SOUTHERN AFRICAN
WILDLIFE COLLEGE
TRAINING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

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COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

APPLY NOW

APPLY NOW FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE'S NEW EXCITING THREE YEAR DIPLOMA IN APPLIED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Developed in response to the real-world needs of protected area managers and conservation practitioners working across southern Africa, applications are now open for the Southern African Wildlife College's exciting new three-year Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management commencing in 2026.

With all formal accreditations and registrations in place, this exciting three-year Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management has been added to the College's Higher Education course offerings.

Should you wish to apply for the 1st year of the Diploma programme, commencing in 2026, we would, in the first instance, encourage you to check the eligibility criteria outlined, as there are different entry pathways.

It is also important to note that a blended learning approach has been taken. This means that the three-year programme blends academic learning (**two years online** with annual practical blocks at the SAWC campus) with intensive field-based application (**3rd year fully applied**), ensuring graduates are equipped with both the knowledge and practical skills required to manage natural resources effectively and ethically.

The addition of this nationally registered qualification to our curricula follows a rigorous multi-year process to ensure that the programme meets the highest academic and professional standards.

Accredited by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) at the end of 2024, and subsequently registered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) – Qualification ID 124088 in 2025 at NQF Level 6, this programme also unlocks further opportunities for learners to access recognised pathways for advancement in the conservation sector.

Further to the information provided on our CHE programmes in this document. Please also visit our **website** where updates will be provided, and where the application forms can be accessed.

It is also important to note the application process and deadlines now in place:

Priority deadline: All applications submitted by 31 August 2026 will receive full consideration, and decisions will be communicated by latest 17 October 2026.

Rolling applications: Applications received after this priority deadline (31 August 2026) will still be considered until all spaces are filled. Decisions for these applications will be communicated on a rolling basis.

Financial Support: An important reminder that financial support by way of full or partial bursaries is only available on application via the required forms for the third year of study. Financial support for 1st and 2nd years of study will only be considered under exceptional circumstances and only if funding is made available via the donor community.

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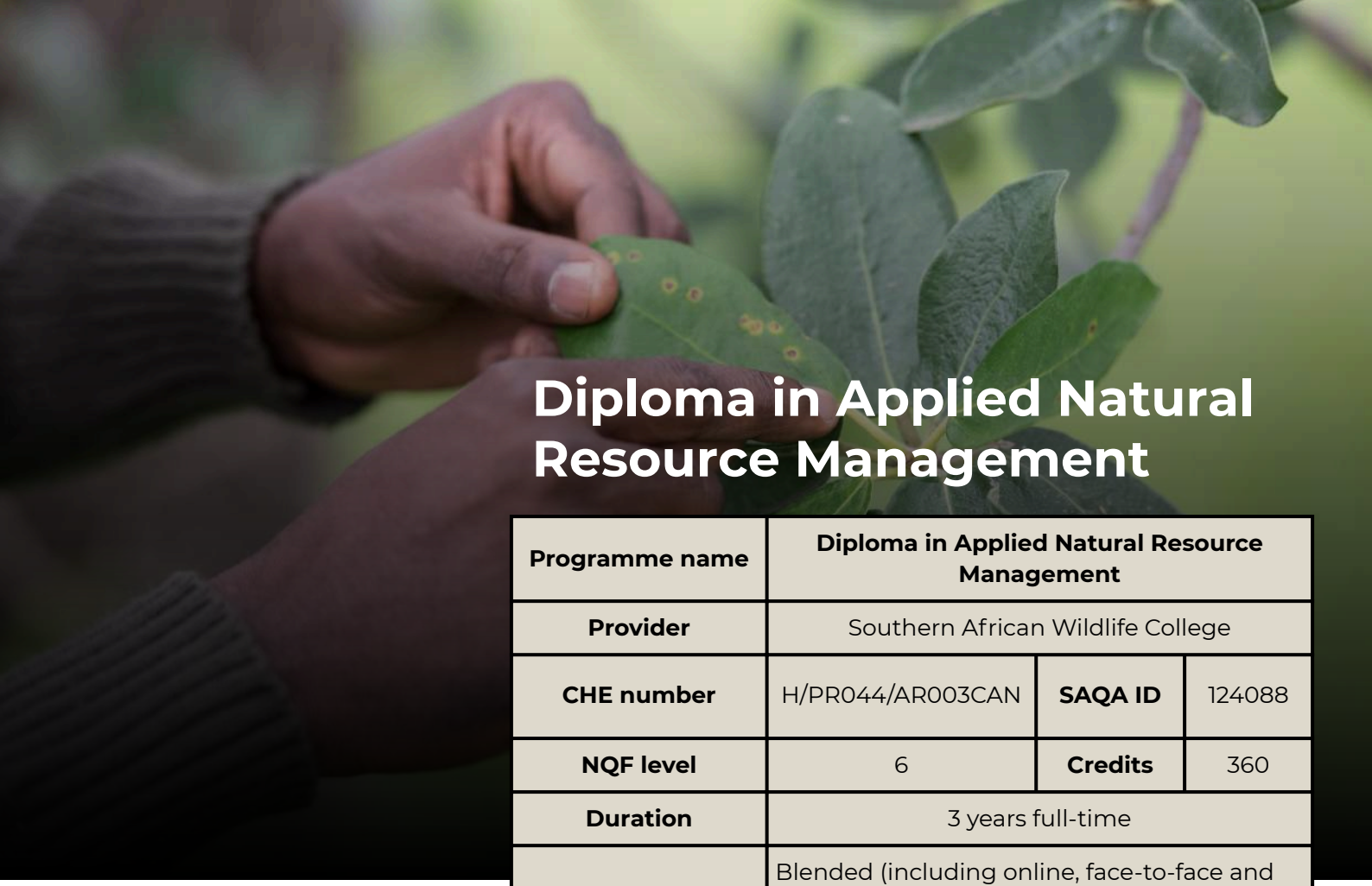
The Council on Higher Education (CHE) Pillar at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) offers two CHE-accredited and SAQA-registered qualifications: its new three-year Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management and a one-year Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation in Trans-Frontier Conservation Management, both offered at NQF Level 6. These two qualifications have different admission requirements. Applicants who do not meet the Diploma requirements should consider applying for the Advanced Certificate.



Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management

Programme name	Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management		
Provider	Southern African Wildlife College		
CHE number	H/PR044/AR003CAN	SAQA ID	124088
NQF level	6	Credits	360
Duration	3 years full-time		
Delivery	Blended (including online, face-to-face and self-study) Years 1 and 2: Taught online, with two blocks at the College campus Year 3: Work Integrated Learning (see details below)		

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Target Audience

The Diploma is designed for employees of conservation and natural resource management-focused organisations, such as SANParks, the Department of Foresty, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member state agencies. It is also suitable for school leavers seeking education and training that will prepare them for work in conservation.

Method of Delivery

Delivery is blended, with a combination of online, face-to-face teaching, and work integrated learning.

The first two years focus on essential theory and are delivered live online, during the evenings. During 1st and 2nd year, students will come to the SAWC campus twice each year, once at mid-year for one week for examinations and then again at the end of the year for three weeks for examinations and a two-week intensive practical block.

Third year is a year of Project-Based Work Integrated Learning (PJBWIL) which comprises alternating blocks of work at the College campus and blocks at a College managed project site. Some students may be able to complete the PJBWIL at their place or employment.

During the PJBWIL, students will apply, refine and further develop knowledge and skills learnt in the first two years. Please note that 3rd year is NOT offered online and all students must be present at the College campus at the designated times.

Please note:

The implications of the above are important and summarised below.

1. All students, (those currently employed and those not employed) must have sufficient time to participate in the evening online sessions **and complete an ADDITIONAL 20 hours of self- study each week** in the first two years. **This may require an agreement with the employer.**
2. For the first two years, all students **must be prepared to attend two sessions each year at the College.** The programme fee includes the cost of accommodation and meals while at the College, but **students are responsible for their own transport**, to and from the College. **Students are also responsible for meeting visa/study requirements if living outside of South African borders.**
3. All students **must have their own laptop** (a smartphone will not be enough) **and access to reliable internet.**
4. 1st and 2nd year can be completed while students are employed because sessions are held in the evenings. **However, this is not possible in 3rd year as students are based at the SAWC Campus, at a longitudinal study site, or at an approved workplace.**

Curriculum

The curriculum is outlined in the table below.

