Verwelkoming van nuwe Eerste-Jaar Ingenieurstudente

Welcoming of new First-Year Engineering Students

8 March 2021

Prof Wikus van Niekerk Dean Prof Celeste Viljoen
Vice-Dean: Teaching



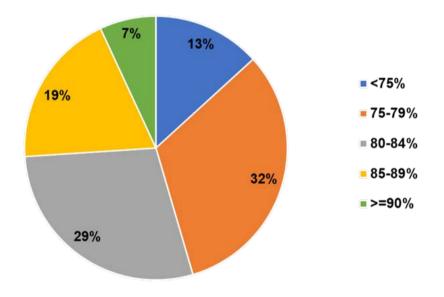
# Congratulations





- Your Matric results were excellent
- You are part of a select group
  - More than 4 600 applications for 750 places
  - 55% of our first-year students have Matric average ≥80%

#### Matric Averages 2020 Cohort







# Today's Talk





- Background about the Faculty
- Undergraduate programmes
- Some Advice







# Today's Talk



- We want all our students to do well
  - To educate as many competent engineers as possible
- We know you want the same for your future career in Engineering as well
- We should approach this as a Team, Team
   Stellenbosch Engineering







### Dean of Engineering



- Prof Wikus van Niekerk
  - General management of the Faculty
  - "Father" for the 1<sup>st</sup> year students
- The Dean regularly meets 1<sup>st</sup> years
  - Every Monday, whole first semester: "Dean's Period"
    - Part of the Intercultural Communication module, this year online with a joint discussion session
  - Advice on effective study methods
  - Having a balanced life as an engineering student
  - Offers advice and refer to further help at the University







### **Additional Support Staff**



Ms Avril Ford (<u>aford@sun.ac.za</u>)



Mr August Engelbrecht (<u>august@sun.ac.za</u>)



- Two educational psychologists (part time)
  - Arrange appointments through Ms Avril Ford







# **Background about the Faculty**





# Mission of Engineering Faculty





- To serve as a cost effective source of excellent technical expertise, through
  - Teaching
  - Research and
  - Service to industry and the community







### History



- Established in 1944
- 75 years old in 2019
- First Afrikaans Engineering
   Faculty in South Africa,
   now multilingual
- Track record for producing excellent undergraduate students
- Outstanding research record in co-operation with industry







#### Organogram







Dean of Engineering Prof Wikus van Niekerk (021) 808 4204 engdean@sun.ac.za





Vice-Dean (Teaching)
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Electrical & Electronic Eng Prof Herman Engelbrecht (021) 808 2139 ee@sun.ac.za Mechanical & Mechatronic Eng Prof Kristiaan Schreve (021) 808 4374 mmchair@sun.ac.za









### **Engineering Faculty Statistics**



- Some numbers (2020)
  - 3 000 undergraduate students
  - 900 post graduates (~23%)
  - Graduates: 562 BEng, 217 Master's and 60 PhD's (Dec 2019 & March 2020)
- Typical intake of about 750 (~780) first years
  - UG success rate of 75% (graduate after 4-6 years)
  - South Africa average 44%
  - About half of BEng 1<sup>st</sup> years graduates in 4 years



