

University of South Africa Ethiopia Regional Learning Centre

**Information on 2026 Admission
Application for PhD and Master's
Programmes**

*Join the future for
lifelong learning*

Define tomorrow.

UNISA



college of
graduate studies

UNISA in Brief

Welcome to a world-class institution that has been building Africa's future for over 150 years.



The University of South Africa (UNISA) is the largest comprehensive open distance e-learning institution in Africa and the longest-standing dedicated distance-education university in the world.



UNISA is adapting quickly to the fast-paced higher-education environment of the 21st century. We are also harnessing new and emerging technologies to catapult the university into a truly digital future.



We offer an unparalleled range of study choices at all levels of study.



As one of the leading research institutions on the continent, our research efforts have won us numerous awards, recognitions, and honours.

UNISA in Ethiopia

The University of South Africa (UNISA) is operating in Ethiopia at the invitation of the Ethiopian government to collaborate in high-level human-capital development.

We invite you to join UNISA and learn without limits.

We operate in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE).

So far, 600 PhD & 380 master's graduates and many other graduates have completed their studies through UNISA in Ethiopia



The majority of the PhD graduates are academics from public universities.



This document is designed to provide you with basic information on applying for admission.

Applying for Admission

In order to be admitted to UNISA's PhD and Master's programmes in 2026, you need to apply for admission.

The application period is from **02 September to 21 November 2025**.

After the closing date of 21 November 2025, selected qualifications will remain open until 31 January and 30 June 2026 respectively.

[Click here for the list of open qualifications.](#)

All UNISA admission applications are done online.

Academic departments have different dates on which selection for master's and doctoral qualifications will take place. Most of the applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application from the middle of February to the beginning of March 2026.

Steps in Admission Application

Access **UNISA's application website** and find your qualification of interest. Then, read about the admission requirements, research focus areas, and other details about the qualification.

To complete your online application, follow these steps:

1. Apply for a student number
(if you already have a UNISA student number, this is not necessary).
2. Apply for admission.
3. Upload your documents.
 - All documents indicated in red when you are requested to upload your documents are compulsory for that specific qualification.

Before you apply for admission to your selected qualification, **prepare your research outline** in line with the departmental requirements and based on one of the focus areas available. A research outline is not required if you are applying to coursework master's degree programmes such as MBL, MBA, and LLM.

*Students applying to the College of Science, Engineering, and Technology **must contact** the relevant department or professors before applying to find a suitable supervisor who will provide a letter of confirmation. You can obtain email addresses and research focus areas of professors in the College using the link below:*

Documents Needed for Application

The following documents are needed for application:

- Academic documents
 - Degrees and academic records of all completed qualifications
- Valid passport, National (Digital) ID, or birth certificate
 - Must indicate your birth date and full name, including your grandfather's name in English.
- Outline of proposed research (3-5 pages) describing the following.
 - **Title, Summary of topic, Short literature review, Expected contribution of the study, Methodology to be followed, Availability of the data, List of references, and Reasons why you are interested in the topic.** [Click here for guideline to prepare the outline.](#)
 - Research outline is not required for coursework master's degree programmes such as MBL, MBA, and LLM.
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Letter from department or professor (only for applicants in the **College of Science, Engineering, and Technology**)
- Proof of registration as a Social Worker (if you are applying for a qualification in the **Department of Social Work**)

SAQA Evaluation Certificate:

- If you obtained your qualifications from a non-South African university, the qualification that is required for your Unisa admission must be evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA),
- You may apply for admission without a SAQA certificate of evaluation,
- If your application for admission to Unisa is accepted, you may register; however, you will need to get a SAQA certificate of evaluation and submit it **to Unisa** by 15 December 2026.
- Apply for the [**SAQA certificate of evaluation here.**](#)
- The application for the evaluation certificate requires payment directly to SAQA in foreign currency.

Preparing Documents for Application

Your documents must be prepared in electronic format (scanned/saved) on your computer for uploading.

