



ESCA SCHOOL WANDERERS

GENERAL PROSPECTUS



ESCA Wanderers, the Elite Sporting and Cultural Academy, is a private independent school committed to **Developing the Talent of Africa**. ESCA is a proud partner of the International Schools Development Organisation, and is located at the prestigious Wanderers Sports Club in Illovo, Johannesburg. We offer an individualised learning environment for students who have a specific interest in sports and/or cultural activities. We facilitate each learner's specific programme, with access to top-class teachers, coaches, facilities and our athlete wellness department.

As a leading international school, ESCA provides a structured pathway for student athletes and cultural performers who seek support in balancing academic and sporting/cultural demands. Our unique flexibility and expert co-ordination form the basis for providing each student with the ability to achieve their full potential. We are proud to offer students a unique **Talent Development System** which combines individualised education with high performance programmes, resulting in student athletes and cultural performers who have access to opportunities both locally and abroad.

ESCA is a member of the UXi Private Education Group. UXi is a privately owned international education group that operates in Africa and the United Kingdom. UXi holds interests in multiple sectors and has experience in a wide range of curriculum methodologies with various accomplished education and sports institutions hosted under its banner.

WELCOME





AT ESCA, WE AIM TO DEVELOP EXCITED AND MOTIVATED STUDENTS WHO ENGAGE IN THEIR LEARNING AND TALENTS WITH CONFIDENCE AND ENTHUSIASM. AN ESCA STUDENT CONDUCTS THEMSELVES PROFESSIONALLY AND WITH INTEGRITY, AND HAS THE DESIRE TO LEARN, PRACTICE AND GROW.





ESCA'S TALENT DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

ESCA's unique **Talent Development System** comprises four pillars, each contributing to the holistic development of our student athletes and cultural performers.



Academic

Students are supported to attain, maintain, and retain a healthy work ethic towards their studies, while balancing their passions and other demands. As with any committed activity, time, patience, and perseverance are essential to achieving in all areas.



Co-curricular

ESCA collaborates with high performing, committed sports and cultural specific academies and industry specialists to offer our students quality technical and tactical training, and access to world-class facilities, networks and support.



Athlete Wellness

Physical conditioning, recovery and maintenance, together with mental strength and sustainability, are core ingredients needed for the holistic growth and development of a student athlete. ESCA students will have access to an array of wellness experts and services, building athletes who can navigate the complexities and demands that come with excellence.



Tertiary

Having the right skills, knowledge and resources is vital to making the best decisions for your education and career after school. ESCA supports its students by developing these skills, and by providing access to a network of opportunities available both locally and abroad.



THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

At ESCA our teachers are trained to support and facilitate each student, equipping them with the skills to achieve top academic results without having to sacrifice their sport and/or cultural passion. We offer the internationally acclaimed Cambridge International and American GED® curricula, and encourage a learning environment that focuses on balance, on the sports field or stage, in the classroom, workshop or laboratory, and beyond.

Education at ESCA continuously assesses and monitors student performance, while ensuring that learning competencies progress so that they are on track to succeed in all areas of their development. Our team of qualified teachers and experts work together to facilitate a constructive environment which supports tenacity, encourages confidence, and a healthy, balanced work ethic. Building futures at ESCA informs our selection of the international curricula and methodologies which comprise our offering:



ESCA PRINCIPAL: LISA PIENAAR

In her 28 years in education, Lisa's personal philosophy has been to nurture each individual child to reach their full potential. She believes human beings are so much better when they are honest and authentic, and she believes that living ESCA's values of Empathy, Solidarity, Courage and Accountability helps each person who enters this school to become better citizens of South Africa and the world. Lisa believes that children show up best for learning when they are seen and heard, and as the ESCA Principal, she encourages her teachers to make meaningful connections with each other and with their students.

Proudly registered with:



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Students from Grades 4 to 6 are taught the Cambridge International Primary curriculum. Our focus is on the three core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science and our students are also introduced to Afrikaans, French and isiZulu as their additional languages, which they can choose from in Grade 6. Phenomenon-based Learning and an introductory sport and cultural programme complete the Primary School offering. In addition, our TEAMS curriculum offers a practical immersion into Technology, English, Art, Mathematics, and Science, equipping students with comprehensive skills across these essential disciplines. Through hands-on experiences and engaging activities, TEAMS fosters holistic learning and empowers young learners to explore, create, and excel in the realms of technology, language, creativity, logic, and scientific inquiry

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7 to 9 form ESCA's Middle School, who are taught the Cambridge Lower Secondary curriculum. The focus is on the three core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science and the choice of Afrikaans, French or isiZulu as their additional language. Phenomenon-based Learning and our unique Future-Fit Programme complete the Middle School offering. Students in Grade 9 are also introduced to the subjects they can choose from for their IGCSEs, in preparation for Senior School.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Grades 10 to 12 have the option to continue with Cambridge International (IGCSE and AS/A Levels) or to switch to the American GED®.



