



STELLENBOSCH 2026

FISU
WORLD
UNIVERSITY
CHAMPIONSHIP
RUGBY SEVENS

BULLETIN ONE

#Stellenbosch2026



FISU President Message

Dear student-athletes, dear friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to Stellenbosch, for the FISU World University Championship Rugby 7s. I would like to address you first, dear student-athletes, who are and who always be the beating heart of FISU.

Competing at the World University Championships is a career highlight for many of you. For others, it is a step up to the next level of performance. What you all have in common is your love of sport, your commitment, your fair play and your respect. You come together as rivals, from different places and different backgrounds, but you will almost certainly leave as friends.

Despite the challenging times we are all facing, you remind us of the special power of young people to reassure us that a better world is possible. You remind us of the need to prioritise sport, sustainability, inclusivity and healthy social exchange. FISU firmly believes that university athletes are the role models and future leaders the world needs.

Over the following 3 days, you will compete alongside some of the best student-athletes on the planet. The FISU World University Championships demand skill, athleticism, and single-minded determination to do your best. But beyond the competition, FISU urges you to have fun. May you return home with memories that will last a lifetime!

None of FISU's events would be possible without the generosity of our hosts. I want to extend our sincere gratitude to the National University Sports Federation of South Africa, the organisers for their dedication and the volunteers for their passion.

FISU is also grateful for the ongoing support of the International Sports Federations. Together, we aim to provide the highest level of technical excellence on and off the field of play.

I am confident that the FISU World University Championship Rugby 7s 2026 in Stellenbosch will give you every opportunity to shine, to interact and to grow as people.

I wish you the best of luck!



Leonz EDER

FISU President

Welcome Message

Dear Esteemed Participants,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I extend a heartfelt welcome to all of you participating in the FISU World University Championship Rugby 7s, taking place in the stunning city of Stellenbosch. This prestigious event is made possible through the collaboration of University Sport South Africa (USSA), the esteemed University of Stellenbosch (SU), and Maties Sport.

University Sport South Africa, representing 28 higher education institutions, has a rich history of being awarded and hosting major events for over 30 years. We guarantee a world-class championship experience, and we are excited to showcase the exceptional facilities provided by Maties Sport at Stellenbosch University.

Stellenbosch University is home to 31,000 students across 10 faculties, including 10 percent international students. The university boasts 41 Research Chairs and 7 Centres of Excellence, alongside 190 registered social impact projects. Maties Sport, based on the Coetzenburg sporting campus, supports over 6,000 student-athletes across 30 recreational, competitive, and high-performance codes. The legacy of Maties Rugby, which spans 145 years, has produced numerous international champions, with a total of 178 Maties rugby players having represented South Africa as Springboks.

The university has a proven track record of hosting major events, including the T20 Women's World Cup, the U20 Rugby World Cup, United Rugby Championship matches, the Varsity Cup, the WXV Series, and the ABSA Cape Epic. Additionally, Stellenbosch University serves as a center for Olympic research through its South African Centre of Olympic Studies and Social Impact.

As the President of University Sport South Africa, it fills me with great happiness to witness a gathering of talent, passion, and unwavering determination from student athletes representing universities from all corners of the globe. Your presence here not only elevates the event but also exemplifies the beautiful bond forged through sports and camaraderie.

The FISU World University Championship Rugby 7s is not merely a platform for competition; it is a golden opportunity for you to showcase your skills, learn valuable lessons from your peers, and create lasting bonds that transcend borders. As you embark on this thrilling adventure, remember that every match, every point, and every moment is a valuable opportunity for growth and self-discovery. Embrace the challenges that lie ahead, relish the triumphs, and consistently strive for nothing less than excellence.

Once again, I extend a hearty welcome to the FISU World University Championship Rugby 7s. It is my sincere hope that your time here will be adorned with wonderful memories, intense competition, and the sheer joy that comes with playing a sport you are passionate about.

I wish you all the best and eagerly anticipate an extraordinary tournament that will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.