Year of Instruction	Module Name	Credits	NQF Level
1	Conservation Technology 1	21	5
1	Biology 1	24	5
1	Social Ecology 1	17	5
1	Sustainable Development 1	17	5
1	Conservation Business Administration 1	17	5
1	Natural Resource Management 1	24	5
Total Credits for 1st Year		**120**	5
2	Resource Protection 2	24	6
2	Social Ecology 2	24	6
2	Conservation Business Management 2	24	6
2	Sustainable Development 2	24	6
2	Natural Resource Management 2	24	6
Total Credits for 2nd Year		**120**	6
3	WIL 3 Project-based learning (PJBL)	120	6
Total Credits for Diploma		**360**	

Modules are taught sequentially, and the duration of each module varies with the number of credits allocated.

Admission requirements:

The admission requirements for the Diploma in Applied Natural Resource Management are as follows:

1. National Senior Certificate (NSC) (or equivalent):

- Minimum NSC requirements for diploma entry must be met
- Minimum APS score of 30 with Mathematics or Technical Mathematics, or 31 with Mathematical Literacy
- English language (first or additional language) at level 4 (50-59%)
- Mathematics or Technical Mathematics level 3 (40-49%) or Mathematical Literacy level 4 (50-59%)
- Other recommended subjects:
  - Life sciences
  - Agricultural Sciences or Agricultural Management Practices
  - Geography
  - Computer Application Technology or Information Technology
  - Business Studies or Economics

2. National Certificate Vocational level 4

- Minimum requirements for diploma entry must be met
- NC(V) Level 4 in Primary Agriculture with English (home language or first additional language) (50-59%).
- Mathematics or Technical Mathematics (40-49%) or Mathematical Literacy (50-59%).

- Applicants who do not meet either 1 or 2 above, but who have successfully completed an NQF level 5 or 6 certificate in natural resource management, nature conservation or related subjects will be considered. A decision to admit an applicant will be based on results from school and for the certificate programme, and may include RPL.
- In accordance with National and SAWC Policies, RPL and CAT may be used for admission and horizontal and vertical articulation purposes.
- Applicants without a school leaving NQF level 4 pass in Computer Application Technology, Information Technology or equivalent must provide proof of computer and IT proficiency, which may take the form of the ICDL or equivalent, or the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs).
- All students for whom English is not a first/home language or have not passed English (home language or 1st additional language) at NSC Grade 12, AS-level, IGCSE, NSSC level or equivalent secondary school-leaving qualification, must provide proof of English language proficiency.

Dates for 2027

The academic year will commence on the 1 February 2027 with a compulsory orientation programme that will be held from the 25-29 January 2027, and all new students are required to attend. The Academic year will end in the last week of November 2027. Prospective students should please take note of these dates.

Costs

The fees shown/highlighted below are for the cohort of students who will enrol as 1st year students in 2026.

	2027	2028	2029
1st Year	R57,000		
2nd Year		R60,000	
3rd Year			R200,000

Please Note:

- Fees include all teaching and learning materials, as well as accommodation and meals while on campus in 1st and 2nd year for exams and the practical block.
- The fee for 3rd year may vary depending on where the student completes the PJBWIL. The fee indicated includes accommodation and meals when on site at the SAWC Campus.
- Fees exclude transport to and from the College.
- Students are responsible for their own medical insurance.
- Students are also responsible for meeting their own visa requirements/costs if living outside of South African borders.

Application process

The application process will be **online,** and interested students are advised to visit the SAWC website regularly.

APPLY ONLINE

Selection process

The number of available places in the 1st year of the Diploma is limited.
It is very likely that we will not be able to accept all applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements. This means that just meeting the minimum admission requirements will NOT guarantee you a place in the Diploma programme.

Incomplete applications will be returned. You are thus **strongly encouraged to ensure that your application is complete** before submission thereof.

Further details can be found on our **website.**

Application for financial assistance

Please note that bursaries will only be made for 1st and 2nd year Diploma students under exceptional circumstances, and this only for students who already have experience in the conservation sector and where a motivation is provided both by the student and the organisation.

Students in need of financial support to complete their 3rd year of study on the Diploma programme, will be able to apply for financial assistance from the SAWC by filling in the **Application for Financial Assistance form** available on the **SAWC website**.

The SAWC will endeavour to make the allocation of any available bursary funding as fair as possible. It is however important to note that bursaries are funding dependent and the College reserves the right not to award bursaries for specific courses/programmes.

Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation in Trans-Frontier Conservation Management

Programme name	**Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation in Trans-Frontier Conservation Management**		
Provider	Southern African Wildlife College		
CHE number	H/PR044/E002CAN	**SAQA ID**	82006
NQF level	6	**Credits**	120
Duration	1 year full-time		

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Purpose

The Southern African Wildlife College offers the Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation: Trans-Frontier Conservation Management as a training intervention aimed at the development of Nature Conservation managers within the Southern African Development Countries (SADC) region.

