

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – National Benchmark Test (NBT) Requirement for Wits

1. What is the National Benchmark Test (NBT)?

The National Benchmark Test (NBT) is an assessment that measures a student's academic readiness for university studies. It evaluates skills in Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy (AQL) and Mathematics (MAT), depending on the programme applied for. Please refer to the NBT FAQ's for more information: <https://nbt.uct.ac.za/content/faq-0>

The NBTs can be written online or at a physical venue. [Click here to view the schedule and test venues](#). Before booking the NBT's, Please refer to the following link for more detailed information on the selection test requirements for the various programmes at Wits: <https://www.wits.ac.za/undergraduate/entry-requirements/selection-tests/>

2. Is the NBT required for admission to Wits?

Yes, Wits requires the NBT for admission to certain programmes. The requirement varies by faculty, so applicants should check the specific requirements for their chosen programme. Both the AQL and MAT NBT tests are mandatory for programmes that specify NBTs as an admission requirement. Only the first attempt results in the current application cycle or most recent year will be considered. NBT results are valid for three years. Visit www.nbt.ac.za for more information and bookings. Please ensure that your ID number is correct on both your Wits application and NBT registration. We may not be able to retrieve your results if your ID number is incorrect.

- **For all programmes within the Faculty of Health Sciences at Wits please note the following NBT requirements.**
 - **Only Pencil and Paper** NBT test results will be accepted from 2025 onwards.
 - Online NBT test results will not be considered.
 - If you have written the Online NBT test prior 2025, and your results are still valid within the three-year period, they will be accepted.
 - Applicants must ensure they book a physical venue-based (**Pencil and Paper NBT**) test session at an official NBT test centre: <https://www.nbt.ac.za/content/book-test>
 - Applicants must write the NBT by **15 August 2026**
 - NBT results in the basic range, as defined on the NBT website, will lead to an unsuccessful application for Health Sciences. Refer to the following link for the performance levels or benchmark categories: <https://www.nbt.ac.za/content/interpreting-your-results>
- **All other programmes (excluding Health Science programmes) will accept both Online and/or Pencil and Paper NBT results.**

Please refer to the following link for more detailed information on the selection test requirements for the various programmes: <https://www.wits.ac.za/undergraduate/entry-requirements/selection-tests/>

3. What are the NBT requirements for Health Sciences programmes?

The Faculty of Health Sciences uses a Composite Index (CI) score to guide applicant selection. This includes:

- Matric academic results for five subjects: English, Mathematics, best of Physical Sciences/Life Sciences and the best two other subjects. We consider the percentage achieved, not the symbol. The average of the five subjects carries a 75% weighting.
- National Benchmark Test (NBT) scores. The average of the NBT scores carries a 25% weighting. (Only Pencil and Paper NBT test results will be accepted from 2025 onwards. Online NBT test are not considered)

Pencil and Paper NBT test must be written by the 15 August 2026. NBT results in the basic range, as defined on the NBT website, will lead to an unsuccessful application for Health Sciences. Refer to the following link for the performance levels or benchmark categories: <https://www.nbt.ac.za/content/interpreting-your-results>

Please note that only the first attempt NBT results in the current application cycle or most recent year will be considered. NBT results are valid for three years. Visit www.nbt.ac.za for more information and bookings. Please ensure that your ID number is correct on both your Wits application and NBT registration. We may not be able to retrieve your results if your ID number is incorrect.

4. NBT results validity period

NBT results are valid for three years. Please note only the first attempt results in the most recent year are considered. Visit www.nbt.ac.za for more information and bookings. Please ensure that your ID number is correct on both your Wits application and NBT registration. We may not be able to retrieve your results if your ID number is incorrect.

5. How do I register for the NBT?

You can register for the NBT online at the official National Benchmark Test website: www.nbt.ac.za. During registration, select either a **Pencil and Paper NBT** test centre or an online testing option, depending on your programme's requirements.

6. What is the deadline to take the NBT?

For Health Sciences, applicants must write the NBT by **15 August 2026** and all other programmes **31 October 2026**. Please refer to the following link for more detailed information on deadline for selection tests for the various programmes: <https://www.wits.ac.za/undergraduate/entry-requirements/selection-tests/>

7. Where can I find my NBT results?

NBT results are available approximately four weeks after testing. You can access your results online through the NBT website. Wits will also receive your results directly from the Centre for Educational Testing for Access and Placement.

8. Can I rewrite the NBT if I am not satisfied with my results?

Please note that Wits will only consider the first attempt results from the most recent year. While you are free to rewrite the NBT at your discretion, any subsequent attempts will not be taken into account by Wits.