



SIMON'S TOWN SCHOOL

LAWHILL MARITIME CENTRE

— Celebrating **27** years of operation in 2022

*Supporting information on the Maritime Studies/Education programme at Simon's Town School. **Beneficiaries: South African learners (aged 15-18) drawn primarily from under-served communities across South Africa (approx. 170 in total, maximum 67 of which are full-time boarders and more than 50% female).***

11 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does your programme do?

Our primary focus is on helping to reduce youth unemployment by preparing young people for careers in the maritime and related industry, and doing so while they are still at school.

The Simon's Town School Maritime Studies Programme (STS Lawhill Maritime Centre) aims to introduce young people of all races to the maritime industry in their last three years of secondary schooling (Grades 10-12, aged 15 to 17 years approximately).

Three maritime subjects are offered: all three are **accredited** subjects which form part of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) curriculum. Two subjects (Maritime Economics and Nautical Sciences) are administered by the IEB (Independent Education Board) and one (Marine Sciences) by the National Department of Basic Education (DBE). Public examinations are written in each at the end of Grade 12.

1. MARITIME ECONOMICS aims to prepare students for careers in the maritime industry ashore;
2. NAUTICAL SCIENCE which prepares students directly for a career at sea;
3. MARINE SCIENCES which prepares students for careers in oceanography, marine biology, aquaculture and related fields.

See www.maritimesa.org for online textbooks and learning material for subjects 1 and 2.

Maritime students also benefit from the provision of extra-curriculum programmes. These programmes include:

- **Practical sail, navigation and small craft handling training** in partnership with False Bay Yacht Club (FBYC), the GBOBA Bursary Fund, and the South African Maritime Training Academy (SAMTRA). The training is provided on our own L26 yacht, *Homero* and the Rigid-Inflatable Boat (RIB), the *Sean Day*. *Homero* was donated to the Lawhill Maritime Educational Trust by the international mentorship programme, Marine Inspirations, which also offers our students the opportunity to experience the international yachting and super-

yachting industries abroad during school holidays. (www.marineinspirations.org). The *Sean Day* RIB was donated by the National Sea Rescue Institute.

- A **'Learn to Row' programme** offered by the Cape Coastal Rowing Club (CCRC) which provides the opportunity to develop leadership and team-working skills while improving students' knowledge of, and appreciation for, the marine environment.
- A **Water Confidence/Safety** programme which aims to save lives and ensure that all our students graduate from our programme with the ability to swim. Students also participate in other maritime-related training supported by the **National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI)** and the GBOBA Bursary Fund, amongst others.
- A **diving/snorkelling** programme provided by the Kalk Bay-based Save Our Seas organisation.
- A **coding** programme aimed at providing basic skills and fostering an interest in robotics and related fields.
- On-site **ECDIS** (Electronic Chart Display Information System) training using PC-based simulators.

2. What are you hoping to achieve via your programme?

Our main objective is poverty alleviation via education and:

- **To help reduce youth unemployment in South Africa** – in a very small but meaningful way - by improving the post-school employment prospects of our group of young people, particularly those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and/or under-served communities.
- **To give decent, hard-working young people an opportunity** to embark on exciting and potentially lucrative careers in the maritime industry and in so doing, improve their personal circumstances and those of their families.
- **To serve as a filter for new talent moving into the maritime (and any other) industry.** We identify talented youth at a very young age, mentor and support them and those who prove to be successful, are assisted to access the industry or embark on tertiary studies.

3. Who benefits from your programme? Who is it aimed at?

The vast majority of our boarding students come from financially-challenged backgrounds, from townships or informal settlements and many are from single-parent homes (some are orphans).

Being awarded a full bursary to study and stay at the STS Lawhill Maritime Centre – thanks to the support of our donors - gives these young people the opportunity to:

- Stay in a positive and enriching environment, one which is removed from many of the social ills and difficulties they experience at home;
- Learn in an environment which is structured and highly conducive to study;
- Be part of a programme that allows them to take specialist subjects that will give them the knowledge and skills *that will set them apart from many of their Grade 12 peers who do not follow a maritime or specialist stream.* These subjects increase their post-school employment prospects (ie gain entry to entry level jobs or learnerships) and can also improve their chances of gaining a sponsored bursary or scholarship for tertiary studies;
- Benefit from extra-curricular programmes, such as rowing, sailing and swimming, which provide them with practical maritime skills as well as valuable life skills. The opportunity to row/sail with business professionals greatly increases their social skills as well as self-confidence and self-esteem, while promoting social cohesion.

Students who are awarded a TUITION-ONLY bursary attend the school as a day student. They attend maritime classes full time. Participation in extra-curricular programme depends on their proximity to the school and availability on weekends.

AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL

After completing their three years with us, successful students can move to tertiary institutions to prepare for sea-going careers as navigating officers or marine engineering officers; others go directly into the shipping industry ashore as trainee ship's agents, clearing and forwarding agents, shipbrokers or into the offices of liner companies.

(A few choose to pursue careers in other fields, such as medicine or IT studies, because of the high academic results achieved, largely thanks to our safe and structured 'home away from home' boarding environment).

We are currently liaising with industry **regarding artisan and other, more practical, opportunities** in the industry, with the view to identifying how we can support the industry in building these essential skills at school level (whilst working within the current syllabus).

Engineering, entrepreneurship, robotics, drone technology and artificial intelligence – and their use in the maritime world - are other areas of interest and we hope to enhance our syllabus in the near future to accommodate these.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In addition to the 67 boarding students, our programme is also open to approximately 120 plus non-boarding Gr10-Gr12 students attending Simon's Town School. These students are drawn from the surrounding areas of Simon's Town and some from as far as Gugulethu, Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain.