The nature of conservation within the context of the SADC is evolving to enable the integration and opening up of artificial boundaries previously associated with conservation areas. Through the working relationships established through Transfrontier conservation initiatives it is becoming more and more important to enable a consistent shared approach to matters concerning conservation.

Target Audience

The Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation in Trans-Frontier Conservation Management has been specifically designed to provide further education, knowledge and skills for those working within a trans-frontier conservation area or for those who seek a career in trans-frontier conservation but are already employed in the conservation industry (a minimum of five years technical expertise in the broad focus areas associated with Nature Conservation principles and activities). Although specifically designed for staff working in trans-frontier conservation areas, students currently working within a national park will also benefit.

Method of Delivery

Delivery is face-to-face, and students attend lectures and practicals on site at the Southern African Wildlife College. The qualification includes a period of workplace-based learning during which students will return to their place of employment to complete a range of activities and tasks.

Curriculum

The curriculum is outlined in the table below.

Module Name	Credits	NQF Level
Research Skills	10	6
Financial Management	10	6
Human Resource Management	10	6
Tourism	10	6
Trans-Frontier Conservation Activities	10	6
Natural Resources Protection	10	6
Biodiversity management	10	6
Community Based Natural Resources Management	10	6
Resource Economics	10	6
Environmental Developement Planning	10	6
Catchment Management	10	6
Land Use Planning	5	6
Geographical Information Systems	5	6
Total Credits	**120**	

Admission requirements:

The minimum admission requirements for the Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation in Transfrontier Conservation Management are **ANY** of the following options **PLUS** a minimum of 5 years full-time employment in a nature conservation-related role **AND** a recommendation letter from the Head of the organisation.

1. **National Certificate Vocational Level 4 NC(V) level 4** in Primary Agriculture with:
   - Evidence of English (home language or first additional language) on at least level 5 (50-59%)
   - Evidence of Mathematics or Technical Mathematics (40-49%) or Mathematical Literacy (50-50%).

   OR
   - English Foundational Literacy Certificate (FLC) pass mark
   - Mathematics Foundational Literacy Certificate (FLC) pass mark
   - Evidence of Computer Literacy

Admission requirements cont'd.

2. **National Certificate:** Natural Resource Management: Terrestrial (NQF Level 5) NC: Natural Resource Management at minimum 60% pass rate, including:

- English Foundational Literacy Certificate (FLC) pass mark
- Mathematics Foundational Literacy Certificate (FLC) pass mark
- Evidence of Computer Literacy

3. **Occupational Certificate: Park Ranger (NQF Level 5)**: OC: Park Ranger at minimum 60% pass rate including:

- English Foundational Literacy Certificate (FLC) pass mark
- Mathematics Foundational Literacy Certificate (FLC) pass mark
- Evidence of Computer Literacy

4. **International Students**

- Recognised nature conservation qualification equivalent to the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF). SAQA provide a **qualification verification service**.

International students for whom English is not a first/home language must submit on of the following:

- 4.1. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): A valid (no more than 2 years old)
- TOEFL;
- 4.2. iBT Score Report with an overall score of 88 or above, with at least 19 in Listening, 19
- in Writing, 20 in Reading and 22 in Speaking;
- 4.3. ELTS: A valid (no more than 2 years old) IELTS Academic Test Report Form with an
- overall score of band 6.5 or above, with at least 6.0 in each component;
- 4.4. Pearson PTE Academic test: A valid (no more than 2 years old) PTE Academic Score;
- 4.5. Report with an overall score of 67 or above, with at least 59 in each communicative skills component;
- 4.6. National Benchmark Test (NBT): A valid (no more than 3 years old) NBT Academic
- Literacy;
- 4.7. Plus Score Report with an overall score in the Intermediate Upper range or above.

Dates for 2027

The academic year will commence on 25 January 2027 with a compulsory orientation programme that will be held from 20-22 January 2027, and all new students are required to attend. The Academic year will end in the first week of December. Prospective students should please take note of these dates.