The files to be uploaded for application need to conform to the following specifications:

- Each document must be uploaded as a separate file. Academic documents can be combined in one file.
- The maximum number of files allowed is 7.
- Files cannot be larger than 2MB (2048 KB) each.
- Only black-and-white documents may be submitted.
- Only the following file types can be accepted: PDF, DOC(X) (Word document file), or TIF (image file).

Suggestions:

- If you do not have a scanner, you can download **Clear Scanner** or another scanning app on your smart phone and scan with it.
- If your file is larger than 2MB, you can compress it at pdfcompressor.com or any other sites providing similar service.

Catalytic Niche Areas

Unisa has identified 10 Catalytic Niche Areas. Students who are interested in incorporating any of these niche areas into their research must discuss it with their supervisor(s).



MARINE STUDIES



**AVIATION AND
AERONAUTICAL
STUDIES**



AUTOMOTIVE



ENERGY



**SPACE STUDIES
AND THE SQUARE
KILOMETRE ARRAY**



**FOURTH INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION AND
DIGITALISATION**



**BIOTECHNOLOGICAL
STUDIES**



**HEALTH/
PHARMACEUTICAL
STUDIES**



**FEMINIST/
WOMANIST/BOSADI
THEORISATIONS**



**STUDENT SUPPORT
AND CO-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

Online Application

- A detailed step-by-step explanation of the online application process is given in a separate document.
- If you did not obtain the step-by-step guide, contact us using the addresses given on the last page of this brochure.
- Please review the guide before you start and refer to it during your online application.
- **Skipping steps and uploading incomplete documents** are major reasons for the rejection of many applications in the past. Please ensure that all steps are completed and all required documents are properly uploaded.
- Follow up on the status of your application online.

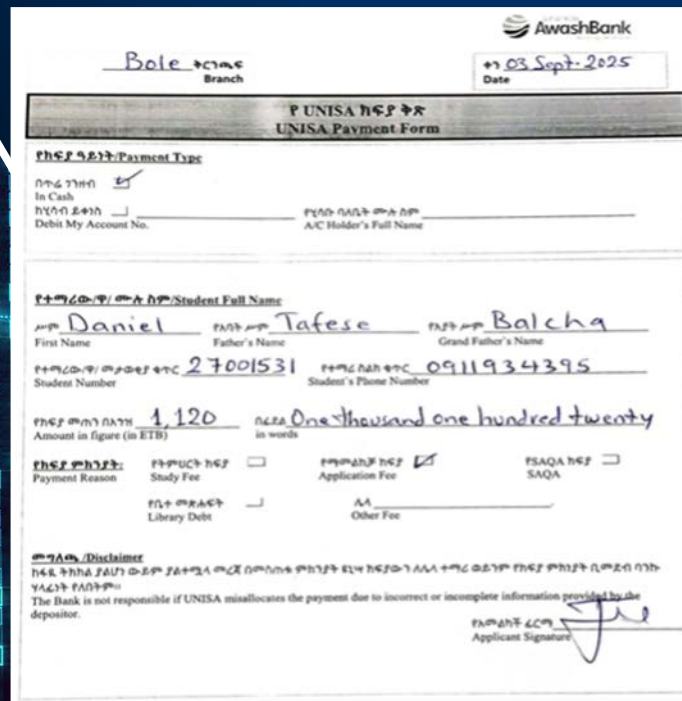
If you need additional information or face a problem during your online application, please contact us.



