



# 8 steps for international students to register with confidence

Embarking on your studies at North-West University is an exciting journey - and we're here to help you every step of the way. To ensure a smooth and stress-free transition, please follow these eight important steps. Each one is designed to ensure you meet South Africa's immigration regulations and can start your academic adventure on the right foot.

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## Submit your documents early

Before arriving in South Africa, submit all required documents to the International Student Compliance Office (ISCO). This includes your category identifier and a request for your official invitation letter - available through the Central Application Hub.

Let the ISCO review your visa or permit to ensure it allows you to study at NWU. If not, they'll guide you through the process of applying for the correct one.



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## Understand your visa requirements

To apply for your study visa, you'll need a detailed invitation letter from the ISCO (not just your acceptance letter). Submitting the incorrect letter can lead to a rejected application, so it's vital to get this right.

If you hold a spouse, work, or critical skills visa, it must include a condition allowing you to study. ISCO will advise on any supporting documents or extra steps required.



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## Final document check before departure

Before leaving your home country for South Africa, send all your colour scanned documents in a single email to ISCO. They'll verify your compliance with immigration regulations and issue permission to register at NWU.

- **Please note:** this approval does not automatically mean you are registered. You'll also need to meet NWU's academic and financial requirements.



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## Medical aid and vaccinations

To meet South African health requirements, you must:

- Provide proof of adult MMR and Meningitis vaccinations.
- If you're from a Yellow Fever region, submit your **Yellow Fever certificate**.
- Get **medical aid cover from a registered South African provider** (travel insurance won't be accepted)

This medical cover is required for your visa and must remain valid for your full stay - once activated, it cannot be cancelled.



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## Accommodation arrangements

If you're a long-term student, you can apply for NWU residence through **Residential Services**. Unfortunately, exchange or visiting students (under 90 days) will need to arrange private accommodation, as campus housing is not available for short-term stays.



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## Permanent residence (PRP) students

If you hold a Permanent Residence Permit (PRP):

- You do not need medical aid
- You must submit a **colour-scanned copy** of your PRP and green ID book. The passport linked to the PRP application must be submitted, even if it has expired. A valid passport is required for international travel.
- Please check in with ISCO to update your registration status.



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## Reach out to your campus contact

If you need help or have questions, contact your campus representative:

### Potchefstroom Campus:

Annelishé Van Der Spoel  
Aobakwe Morubane

[Annelishé.VanDerSpoel@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Annelishé.VanDerSpoel@nwu.ac.za)  
[Aobakwe.Morubane@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Aobakwe.Morubane@nwu.ac.za)

### Mahikeng & Vanderbijlpark Campus:

Jenny van der Walt

[Jenny.VanDerWalt@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Jenny.VanDerWalt@nwu.ac.za)

### Central Application Hub:

[CAH@nwu.ac.za](mailto:CAH@nwu.ac.za)

### Start your NWU journey with peace of mind

You are not alone - our team is here to guide and support you through the entire registration process. Be sure to double-check that your documents are complete before you travel.

Visit: [Steps For Accepted Prospective International Students](#) for more information.

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## Important Notice: ISCO Registration and DHA Clearance for International Students

NWU is a registered and accredited institution. As such, the university is subject to audits and inspections conducted by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), including those conducted by DHA Immigration Offices and their officers.

**Please note:** International students can only proceed with ISCO registration once NWU receives an official directive from the DHA.

We kindly advise students to wait for formal communication from NWU. Do not rely on information shared via social media or unofficial sources, as this may be inaccurate or misleading.



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