Costs

2026	Advanced Certificate: Transfrontier Conservation Management		
Total Fee	R157,500	Breakdown as per Total Fee:	
		Tuition / Training Fees	R84,000
		Accommodation and Meals	R73,500

Please Note: The single fee for the Advanced Certificate covers:

1. All teaching and learning materials and costs
2. All training assessments and certification
3. All costs associated with field trips, including travel costs associated with training
4. Accommodation and meals (three meals a day) while on campus

Fees exclude:

1. Transport to and from the College.
2. Medical insurance.
3. Visa requirements and costs if living outside of South African borders.

Application process

The application process is **completed online**. You will find links on the College website. It is recommended that you regularly visit the website for any updates.

Please ensure that you complete the application carefully and in full. Applications that are not complete, with all supporting documents, will automatically be returned.

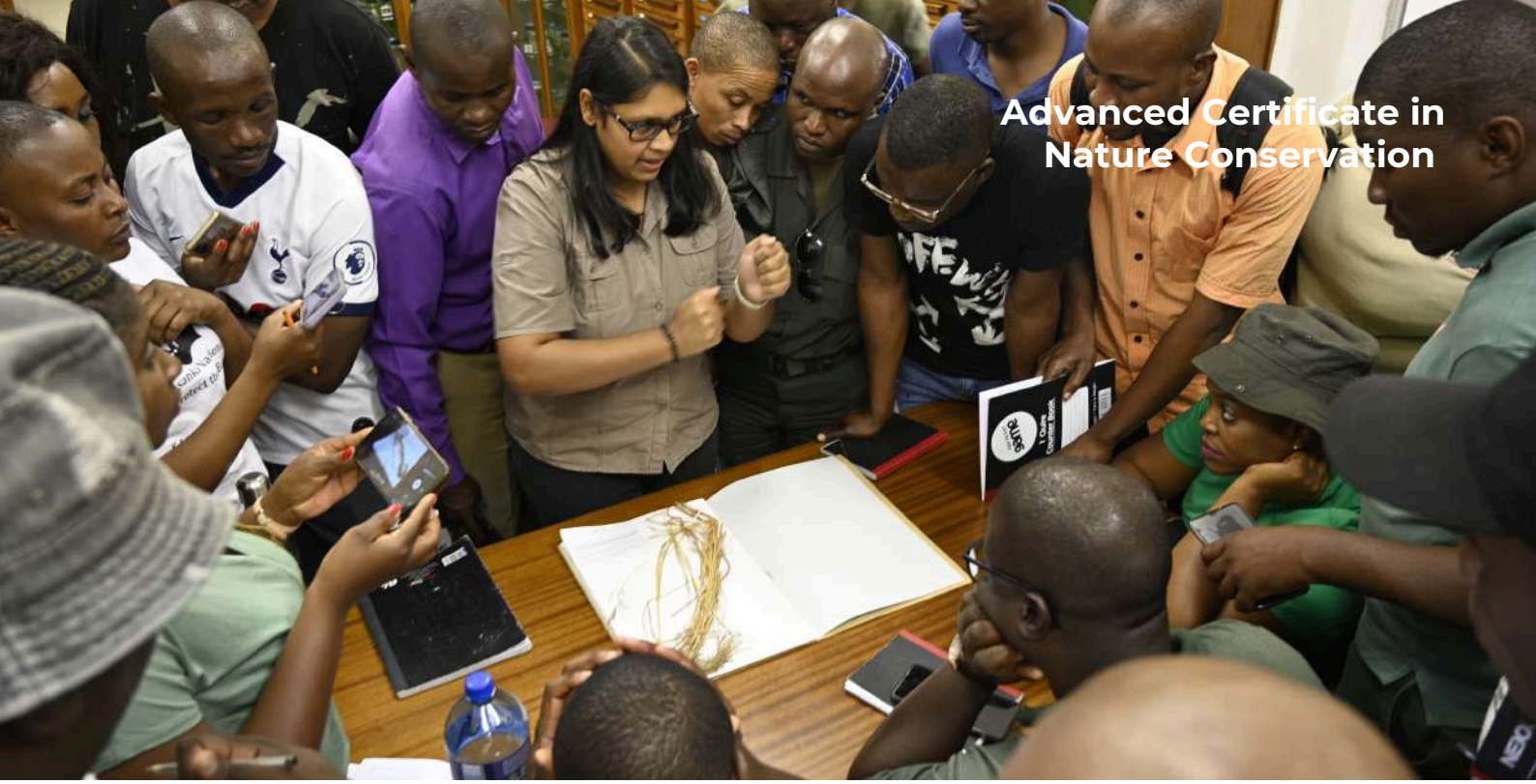
APPLY ONLINE

Selection process

The number of available places in the Advanced Certificate is limited and **it is very likely that we will not be able to accept all applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements.**

Please note the following:

- Entry requirements are a guide and meeting these requirements does not guarantee a place. Final selection is made subject to the availability of places, academic results and other entry requirements where applicable.
- The College is not permitted to register international students until they have produced their VALID Study Visa. Please note that it could take at least 6 to 8 weeks for your Study Visa application to be processed.



