

SENIOR CERTIFICATE COURSE IN SUGARCANE AGRICULTURE

2 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH 2026: COURSE DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORM

This five week course in sugarcane agriculture is held at the Kwa-Shukela building of the South African Sugar Association (SASA) offices in Mount Edgecombe. The course is held once or twice each year, usually in February and June, numbers permitting.

Entry Requirements

The general entry requirement is an undergraduate degree or diploma, preferably in agriculture or the sciences.

A student who has a matric (Grade 12) and has passed the Junior Certificate Course with a Merit Pass (65% and above) will also be entitled to enroll.

A student who has a matric (Grade 12) certificate will be considered, depending on the outcome of an assessment and interview process.

The course and assessments are conducted in English and therefore requires that applicants be able to read, write and understand English.

Costs for 2026

South African sugar industry applicants:	R 20 050.00 + Vat (15%)	=	R 23 057.50
South African non-industry applicants:	R 23 056.00 + Vat (15%)	=	R 26 514.40
Applicants from outside South Africa:	R 27 230.00	=	R 27 230.00

This cost includes stationery (pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and calculator), course notes, SASRI Information Sheets, manuals, teas and excursion costs. Applicants should bring their own notebooks or writing pads. **This cost includes TUITION only – no meals are included.**

Application Information

Applications must be made on the official course application form (see page 4).

The closing date for applications is **31 October 2025**. Applicants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

All applications and accompanying documents must be sent to:

The Course Administrator, South African Sugarcane Research Institute, Private Bag X02, Mount Edgecombe, 4300, South Africa.

E-mail: educane@sugar.org.za

Fax: +27 (0) 31 508 7597

Tel: +27 (0) 31 508 7400.

Successful applicants will be notified of their acceptance during **November/ December 2025**, and will be sent an acceptance letter and a pro-forma invoice. Upon receipt of these documents, full payment of course fees must be made. Students who have not paid in advance will not be admitted to the course.

No payments should be made until receipt of an acceptance letter and pro-forma invoice.
The closing date for payment is **09 January 2026**.

Banking Details

Payment to: South African Sugar Association (SASA)
Bank : STANDARD BANK, KINGSMEAD
Branch Code: 040026
Account Number: 050160079
Type of account : Current account

Accommodation Arrangements

Students are responsible for making their own arrangements for accommodation, meals and transport. SASRI does not offer accommodation but many students stay at the **Shukela Training Centre (STC)**.
Tel: +27 (31) 508 7700. Email: shukela.training@sasa.org.za

Foreign students must arrange their own transport from their point of arrival in South Africa to their place of accommodation. Neither SASRI nor the STC provides a shuttle service. SASRI does, however, provide a daily shuttle service between STC residences and the course venue.

There are canteen facilities at the course venue where light lunches, snacks and cold drinks are available.

Course Structure and Content

The duration of the course is five weeks and comprises both lectures and practicals. Each day commences at 08:00 and finishes at approximately 15:30. There are 10 minute intervals between lectures and a mid-morning tea break of 20 minutes. Tea and coffee is provided. The lunch break is from 13:00-13:40.

Modules and subjects covered during the course:

- 1. Soils**
 - Physical properties of soil
 - Soil water relationships
 - Soil biology
 - Organic matter
 - Soil chemistry, acidity and liming
 - Plant nutrition, nutrient application and management
 - Green manures
 - Salinity and sodicity
 - Soil quality assessment

- 2. Varieties**
 - History
 - Breeding
 - Botany: structure, propagation and physiology of cane plants
 - Agronomic characteristics
 - Identification of varieties
 - Choice of varieties

3. Diseases and Pests	Sugarcane diseases Seedcane production Insect pests Principles of pest control Nematodes and their control Biosecurity
4. Husbandry	Land preparation Planting Ratoon management Field drainage
5. Environmental Management	Environmental awareness Sugarcane growing and the environment Environmental management theory SUSFARMS®
6. Land use planning	Soil conservation Pegging and construction of structures Drafting a Land Use Plan
7. Harvesting	Chemical ripening of sugarcane Cane quality Cane payments Estimating and manual cutting
6. Weed Control	Biology and control Herbicides and their application
7. Irrigation	Principles Systems Control Design
8. Mechanisation	Principles Tractor performance and power transmission Costing and planning Application of chemicals (including calibration)
9. Management	Farm management Financial management People management

In addition to the lectures listed above, there are several 'special interest' lectures on topics of relevance to agriculture in general. Attendance at all lectures is compulsory.

Course Assessment

Tests are written after completion of each subject. The duration of tests are approximately two hours. Certificates are awarded in three classes namely:

1. Honours	80% and above
2. Merit	65 – 79 %
3. Pass	50 – 64%

Students who fail more than three subjects or achieve an aggregate below 50% will fail the course.



SENIOR CERTIFICATE COURSE IN SUGARCANE AGRICULTURE
APPLICATION FORM

2 February – 6 March 2026

STUDENT'S DETAILS (please print)

FIRST NAMES
SURNAME MR/MRS/MISS
PHYSICAL ADDRESS.....
POSTAL ADDRESS
I.D. NO TELEPHONE (Code) (No.)
CELL NO FAX (Code) (No.)
E MAIL
NAME OF EMPLOYER (if applicable)
CURRENT POSITION and brief description of your job:

QUALIFICATIONS (Please attach copies of certificates)

Please indicate qualification, year obtained and the institution.

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DATE: SIGNED: GROWER CODE.....

CONTACT DETAILS OF FUNDER

Please provide the contact details of the company responsible for funding the student's admission to the course. SASRI will treat the information below as the primary contact details for all communication related to the course. If you are privately funded, you may leave this section blank.

CONTACT PERSON.....
COMPANY NAME.....
POSTAL ADDRESS.....
TELEPHONE..... CELL.....
E-MAIL FAX (Code).....(No.).....
VAT NUMBER (South African applicants only):
DATE: SIGNED: GROWER CODE.....

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