university alone. That's why the First-Year Experience (FYE) is anchored by our FYE Mentorship programme, which connects first-year students with experienced peers who guide, encourage, and share practical advice. Together, these initiatives help students build confidence, strengthen academic skills, and develop a true sense of belonging. The testimonials that follow showcase how FYE and mentorship have transformed first-year challenges into opportunities for growth, making the transition into university life more meaningful and rewarding.

"Provided a support system with fellow mentees" "Helped me navigate through first semester feeling that I had support"



"My mentor provided various resources to help us with our work and was very supportive." "My mentor helped me find tools and techniques to make it easier for me to learn and adapt to the university life. He helped me feel supported and encouraged me to be positive and strong in this journey."



"My mentor helped me understand that repeating first year is not the end of the world and instead tried and helped me make the best out of the first half of it. She helped me with study tips and was there like an older sibling who would give me advice about anything I would ask since she has experience of things and she created a space where I could turn to her and talk to her like an older sibling but with boundaries and that also is something to learn from her."

"Having a mentor helped me gain a sense of belonging because I know that I have someone I can rely on & talk to about anything."



FYE CALENDAR

2026

FYE WORKSHOPS

<u>WORKSHOP</u>	DATE	<u>COLLABORATIONS</u>	PLATFORM
1. Financial Literacy	February 2026 FASO Presentations February 2026 Old Mutual Presentations	FASO and Old mutual	FNB 101/WSS 2/L101
2. Speed support	Mar 2026	CCDU+ Faculties + Peer advising + Education Council	Library Lawns Education Campus Bus Stop
3. Balancing work and play	Apr 2026	DFL and Res Life	FNB GA/Solomon Mahlangu Concourse and Bohlaleng Concourse
4. STPU Game Night	May 2025	Res Life/E-sports/Azanian Games/Digital Arts	OMSH
5.Activations	Jul 2026	Giveaways, STPU Games,	Library Lawns
6. Thrive @ Uni	Aug 2026	Sculptors	In Person, Solomon Concourse/OMSH
7. FYE Mentor-Mentee Cultural Day	Sep 2026	Cultural Societies/ Wits Music/External Sponsors	In person, Library Lawns

CAMPUS MAPS



WITS Virtual Tours



WITS MAIN CAMPUS
MAP.



WITS EDUCATION CAMPUS
MAP.

STPU SOCIALS:



wits.stpu



fye.stpu@wits.ac.za



www.wits.ac.za/students/stpu/



Wits.Stpu



Wits Student Transitions and Persistence Unit



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#WITSFORGOOD

#GOODTOGETHER

#MENTORSHIPMATTERS

#MENTORINGISUBUNTU

#SMOOTHTRANSITIONS



Thank *you!*



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