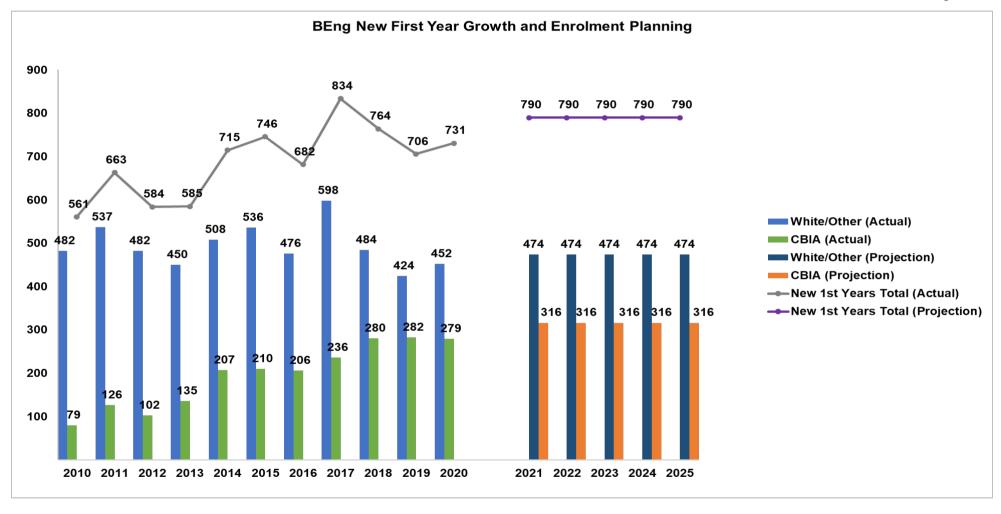


# **Engineering Faculty Statistics**













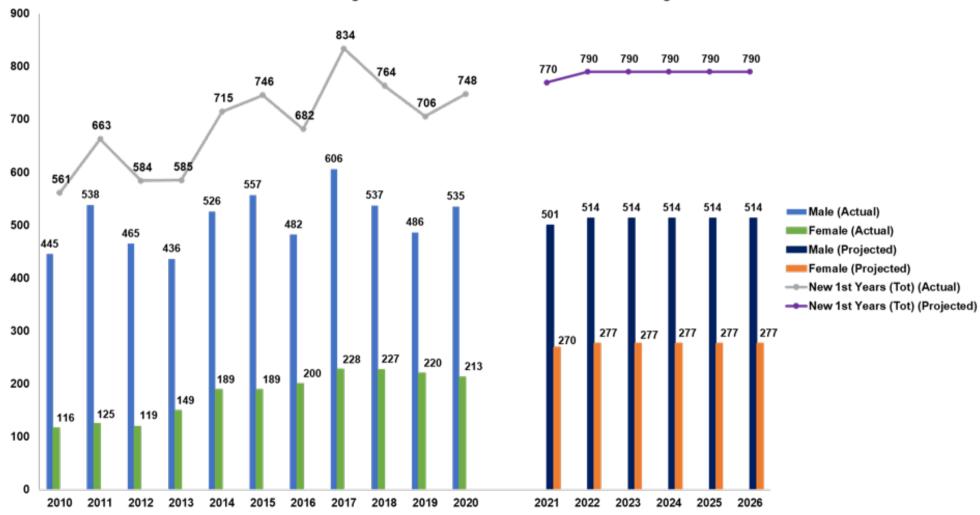
### **Engineering Faculty Statistics**







#### B.Eng New First Year Growth and Enrolment Planning









# **Undergraduate Programmes**





# Accreditation: All our BEng Programmes

UNIVERSITEIT
iYUNIVESITHI
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

1918-2018

- Engineering Council of South Africa
  - Registration as Professional Engineer
- Washington Accord
  - Meet educational requirements in USA, Canada, Ireland, UK, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey









#### **Data Science**



- All BEng programmes introducing data science elements
- BEng Electrical and Electronic with focus area
   Data Engineering introduced 2020
  - ECSA accredited
    - As part of the BEng E&E with a focus on Data Engineering
  - Not common 1<sup>st</sup> year
  - Substantial statistics and computer science content
- PGDip and MEng (Struct) in Data Science





#### Common 1st Year for all BEng



#### Except Data Engineering

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

- 1. Engineering Maths 115
- 2. Applied Maths B124
- 3. Eng Chemistry 123
- 4. Eng Drawings 123 or Probability Theory and Statistics 114
- 5. Eng Physics 113
- 6. Intercultural
  Communication 113

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

- 1. Engineering Maths 145
- 2. Applied Maths B154
- Comp programming
   143
- 4. Electrotechnique 143
- 5. Strength of Materials 143 or Data Science 141
- 6. Programme-specific module





#### Extended Degree Programme



- Bridging year followed by normal 4-year BEng programme
- Modules
  - Mathematics 186
  - Chemistry 176
  - Physics 176
  - Computer Skills 176
  - Scientific Communication Skills 116, 146
  - Preparatory Technical Drawings 146
  - University Practice in the Natural Sciences 176
- Required to proceed after 1<sup>st</sup> year
  - Pass all modules
  - Average mark above 65%





