

Frequently Asked Questions

2023-2024

When do applications open and close for the 2024 and 2025 academic year?

Applications are available on GWC's website and should be submitted by latest **15 September 2023 for International students and 20 October 2023 for local students only**. International and postgraduate students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Applications for the 2025 academic year will open in April 2024 and close in September 2024 for international students and October 2024 for local students. International and postgraduate students are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Can I attend an Open Day at GWC?

Every July/August, we host an Open Day when prospective students get to engage with our faculty, staff, and students, and also tour our campus.

Save the date and join us **Saturday, August 5th, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM**. We kindly ask that all interested in attending the Open Day register on our [website](#) by **Friday, July 28th**.

Can I study Part Time?

Currently, GWC only offers contact mode teaching and learning on our campus in Muizenberg with classes taking place between 8am and 3pm each day. Our academic programme is designed with full time students in mind.

However, you can register for part time studies according to the following structure:

FOR CREDIT: includes exams and assignments and requires full admission into a programme at GWC. Your transcript will reflect final grades and credits achieved.

AUDIT: excludes exams and assignments and does not require full admission into a programme at GWC. Your transcript reflects subjects audited but no grades or credits achieved.

Programmes at GWC have to be completed within the following 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

If you aren't able to complete the qualification within the time frame, you will be encouraged to study for non-degree purposes (audit).

Part time students are required to:

- Attend lectures on campus when they are offered on the lecture timetable. Lecture timetables are available on 1 December (Semester 1) and 1 June (Semester 2) each year. At this time, GWC does not offer weekend or evening classes.
- Attend a brief registration session at the start of the Semester.
- Some postgraduate structured modules are run as 2-week intensives where you will be required to be on campus every day, all day for 2 weeks.
- Pay registration and module fees.
- Monitor the announcement emails to ensure you stay up to date with timetable changes, college events and public holiday notices.
- Monitor the Canvas classroom announcements to ensure you stay up to date with requirements for your modules.
- Let us know if you would like to join a fellowship group whilst you study with us.

More information on part time studies can be found in the Prospectus and Student Handbook.

Will I be required to write an Entrance Test for Biblical Languages as part of my entrance into a Postgraduate Programme?

If you are new to GWC (i.e. you have not studied at GWC in the past 5 years) 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 cover material from the first year of an undergraduate language course. Should you not pass this test, you will be enrolled in the relevant undergraduate language module.

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.

How Do I Complete the SAQA Evaluation for Entrance into Your Postgraduate Programmes?

All postgraduate applicants who have a foreign undergraduate qualification are required to submit a certificate of evaluation from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). We cannot submit the application to SAQA for you but we have provided a full list of instructions to guide you. Further, the SAQA website has is easy to use and has clear instructions on how to go about obtaining the evaluation certificate. This process can take months so you are advised to get started right away. We are very happy to meet with you to talk through the application process. Please read the [application instructions on the SAQA website](#).

What are GWC's Research Focus Areas?

GWC's faculty specialize in the areas of:

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

Does GWC accept students from other faith traditions (Non-Anglican Students)?

Yes! GWC welcomes students from all Christian traditions. GWC was founded in 1989 in order to provide education and training for ordinands of the Church of England in South Africa (CESA), now the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa (REACH SA). From the outset, however, it had a broader mission of providing high quality tertiary education and training for Christian life and ministry regardless of denomination, gender, race or nationality. The college's programme has proven so attractive to non-REACH SA candidates and now over half of the learners are in this category. Non-Anglican students can opt to take the Anglican elective subjects if you wish. You are encouraged to contact your denominational leadership to ensure that our curriculum will satisfy their ordination/employment requirements.

I am New to GWC, where can I find important Orientation Information?

Please go to Student Resources on your classroom dashboard and browse through the important academic, finance, community and administrative information.

What happens if I am Delayed and can't get to GWC on time for the start of the academic year?

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 (see the academic calendar). [Please contact us](#) to discuss your situation.

How can I pay my fees?

Fees can be paid via EFT or via our [website](#) or via Snapscan. Please send proof of payment for your fees through to accounts@gwc.ac.za.

[Click here](#) to view our fees.

Does GWC offer financial support to students?

You can apply for bursary assistance once you have been accepted in to one of our programmes. Bursaries only cover a portion of your fees and so you are encouraged to fundraise as much as possible towards your costs. You will be required to submit commitment to sponsor forms showing that you have funds available to cover the costs that the GWC bursaries do not cover. For a full estimation of fees for your programme, please see the budget guidelines on our website. Bursaries are only awarded to cover costs related to studies. Family costs are generally not covered by the bursary awards.

Part-time students are not eligible for bursary funding.

How are bursaries and scholarships allocated?

GWC exists to provide high-quality tertiary theological education to equip men and women for serving in the Church in Africa. Bursary awards are made in line with this mission and according to Policy 40 Bursaries and Scholarships. Bursaries are awarded to students who show:

- Academic suitability for study at GWC (full-time students only).
- Financial neediness.
- Ministry experience and/or potential (demonstrated by the student and the community).
- Strategic partner support (REACH SA, GWC partner organizations, and non-associated partners).