Warm regards,



Jerry LAKA

President - University Sport South Africa

Hosting City

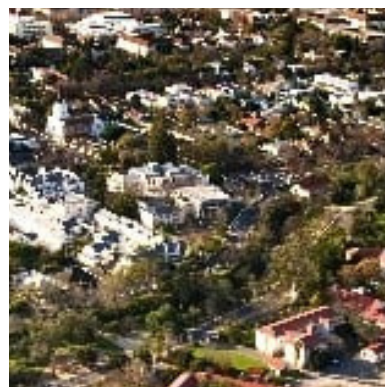
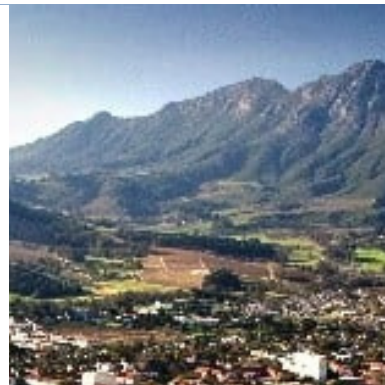
Stellenbosch is a historic town in South Africa's Western Cape province, known for its Cape Dutch architecture, oak-lined streets, and role as a major wine and university hub. Founded in 1679, it is South Africa's second-oldest town and is surrounded by mountains and vineyards, making it a popular destination for its wine routes, restaurants, and cultural activities. The town is also home to the prestigious Stellenbosch University.

Wine and food: Stellenbosch is a major winemaking region with a highly popular and oldest wine route in the country, featuring numerous award-winning wine estates, restaurants, and cafes.



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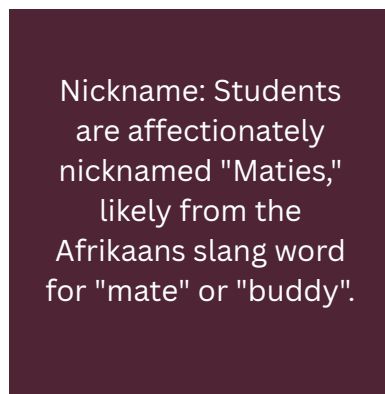
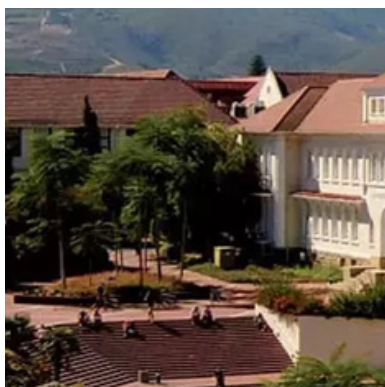
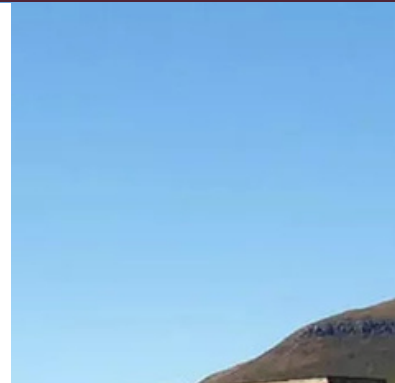
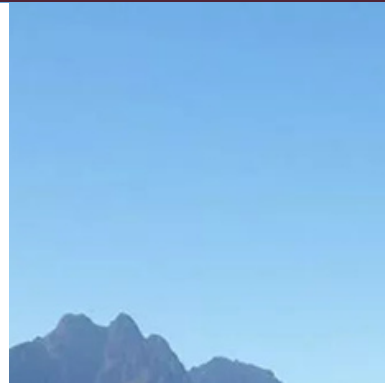


Hosting University

Stellenbosch University (SU) is a public research-intensive university in Stellenbosch, South Africa, with ten faculties spread across five campuses. Established in 1918, it has grown into a leading institution with over 30,000 students and 3,000 staff, committed to academic excellence, innovation, and social impact both locally and globally.

Overview

- History: Founded on April 2, 1918, with four faculties and 503 students, it has become one of Africa's top research universities.
- Mission: To be a globally recognized university that promotes excellence, inclusivity, and innovation to benefit society.
- Values: Guided by core values of compassion, equity, accountability, and respect.



Nickname: Students are affectionately nicknamed "Maties," likely from the Afrikaans slang word for "mate" or "buddy".

