

Frequently Asked Questions 2021-2022

COVID-19 FAQs

How has GWC responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

GWC has followed government and sector guidelines around the COVID-19 pandemic and the Faculty has responded rapidly by offering all modules via alternative (online/digital) modes when needed. Despite the enormous task to move students to online teaching and learning, the 2020 and 2021 academic years have been undisrupted.

In 2022, GWC will continue to follow government and sector guidelines around health and safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be offering all our programmes in 2022, but the modes in which these programmes are delivered may vary depending on the national alert level at the time. **GWC will teach all modules via contact lectures whenever it is safe to do so.**

Is it safe to study at GWC in 2022?

All buildings, classrooms and offices have been prepared to allow for physical distancing and safe operations. The spaces which are frequented by staff, students and faculty are cleaned regularly according to health and safety guidelines. Strict screening protocols are in place for anyone (staff, students, faculty and service providers) entering the campus. In line with national regulations, the GWC COVID Task Team is in place to ensure the health and safety of all members of the College community.

Do I have to come to campus to study at GWC in 2022?

GWC plans to continue with contact lectures as long as it is safe and legal to do so. Students are required to be on campus to study.

What if I cannot get to campus owing to COVID-19?

We don't anticipate students being unable to travel to South Africa for study purposes. However, if you are unable to get to campus in 2022 for reasons related to COVID-19, we will discuss your options with you. Please contact our admissions team to discuss your situation.

If the national alert levels change and COVID-19 cases increase, and GWC requires me to do my classes online, will the fees be the same?

Yes, the fees are the same. It is just as expensive to produce high-quality online lectures as it is to produce contact lectures.

GWC will “retain a focus on health and safety protocols to protect lives.” Stay Safe. For all official information and updates regarding COVID-19, visit the South African Department of Health’s website at www.sacoronavirus.co.za

GENERAL FAQs

When do applications open and close for the 2022 academic year?

Consistent with previous years, our application process will stay the same as previous years: applications are available online [here](#). Applications should be submitted by **17th September 2021**. International students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Can I attend an Open Day at GWC?

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are hosting our Open Day online which includes a virtual tour of our campus. Check it out [here](#).

What are the fees for the 2022 academic?

Please see the fees schedule for 2022 [here](#). If you have any queries about fees, [please contact us](#). In December, the Bursar will send you a statement of account showing the fees you owe.

Does GWC offer financial support?

Once you have been accepted into one of our accredited programmes for full-time studies, you can apply for bursary assistance. Bursaries are awarded on a needs basis only and Bursary awards are usually only **partial awards** (covering some costs).

GWC acknowledges the huge financial burden that many applicants face and we earnestly ask God to continue to provide for you and for us for the sake of the Gospel in Africa. GWC regrets that bursary funding cannot be offered to every bursary applicant.

Every applicant is encouraged to fundraise as much as possible in order to ensure you have enough funds to cover your costs.

Can you help me with my fundraising?

GWC acknowledges that fundraising is an important skill for anyone who intends to work in Christian ministry. If you would like some tips to assist you as you fundraise towards your costs, [please contact us](#).

Can I work whilst I am studying to cover some of my costs?

Full-time students do not have enough time in your schedule to work. You should rather fundraise all your costs *before* starting your studies.

How can I pay my fees?

Fees can be paid via EFT or via the website or via Snapscan. To pay your fees, [click here](#).

When should I pay my fees by?

Upon acceptance, you will receive a breakdown of which fees are due and the dates by which you need to pay them. The Bursar will also communicate this via a Statement of Account to you in December.

What if I can't get to College in time for the start of the academic year, can I arrive late?

In most cases, it is not possible to start the academic year late. The Faculty may require you to delay your studies to the next academic year if you are unable to attend the language Summer School. Students who have been allowed to arrive late due to circumstances outside of their control generally struggle to keep up with the workload. [Please contact us](#) to discuss your situation.

GWC is the training institution for the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa. I am not from an Anglican denomination; can I still study at GWC?

Yes! GWC welcomes students from all denominations and traditions. Our curriculum is broadly designed with Anglican students in mind but students from other denominations and traditions can also benefit from studies at GWC. If you come from a non-Anglican denomination, you are not required to (but you are welcome to) register for the Anglican-specific modules.

Can I study part-time?

There are 2 options for students who wish to study part-time:

Option 1: Part-time FOR DEGREE PURPOSES

If you want to work towards one of GWC's qualifications, we urge you to consider studying full-time. Studying full-time increases the likelihood of you finishing in the required timeframe and allows you to benefit from GWC's extra-curricular activities. Studying part-time for degree purposes is not ideal but it is doable. If you wish to study part-time for degree purposes, you will be required to meet with the Registrar or the Director of Postgraduate Studies and sign a written agreement detailing your study plan. You will need to complete the qualification within the required timeframe. The following qualifications have to be completed in the required timeframes:

Higher Certificate in Theology: 3 years maximum

Bachelors of Theology: 6 years maximum

Bachelors of Theology Honours: 3 years maximum

Master of Theology: 4 years maximum

Fees: the Bursar will design a payment plan for your particular situation.

Option 2: Part-time FOR NON-DEGREE PURPOSES

If you register for stand-alone modules, not leading to a qualification, you can do so by registering:

For credit: includes assignments and exams

To Audit: excludes assignments and exams

Fees: please see the fees schedule for the module only fees.