Application fee Payment

Applicants are required to pay an application fee of 150.00 South African Rand

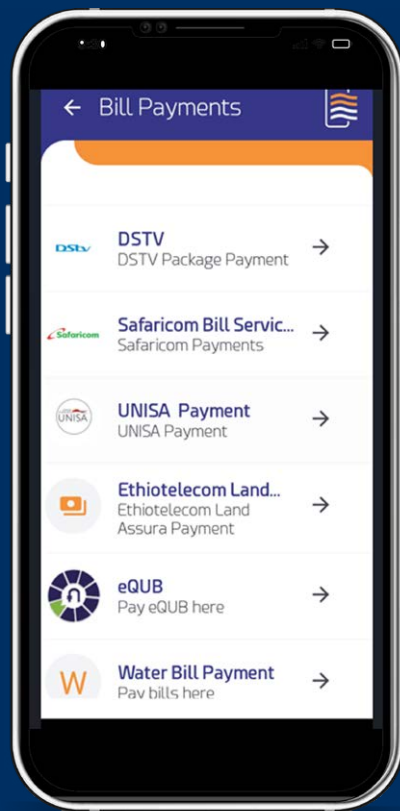
- You can pay the application fee after you have completed the online application.
- To get the applicable **Rand to Birr exchange rate, contact us.**
- To pay the application fee, deposit its Birr equivalent at any Awash Bank branch or using the **Awash Mobile Banking App (Awash Birr Pro).**



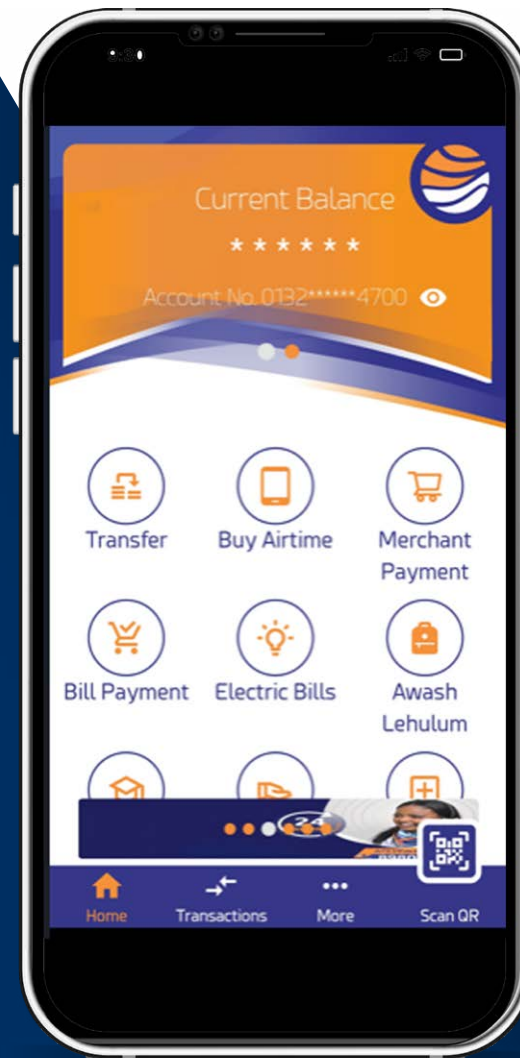
The image shows a sample 'UNISA Payment Form' from Awash Bank. The form is titled 'የ UNISA ክፍያ ቅጽ' and 'UNISA Payment Form'. It includes fields for the branch (Bole Medija), date (03 Sept. 2025), and payment type (In Cash, In A/C, Debit My Account No.). The student's full name is Daniel, and the father's name is Tafese. The student number is 27001531, and the student's phone number is 0911934395. The amount in figure is 1,120, and in words is 'One thousand one hundred twenty'. The payment reason is 'Application Fee' (checked), and the SAQA fee is also checked. The form includes a disclaimer and a signature line for the applicant.

- Use the '**Unisa Payment Form**', as indicated in the sample form. Do not use the regular deposit form.

To pay through Awash Bank's Awash Birr Pro, open the app on your mobile, select 'Bill Payment', scroll down, and select 'UNISA Payment'.



Enter your eight-digit student number you were provided with during the online application, your name, and phone number. In the payment description part, select 'Application Fee', and complete the remaining steps.



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www.unisa.ac.za

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