Cambridge International

A Cambridge qualification is recognised by universities and employers worldwide. Students following the Cambridge curriculum are well-prepared to continue into relevant tertiary studies. The curriculum encompasses analytical, critical and communication thinking skills which allow students to engage in a learning that's unusual but also prepares them for the learning experience they are likely to encounter in their tertiary education and workplace. Each curriculum is formulated in a way that encourages collaboration, communication and teamwork.

We are proud to be accredited and a part of the Cambridge International Education community. ESCA's teachers are committed to providing aspirational and inspiring learning experiences in order to best prepare our students to successfully continue with their education beyond their schooling years.

We offer a wide range of subject choices from the Cambridge offering, on top of the compulsory English, Mathematics and Additional Language.

English	French	Chemistry	History	Economics
Afrikaans	Mathematics	Biology	Art & Design	Accounting
IsiZulu	Physics	Geography	Computer Science	Business Studies



GED®

ESCA is an Accredited Education Provider (AEP) with Pearson, allowing ESCA to deliver the GED® curriculum in South Africa. The GED® is considered the closest foreign equivalent to the South African National Senior Certificate and allows students to apply for further education both locally and abroad upon completion. The GED® is tailored to each student's knowledge level and learning pace, with personalised lesson plans which accelerate learning. Furthermore, the GED® curriculum is skill-based, ensuring that students apply the skills that they have learned practically - an invaluable skill for the future.

ESCA GED® students run a similar timetable as the Cambridge students, however, GED® students are facilitated through the course work on a digital programme. Subject specialists monitor each student's progress. Where students find challenges with the curriculum, our timetable allows for private lessons to be conducted during the academic day, ensuring ESCA GED® students have consistent support on their academic journey. ESCA manages all administration, from student and exam registration to the SAQA conversion process.

The GED® examination is made up of four subjects, broken into separate examinations:

Mathematical Reasoning

Reasoning Through Language Arts

Social Studies

Science

From the age of 17, ESCA students are eligible to commence exams, and are able to customise their final examination timetable based on their personal schedules and academic progress.

Our Senior School students are also guided through our **Future-Fit programme** which ensures that ESCA students leave school as well-rounded individuals who are equipped with excellent skills to tackle life beyond school.



HOW WE STAY ON TOP OF OUR ACADEMIC GAME:

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

The integration and daily use of technology is a necessary skill which students need to master to function at all levels of our constantly developing society. As a proud Google school, Google Workspace handles all virtual components of curriculum delivery at ESCA. The Google Classroom is a live interactive environment which supports and augments the student's campus experience, serving as a record of curriculum progress, and a resource to support learning.



FOCUS ON OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Accountability is one of ESCA's core values. We teach our students to be responsible for their learning within the flexible bounds of the ESCA learning ecosystem. The academic day at ESCA includes independent study sessions that afford students the latitude to focus on necessary schoolwork at school (limiting the amount of time spent on school work after school hours). Achieving requires effort, and students must apply themselves to reap the benefits of that commitment. During these sessions, students can plan, prioritise, and problem-solve their academic workload, content, and homework, while at school with access to their teachers and under the supervision of their mentor.



THE CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

At ESCA, we collaborate with leading sports and cultural professionals to provide a structured pathway designed to meet the needs of student athletes and cultural performers. Using the latest coaching philosophies and technologies, we offer our students an individualised education that is tailored to effectively partner with our elite academies and co-curricular activities, creating an environment that allows young talent every opportunity to succeed from school, to tertiary education and beyond.

SPORT AND CULTURAL OFFERINGS

ESCA students can either join one of our academies or continue training with their private coaches within a bespoke academic timetable.

OUR ACADEMIES:

ESCA Wanderers Football Academy (Operated by JVW and TSFA)

ESCA Wanderers Basketball Academy (Operated by NTN Management)

ESCA Wanderers Gymnastics Academy (Operated by the Wanderers Gymnastics Centre)

ESCA Wanderers Tennis Academy (Operated by Legacy Tennis Academy)

ESCA Wanderers Golf Academy (Operated by the Wanderers Golf Club)



For more information, please see our Academy Prospectus documents.





At ESCA, we have developed a unique long-term developmental programme ensuring age-appropriate physical and mental milestones are nurtured and advanced by leading professionals.

In our **Primary School (Grades 4 to 6)**, we believe that an active start to life promotes and enhances fundamental skills such as the development of coordination, imagination, brain function, gross motor skills, building stronger bones and muscles, and a reduction in stress. Our Primary School students are exposed to one sport and cultural activity for a period of five weeks, after which a new rotation starts with exposure to a new sport and cultural activity. All activities are delivered by leading professionals in their respective fields.

In our **Middle School (Grades 7 to 9)**, students are physiologically responsive to stimuli and training. Therefore, the focus in these years is on building an aerobic base, developing a theoretical understanding of an active lifestyle, developing speed and strength, and exposure to the relevant career pathways for athletes.