### 1st Years' Support



- Normal offering
  - Online lectures
  - Face to Face session for tutorial/discussion classes/ practicals
  - Appointment to see lecturer
- Group learning sessions
  - After normal classes, facilitated by teaching assistant
- Video recordings of key topics
- Dean's periods
- Educational psychologist
  - Anxiety, stress and study methods
- Private individual tutors





### Language Policy



- 1<sup>st</sup> year: Parallel Medium
  - Separate Afrikaans and English classes in all subjects, except for electives in second semester
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - Parallel medium: Large modules with multiple class groups
  - Other: Lectures in English, with interpretation into Afrikaans
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  - Lectures in English, with support in Afrikaans
- 4<sup>th</sup> year
  - Lectures in English
- General
  - Text books all in English
  - Tests/exams questions in English and Afrikaans
    - 4<sup>th</sup> year Afrikaans on request
  - Answers in Afrikaans OR English







# **Advice**





#### **Success Factors**



- Aim to be a GOOD engineer
  - Learn to solve new technically demanding problems while under considerable pressure



- Learn that by DOING as many problems as possible <u>yourself</u>
  - Not mostly working through examples
  - Some group learning
- Aim to gain maximum knowledge!
- Aim to do well (at least 60%)
  - Not only to pass tests and modules with 50%



SELF DISCIPLINE





#### **Success Factors**

#### **TIME MANAGEMENT**

#### SELF DISCIPLINE

- Use the resources
  - Class attendance, review work
  - Take practicals and tutorials very seriously
    - Study the material <u>before</u> coming to class
  - Do many problems; red circle questions
  - Ask questions in class; don't be shy!
  - Talk to your lecturers & tutors
  - Form study groups

#### KEEP UP

There will not be time to catch up







### Some Challenges







- Negative emotions
- Irritable or always tired
- Cannot sleep and difficult to concentrate
- Change in appetite or weight
- Depression
- Seek help at
  - Faculty's educational psychologists
    - contact Ms Ford (<u>aford@sun.ac.za</u>)
  - Centre for Student Counselling and Development (CSCD/SSVO)!









#### Resolving Class/Personal Problems



1918 - 2018

- If a class has a problem:
  - Class representative speaks to the lecturer(s) or Dean
  - Speak to the Engineering Student Council
  - Once per semester class reps meet dean and lecturers
- If you have a personal problem:
  - Speak to the lecturer
  - Speak to Ms Ford
  - Make an appointment to see the Dean
  - Visit the educational or clinical psychologists at CSCD
  - Take responsibility to solve problems before asking parents to help
- Do not wait until the problem becomes a crisis







# **Important Information**





# Safety



Stellenbosch probably not more dangerous than any other town in South Africa, but...

- Please take reasonable safety precautions
  - Major risk:
    - Pub crawls and then vulnerable to crime
- Female students shouldn't walk around alone late at night

Especially not in isolated spots!

- Form and move in groups
- Call Campus Security





### **Campus Security Numbers**



- Emergency number: 021 808 2333
- Whatsapp: 082 808 2333
- Enquiries / Reporting / Pedestrian service:
   021 808 4666





#### **Another Year of Covid**



- To protect our Staff and Students is a <u>shared</u> responsibility
- It is very important that we adhere to the Covid protocols, not only on campus and in in our residences, but everywhere we go
- The University wants to ensure that we can proceed with some face-to-face interactions without compromising the health and safety of our students and staff





#### **Another Year of Covid**

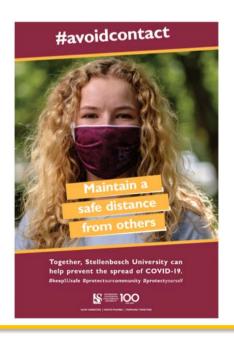




#### So Please:

- Wear your mask (#maskup)
- Wash/sanitise your hands (#sanitise)
- Keep your distance (#avoidcontact)











#### In Conclusion



#### If you need help or advice, contact the Dean's office:

**©** 021 808 4204

To schedule an appointment with a psychologist, contact Avril Ford

**©** 021 808 3614

#### May you all be successful!

For copy of presentation, please request by email to <a href="mailto:aford@sun.ac.za">aford@sun.ac.za</a>



Make sure to follow us on Social Media.