GWC Bursaries offer **partial** financial assistance to students who are studying at GWC. Family costs are generally not covered by GWC bursary awards. Part-time students do not qualify for bursary funding.

Every year students apply for a bursary award for the following academic year and the Bursary Committee allocates available funding according to the bursary award criteria listed above. For more information about financial assistance at GWC, please contact the Registry department or view Policy 40 in Student Resources on your Canvas dashboard.

Can you help me with my fundraising?

We acknowledge that fundraising is an important skill for anyone who intends to work in Christian ministry. We have put together some fundraising tips to help you with your fundraising efforts. These are available on Student Resource on your Canvas dashboard.

What Accommodation does GWC offer to students?

All students are welcome to apply for student housing on campus in Muizenberg. The following student housing is available:

- Single students residence.
- Married students flats (for students who families will join them on campus).
- Postgraduate student flats.

All accommodation is furnished.

For more information about your student accommodation please contact aadonis@gwc.ac.za.

How has GWC responded to the COVID-19 pandemic?

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 2023, 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. Online modes of learning are not possible when contact mode is in session.**

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. Members of the community are encouraged to stay home if you feel unwell. 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.

Under the current alert level (October 2022), students and staff living in residences are not required to have a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine mandate may be re-instated if/when the COVID-19 national alert level changes.

What does it mean that GWC is an Anglican College?

GWC was founded in 1989 in order to provide education and training for ordinands of the Church of England in South Africa (CESA), now the Reformed Evangelical Anglican Church of South Africa (REACH SA). As an evangelical Anglican college we are in essential agreement with the three great creeds, the Thirty Nine Articles of Religion, the Lausanne Covenant and the GAFCON Declaration. We accept the Book of Common Prayer of 1662 and the Ordinal as our standard of worship and church order. Our curriculum includes Anglican electives for Anglican students and our community chapel services are based off of the Anglican prayer book.

I'm a woman. Will I receive the same theological education as the men in my class?

Yes! GWC values men and women as equal in dignity and honor, both made in the image of God. Women and men receive the same theological and practical education at GWC. Students are encouraged to speak to their local churches about what practical training opportunities are available to men and women in the local church.

Where can I find GWC's Institutional Policies?

All of GWC's policies will be available on Student Resources on your Canvas Dashboard in January 2023. In the meantime, if you require a policy the Registry Department can assist you. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Can I work while I study?

Full-time students do not have enough time to work alongside your studies. If you need to work for financial reasons, you should rather fundraise towards your costs *before* registering for full-time studies.

What are the non-negotiable theological commitments shared by all members of faculty?

All of our full-time teaching staff are required to subscribe annually to the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion.

Can I complete my curacy in REACH SA while I register for Postgraduate Studies?

GWC and REACH SA strongly discourage students from doing a curacy and studying at the same time. Please contact your area Bishop to talk this through if you need more advice.

How have GWC's programmes changed over the years?

Our academic programmes are regularly reviewed and adjusted in light of internal and external quality management processes. Another thorough revision of our undergraduate programmes will take place in 2024 which will include opportunities for all stakeholders to provide us with feedback about these programmes.

If I'm not ready to start studying next year, what can I do to prepare myself?

We suggest you continue to serve at your local church, read widely and consider enrolling in the first of our Explore correspondence modules: Explore the Bible https://explore.org.za/student-info/#begin_modules. Also, set yourself a challenge to read the whole Bible in one year.

What should I expect when it comes to discipleship at GWC?

The college is concerned for the whole student: heart, soul, mind, and strength. Chaplains at GWC work alongside those who provide pastoral support to students (mentors, local pastors, pastors from students' home churches, counselors, and others) to ensure that students are cared for and grow spiritually during their time at college.

What should I expect when it comes to GWC Community Life?

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. The Student Representative Council is appointed to ensure all student needs are taken in to account where possible. Day students who commute to GWC from surrounding areas are supported by a member of the SRC. GWC has work spaces on campus which day students are able to use during business hours. There is a student lounge on campus which is open to residential and day students. A 'Community Life' booklet is available on the Student Resources platform to help students and families adjust to life at GWC.

What is it like to live in Cape Town?

Cape Town is a vibrant, bustling city with rich history and culture and sometimes erratic weather (pack your warm clothes!). GWC is in the far south nestled between the False Bay mountain range and Muizenberg beach. For more specific information about life in Cape Town check out expat websites

like: <https://www.expatcapetown.com> and <https://www.capetown.travel/pocket-friendly-muizenberg/>

How do I know if I have met the requirements for Graduation?

Your academic progress report in your student portal shows you your progress against the requirements for your particular programme and indicates whether you are on track to graduate. Please also read the programme requirements in the Student Handbook.

Do you have a Student Representative Council (SRC)?

Yes, each year the student body nominates the SRC. Meet our [SRC](#).

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

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