Application for financial assistance

Students in need of financial support to complete the Advanced Certificate in Nature Conservation will be able to apply for financial assistance from the SAWC by filling in the **Application for Financial Assistance form** available on the SAWC website

The SAWC will endeavour to make the allocation of any available bursary funding as fair as possible. It is however important to note that **bursaries are funding dependent, and the College reserves the right not to award bursaries for specific courses/programmes.**

Organisations enrolling students at the College on the Advanced Certificate programme, are also **responsible for a payment in part in support of their employees.**

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students in need, who are registered at the SAWC, can apply for financial assistance from the SAWC by filling in the **Application for Financial Assistance form** available on the College's website.

The SAWC will endeavour to make the allocation of any available bursary funding as fair as possible.

- A bursary is typically awarded to students who excel academically or have a sound academic history at school or tertiary level. Consideration will be given to other factors/aspects outlined in the application, including a student's approach to his/her studies/work.

- Students with a prior disciplinary record **will not** be considered.

The Application Process

- Once the student knows which course they want to enroll for/are enrolled in, they can begin by completing the application form for download/printing, as this will be required for submission/bursary consideration.
- Before applying, each student is to ensure that they fulfil the bursary eligibility requirements.
- On submission, students are to ensure that all supporting documentation is included.
- Application and supporting documents as outlined are to be submitted to the Academic Pillar Lead for consideration.
- If the student has questions regarding the bursary application process, they are to discuss this with the Student Registrar or the Academic Pillar Lead.

Requirements

The Student:

The students who is applying for financial assistance for their studies from the SAWC must:

- Provide proof that they are currently registered at the SAWC
- Provide evidence of their financial situation
- State whether they are applying for a full or partial bursary. (Partial bursaries will be considered in a more favourable light).
- Write an application letter explaining how they are currently funded, why they are applying for financial assistance, how financial assistance would benefit them, why they feel they are deserving, and how their studies are impacting them
- If already enrolled, must provide proof of that they are attending most of the required lessons/activities, and that their marks are above average
- If they are successful in their application, then they will be required to provide updates to the relevant donors, as and when requested
- Successful applicants (who receive funding) may be asked, in return for the financial assistance, to volunteer some of their time to assist the SAWC with certain activities (e.g. but not limited to writing articles for online magazines, contributing to content for newsletters and other reports or social media posts, represent the SAWC at functions, etc. This will not be to the extent that it hampers their studies.)
- **If a student is expelled,** they will be **liable to pay back** the amount of the bursary awarded to cover the costs of their studies to the date of being expelled.
- Students are to note that **bursaries or part bursaries are NOT provided in cash**. Bursary funding is held internally to cover the costs of tuition, field trips etc.

The Academic Pillar Lead:

- The student's application for financial assistance for their studies must be sent to the relevant Academic Pillar Lead.
- If already enrolled, the Academic Lead will write an accompanying letter containing information from all the student's lecturers, providing information on how that student is doing (and has been doing) throughout their studies so far at the SAWC, e.g. including their attendance, marks, active involvement, and potential.

Requirements cont'd.

The SAWC:

- Once the application for financial assistance is received, the Academic Pillar Lead will engage the Marketing and Fundraising department, together with the Finance department, to determine whether assistance can be provided, and at what level given available bursary funding.
- Once an application AND supporting documents (including a letter from the applicant and the Pillar Lead/Lecturers, as well as advice from the Marketing and Fundraising and Finance department) are received, each application received will be considered.
- The **decision made will be considered final.**
- If more students apply than the number of available bursaries, then students should be ranked according to financial need, their academic potential, and their EQ (which can be weighted), depending on whether the student is already enrolled or not. The students who rank highest, collectively on all counts, will be considered for a bursary to help cover their studies.
- The SAWC will ensure that the Bursary SOP is followed and will report back to the relevant organisations and donors on the student applications and how available funding is being allocated.

Contact Information

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Email
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Website
wildlifecollege.org.za

Office Information

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South Africa

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays

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