Event Registration

All participating teams must register on the FISU Accreditation Portal:

[Click here for the FISU Portal](#)

Registration Deadlines:

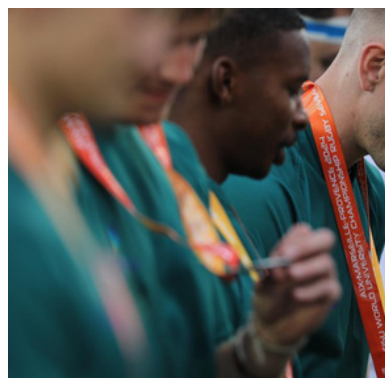
- General Entries: 6 months prior to the event – 04 March 2026
- Quantitative Entries: 3 months prior to the event – 04 June 2026
- Individual Entries: 1 month prior to the event – 04 August 2026
- **Age Criteria:** Be at least- 18 and no older than 25 years of age on the 31st December 2026.
- Athletes must be born between 01/01/2001 and the 31/12/2008
- **Participation Fees:** Euro 80 per person per night and Euro 140 per person per night for extra officials (Officials over the allowable number as per the technical handbook)
- FISU Registration Fees - Euro 20 per athlete and official – these fees are invoiced by FISU at the end of the World Championship Season

Academic requirement:

- Students who are officially enrolled and actively working towards a degree or diploma at a university or similar higher education institution recognised by the national academic authority.
- Former students who obtained their degree or diploma from such an institution in the calendar year before the event.

Registration
Deadline

04 MARCH 2026



EUR 80
per night per person

Event Financial Conditions

- **Team Deposit** (Deadline: - 04 April 2026 which is 5 months to the event)

A deposit of €5.000 must be paid to FISU during the General Entry stage and latest five months prior to the event, which secures a place in the selection process and serves as a guarantee to confirm the intention to participate.

If a team is not selected, their deposit will be reimbursed and If a team is selected their deposit will be transferred to the OC as part of their participation fees.

- **International Technical Officials Fees**

All ITOs costs will be shared among the participating teams. The Organising Committee will collect all expenses related to the ITOs and submit them to FISU for approval. Once approved, the Organising Committee will communicate the total cost information to the teams and provide them with an invoice for payment.

Registration
Deadline

04 MARCH 2026



Team Composition – Medical Staff

Within their allocation of officials, each delegation must bring a suitably trained team medic or physio who has a current certification to World Rugby Immediate Care in Rugby Level 2 (ICIR 2 or equivalent)

<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/immediate-care-in-rugby/>

Delegations should ensure that certification is up to date and covers the timing of the competition. They should contact their NF for guidance and support on training and certification opportunities, where needed, well in advance of selecting the relevant official to join their delegation.



Athletes Village

Players and chaperones will stay in our 4-star Championship Village exclusively created at the Protea Hotel Stellenbosch. The neighbouring 4-star Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West will be used for additional accommodation.

Technical officials and overflow guests will stay at the internationally acclaimed Stellenbosch Academy of Sport, just a 2-minute walk from the competition grounds.

Our indoor Coetzenburg Centre will serve for central dining, gala events, and will feature local entertainment each evening. All venues are approximately 40 minutes from the airport, and 10 minutes to the competition grounds. Shuttle services will run to and from accommodations to the grounds.





Playing Venue



Coetzenburg is a well-resourced sporting campus with multi-purpose and dedicated code venues. For this event, we will use our 18 000-seater Danie Craven Stadium, Biokinetics Centre, the high performance Maties Gymnasium, indoor and outdoor pools, Coetzenburg Centre, and six rugby fields.



TAKE A 360° TOUR

[Click here for a tour](#)