What does part-time studies involve?

You need to:

- attend lectures on campus during the day between 08:00-15:00 (see our lecture timetable).
- we do not offer evening or weekend classes.
- Attend a brief registration session at the start of the Semester you join the College.
- Some postgraduate (taught) modules run as 2-week intensives where you will be required to be on campus for the full 2-weeks.

What is community-life at GWC like?

GWC is a residential campus which means most of our students live on campus in Muizenberg. Some students also have their families living on campus with them. Community is fostered through our residences and through our weekly fellowship group meetings. GWC has two Deans of Students and many Chaplains to support you through your studies and help you settle into the community.

Postgraduate Studies FAQs

Help! I am required to complete a SAQA evaluation in order to apply to one of your postgraduate programmes. Can you help me complete this?

We cannot submit the application to SAQA for you. But, we are very happy to meet with you to talk through the application process. Please read the [application instructions on the SAQA website](#) here and then schedule a zoom meeting with our staff by [contacting us here](#).

What are GWC's key areas of Research?

GWC's faculty specialise in the areas of:

- Biblical Studies
- Systematic Theology
- Ministry and
- Church history

Will I need to write an entrance test for biblical languages as part of my entrance into a GWC Postgraduate programme?

Yes, if you are new to GWC (i.e. you have not studied with us before) and if you are intending to do research in Biblical studies, you will be required to write a proficiency entrance test in Biblical Greek (for New Testament scholars) or Biblical Hebrew (Old Testament scholars). This test will test material covered in the first year of an undergraduate language course. Should you not pass this test, you will be enrolled into the relevant undergraduate language modules.

If I am enrolled in a postgraduate programme at another higher education institution, can I come to GWC to do my research?

Yes. We welcome postgraduate students enrolled at other higher education institutions to join our Evangelical Research Fellowship (ERF) which offers you:

- World class research facilities such as the Broughton Knox library containing 60,000+ volumes
- Research and preaching seminars from leading local and international scholars
- One-on-one mentoring from specialist Faculty
- Accommodation on the GWC campus and
- Conversation partners with peers enrolled in the ERF.

The aim of the ERF is to provide you with a stimulating, gospel-shaped academic environment in the Reformed tradition and to cultivate scholars toward a mature contextual understanding of the Gospel in order to enhance evangelical ministry on the African continent.

International Students FAQs

Can I get a visa to study in South Africa in 2022?

Yes! South African embassies are issuing visas for study purposes. Please contact the South African embassy closest to you to learn more about study visas. A study visa is required in order to study on campus in South Africa.

What is SAQA

SAQA stands for the South African Qualifications Authority —they are responsible for establishing and maintaining quality within the higher education and training sector. One of SAQA's key functions is to verify the qualifications that an individual has achieved to determine their South African equivalence. People with foreign qualifications who wish to attend South African education institutions or who wish to enter the South African labour market apply to SAQA to have their qualifications evaluated.

What is a SAQA evaluation and do I need one?

The purpose of the SAQA evaluation is to have your high school or tertiary level qualification recognised in terms of the South African higher education system and to allow you admission to study in South Africa.

SAQA will:

- 1) verify your (foreign) qualification(s) by ensuring the following:
 - Issuing bodies are accredited/recognised in the country they were awarded
 - Qualifications are legitimately issued by those issuing bodies and part of the national qualifications of that country
 - Qualifications documents are in order and awards claimed by individuals are genuine
- 2) Compare your (foreign) qualifications with South African qualifications, considering the structure and outcomes of the foreign qualifications, and locate them within the South African context so as to advise on your eligibility for entrance into South African study programmes.

What are foreign qualifications?

A foreign qualification is issued by a nationally recognised institution and forms part of the national education and training system of a country other than South Africa.

DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR QUALIFICATION TO SAQA IF YOU STUDIED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

For more information, go to: <https://www.saga.org.za/evaluation-foreign-qualifications>.

We are very happy to meet with you to talk through the application process. Please read the application instructions on the [SAQA website here](#) and then schedule a zoom meeting with our staff by [contact us here](#).

Is SAQA still evaluating foreign qualifications amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic?

SAQA has resumed the evaluation of foreign qualifications and prospective applicants can continue to lodge online applications at www.saga.org.za . Qualification holders must apply for their own evaluations and not use third parties for this purpose. Click [here](#) to find updated Lockdown Application Procedure for evaluation of foreign qualifications.

Do I need to do a TOEFL/IELTS English test?

International students for whom English is not a first/home language or have not passed English at NSC Grade 12, AS-level, IGCSE, NSSC level or equivalent secondary school-leaving qualification from an English medium-of-instruction institution must provide proof of English language proficiency. Please check if there is testing available to you during the COVID-19 Pandemic via IELTS (see www.ielts.org) or TOEFL (see www.toefl.org).

To be considered for entrance, you need the following scores:

- Undergraduate studies:
 - IELTS- 6.0 overall and 5.0 for the written element
 - TOEFL- 213 (computerized test), 550 (written test) or 80 (internet based).
- Postgraduate studies:
 - IELTS- 6.5 overall and 6.0 for the written element
 - TOEFL- 232 (computerized test), 575 (written test) or 90-91 (internet based)

We'd love to hear from you. Please [contact us here](#) if you have questions we have not answered!

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