In our **Senior School (Grades 10 to 12)**, the focus of development is on optimising one's "engine". With the modern world centred around sustainability, we place the educational focus on mental health and recovery. Those in this stream will be exposed to the "train to win" aspects to prepare themselves for high level performance. Here athletes are exposed to world class training methods, equipment and facilities that support them in meeting the demands of their sport or culture.

ATHLETE WELLNESS

THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME:

ESCA's high performance student athletes and cultural performers are paired with a mentor who has competed in sport at the highest level and therefore understands what it takes to pursue one's dreams as a competitive athlete.

Nicole Gillis heads up ESCA's Mentorship Programme. With a Master's degree in Sport Psychology and Motor Behavior from the University of Tennessee (USA), Nicole has worked in high-performance settings both in the United States and in South Africa. She completed her undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Science – Kinesiology) at the University of Arkansas (USA) whilst also thriving as a student athlete on the University of Arkansas' Swimming and Diving Team. For eight years, she was a member of the South African National Diving Team competing in



NICOLE GILLIS:
HEAD OF ATHLETE WELLNESS


- 2 World Juniors Championships (2010 and 2012)
- 1 Diving World Cup (2014)
- 3 World Aquatic Championships (2013, 2015 and 2017)
- Commonwealth Games (2018) as a finalist

ESCA mentors are experienced in navigating the complexities encountered by high performance students. Their primary role is to encourage students to develop the skills needed to overcome the demands and stresses that face them in their pursuits. With the individualised programme, the mentor meets weekly with each of the student athletes to offer guidance through the challenges, opportunities, and commitments they will face both in school, and while training and competing. Students receive individualised support and guidance with access to various wellness professionals, where necessary.

FUTURE-FIT PROGRAMME

ESCA has developed a unique programme which teaches our student athletes and cultural performers the practical and theoretical skills required in the personal, sport/cultural and business spheres. The ESCA Future-Fit programme directs and supports our students in developing essential personal mastery tools.

Producing competent and capable professionals who embody ESCA's values by exercising Empathy, operating in Solidarity, displaying Courage, and taking Accountability, requires a programme that includes:

 Living an active and healthy lifestyle	 Brand and image	 Personal and professional portfolio building
 Athlete career pathway guidance	 Basic personal finance skills	 Time management skills
 Personal planning and goal setting	 Growth mindset and mindfulness	 Study and academic skills

MEALS / CANTEEN

ESCA has partnered with the Wanderers Club who have many years experience providing quality, nutritious meals to a wide range of consumers, including professional athletes. In this way we ensure our students have access to the best possible sources of energy to sustain them throughout their day. Students are able to buy snacks and meals directly from the Wanderers canteen, located in the courtyard next to the campus.



TERTIARY

THE ESCA INTERNATIONAL TERTIARY PATHWAY:

ESCA student athletes are known to be recruited by local universities. The international tertiary process of potential recruitment is made more accessible with ESCA's first-of-its-kind partnership with BRUSA Sports.

University placements and scholarships are the final step for ESCA student athletes. We are focused on providing students with a holistic pathway into the USA, utilising:

- Knowledge of the USA collegiate athletic system as well as South African sports and systems
- Knowledge of the USA university academic system and admissions policies
- Knowledge of the South African academic system
- Global experience and vast networks

The ESCA International Tertiary Pathway is available to students in Grades 8 to 12. The general process, costs and administrative requirements are spread across four years, as opposed to the standard two years, simplifying the process and making it more time and cost effective. We aim to help students develop their skills, academic profile, experience and sporting CVs to maximise their chances of success in the USA.

For more information contact ESCA's Chief Operations Officer: ernst@esca.org.za.



FOCUSED ON ACADEMICS |
DRIVEN BY SPORTS





OPEN DOOR POLICY

ESCA's open door policy ensures that all members of our community are heard. We encourage open and honest communication, discussion and feedback regarding students' academic and sporting/cultural workload, ensuring that Team ESCA continues to deliver to its full potential by supporting and managing our students' overall well-being.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to establish a disciplined and purposeful environment to facilitate effective teaching and learning, ESCA adheres to a strict General Code of Conduct, containing various tailored conduct policies aimed at creating the best environment for our students. These policies are successfully implemented and maintained by disciplinary procedures to immediately and uniformly address any contraventions.

THE VALUES THAT GUIDE US

E

Empathy:

To share someone else's feelings or experiences by understanding what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

S

Solidarity:

Unity of an aligned collective that produces or is based on a community of interests, objectives, and standards.

C

Courage:

The quality shown by someone who takes the challenge or faces something difficult, even though they may be afraid.

A

Accountability:

The obligation to account for activities, accepting responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent way.

MORE ABOUT ESCA



COME VISIT US TO FIND OUT MORE!

Developing the Talent of Africa

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