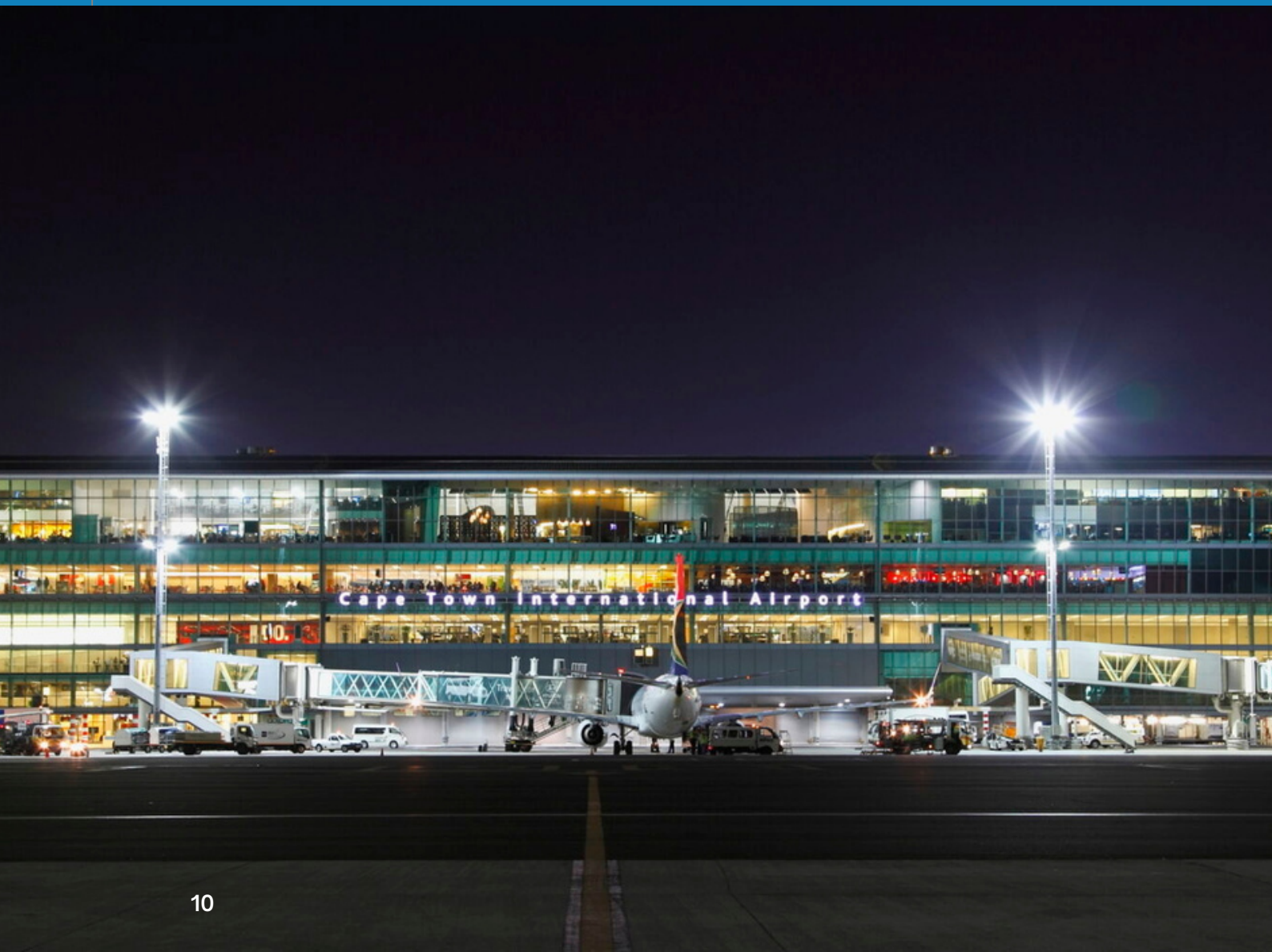


Travel & Insurance

AIRPORT - The arrival airport is the Cape Town International Airport in Cape Town. Transfers will be arranged based team arrival details from the airport to the official hotel. Cape Town International Airport is approximately 38km from Stellenbosch. The total trip with a car usually takes around 35 minutes.

Participating countries must have the appropriate insurance to cover travel and medical expense.

MEDICAL CARE - All official participants have access to the following medical services: an on-duty doctor, hospital and clinic support. A medical center with ambulance and first aid will be available at the Competition Venue and at the accommodation. Any costs beyond basic first aid, ambulance and physiotherapy services must be covered by the athletes' own medical insurance. The Host Organising Committee will not cover expenses related to hospital, dental or any other medical treatments.



Immigration

General information about South African Visas

South Africa has a number of bilateral visa exempt agreements.

[For further details on visa exempt countries please click here](#)

Requirements for visitor's visas differ from country to country, and the requirements are subject to change. As each application is treated as an individual case and you should make enquiries with your nearest South African mission or consulate abroad or any office of the Department of Home Affairs to see whether or not you are required to apply for a visa.

Visas are not issued at South African ports of entry, and airline officials are obliged to insist on visas before allowing passengers to board. Participants are encouraged to apply timeously for an entry visa. All requests for Visa Invitation letters need to be sent to FISUSevens2026@ussa.org.za and the turnaround time to issue Invitation Letters is 5 working days

Requirements for entering South Africa:

- A valid and acceptable passport or travel document for your intended stay
- At least two blank page in your passport for endorsements
- A valid visa, if required
- Sufficient funds to pay for your day-to-day expenses during your stay
- A return or onward ticket
- An invitation letter stating the purpose of your visit
- Yellow fever certificates if your journey starts or entails any past travel through a yellow fever prone country



Accommodation venues have restaurants for any food needs over and above what is offered by the organisers, at the guests' own cost. There are also a multitude of restaurants in the Town that offer global menus. They can either be visited, or guests can make use of UberEats to deliver. At Coetzenburg, food and beverage trucks will be available to spectators.



Important Information

Key Area	Highlights
Anti-Doping	WADA-compliant testing through SAIDS
Safety & Security	Joint Operational Team, 24/7 campus security, South African Police Service escort
Communication	Real-time updates via Event App and Website
Media	Livestreaming via SuperSport Schools, coverage through Maties Media and FISU TV
Food and Beverage	Buffet lunch & supper at Coetzenburg Centre; Vendor village for spectators
Transportation	Shuttle services to/from Competition Village and Airport (40 min)
Medical	SA Rugby Medical Gold Standard; Equipped medical room; 3 hospitals within 5km

Preliminary Schedule

PROPOSED PROGRAMME		
DAY	DATE	ACTIVITY
DAY -3	1 Sep 2026	Arrivals, Accreditation & Unofficial Training
DAY -2	2 Sep 2026	Arrivals, Accreditation & Unofficial Training
DAY -1	3 Sep 2026	General Technical Meeting (GTM), Accreditation & Official training
		Opening Ceremony
DAY 1	4 Sep 2026	Women's and Men's group stage
DAY 2	5 Sep 2026	Women's and Men's group stage
DAY 3	6 Sep 2026	Final Ranking matches Medal Matches Medal Ceremony
		Closing Ceremony
DAY 4	7 Sep 2026	Departures



Connect With us!



FISUSevens2026@ussa.org.za



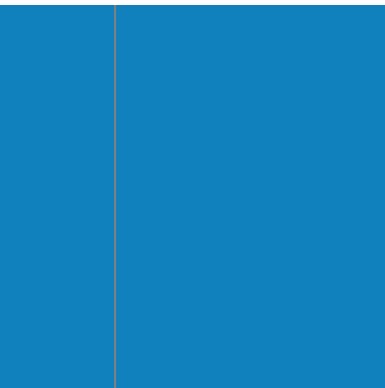
[2026 FISU World University Championship Rugby Sevens](#)



[@fisurugby7s](#)

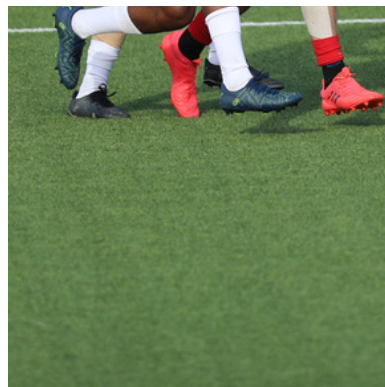
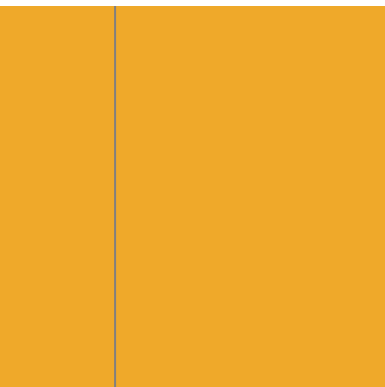


[Coming soon....](#)



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