Interest in the programme is high, with student enrolment numbers increasing year on year.

Since 2017 we have increased the number of females enrolled in our programme. As of June 2022, more than 50 percent of our boarding students will be female and the number of female students is set to increase further in the years ahead.

4. What impact has your programme had in general?

The maritime education programme has shown that one can find and nurture maritime talent among those who have no idea such an industry exists, let alone knowing about the exciting careers it offers.

Furthermore, our track record of more than two and a half decades will confirm that young people, given the opportunity and the support to do their best, are able to overcome the disadvantages that life has dealt them and improve not only their own lives, but also those of their families.

A past student who gains meaningful employment by embarking on a good career not only benefits personally, but is able to lift several members of his/her family from the desperate poverty that is prevalent in many parts of South African society.

Thus the preparation for a worthwhile career during their stay at the STS Lawhill Maritime Centre is vital to helping – even in a small way – to alleviate some of the distress engendered by unemployment and poverty in the country.

5. Why is your programme relevant /important?

From a maritime perspective:

Our programme has a key role to play in the achievement of Operation Phakisa, a Government-led initiative which aims to use South Africa's vast ocean resources to grow its economy and create jobs.

Achieving the long-term goals of Operation Phakisa (aimed at promoting the maritime industry and the "blue or oceans economy") will require significant investment in skills development.

We believe this should be done *at secondary school level as this is where young people make decisions about future careers in terms of which subjects to take and which courses to apply for at university or other institutions. **The more we can do at school level, the better.***

School is also where we need to cultivate an awareness of (and interest in) the maritime industry, as well as a love, respect and appreciation for the ocean.

Our award-winning maritime programme and the provision of a high-quality, relevant, maritime education supports many of the goals of a number of high level maritime initiatives including:

- the African Union's 2050 Africa Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy
- Operation Phakisa and
- the South African Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy (CMTP), amongst others.

"The country (South Africa) has a handful of maritime schools and if we are to help transform the industry an extra effort is necessary to develop, support and nurture these schools because of a critical role they could play because of their strategic location in the ladder of human development. ... It goes without saying that if learners were never introduced and or exposed to maritime awareness at schools' level, the chances of an interest being generated at the point of enrolment at a tertiary institute are far reduced." - SA Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy

From a Youth Unemployment and Poverty perspective:

At around 75 percent, South Africa has one of the highest youth employment rates in the world. Millions of young South Africans are not employed or in training.

Addressing the skills gap is an urgent priority as under 35s currently account for around two thirds of South Africa's jobless population.

Not only does South Africa have a huge pool of youth looking for employment, it also has a state education system faced with many challenges. It is said that every year, less than half of those who entered the State school system, pass their final exams and that, on average, only one in every 100 students entering the school system, completes tertiary education.

This already-concerning situation has worsened as a result of Covid-19.

Simon's Town School's maritime studies programme has for more than two and half decades provided one of the most effective educational programmes aimed at breaking the youth unemployment and poverty cycle. The programme has continually delivered on its mandate of improving the post-school employment prospects of young South Africans by providing them with an industry-focused education in their last three years of secondary schooling.

Many of these young South Africans are now in worthwhile careers at sea or ashore thanks to the education and support they received. Our programme also offers an opportunity for young South

Africans to gain the dignity of employment and recognition within their communities where many become role models.

Given South Africa's political history, such aspirations were beyond the dreams of many of their parents at a similar age but, with the ongoing support of the maritime industry and other funders, the chain of successes is likely to continue as several new entrants begin the course at the start of each new academic year.

(See our youtube channel for Alumni reflections/personal impact stories:
https://youtu.be/Z_tHs5NQQxg)

6. Who supports/funds you?

Our programme has grown significantly since its formation as a pilot programme in 1995.

And it has done so thanks to the financial and/or moral support and encouragement received from a variety of organisations, companies and individuals – both in South Africa and around the world.

Indicators of our success are both the number of local and international awards won, as well as the number and calibre of international and local supporters and visitors to Lawhill. Prominent supporters and funders include:

- **Maersk** (Safmarine), our anchor sponsor, which has provided ongoing operational funding since the programme's inception in 1995.
- **The TK Foundation** which has provided over R21 million for the building of a modern boarding and teaching facility and continues to support us via funding for special projects, including trips to international maritime events abroad.
- Our student and tuition bursary sponsors for 2021 included: SAMSA, Transnet National Ports Authority, Pan African Holdings, General Botha Old Boys Bursary Fund (supported by organisations such as NSRI, Royal Cape Yacht Club, MDSol, Dockendale, Grindrod, Subtech, Theo Jack etc), AMSOL, Community Property Group/Capland/Rialto Project, DAMEN Shipyards, Oceana Fisheries, BLS Portco, the Jewish Maritime League and Africa Oil Week/Hyve Events.
- We have also appreciated the support of the former Premier of the Western Cape Province, South Africa, Premier Helen Zille and the Provincial Minister for Education, Ms Debbie Schafer, who have visited our school.
- We are regularly invited to participate in events organized by the Department of Transport and South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) and are proud to be the only high school invited to attend leading industry events such as the internationally acclaimed African Mining Indaba and Africa Oil Week.
- A leading and prominent figure in education, **Professor Jonathan Jansen**, is another supporter.
 - o Click on the link below to read his views on our programme:
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/ideas/2017-10-26-cape-academy-reminds-us-of-what-our-country-can-become/>
 - o A link to a guest talk made by Professor Jansen at our 25th Anniversary event in October 2020 is provided below.
https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=_ekSx-tYmD8#dialog

7. How are the beneficiaries of your programme selected?

Young South Africans and Namibians apply to join our programme during their Grade 9 year. Applications open in January and close in March (as per Department of Education deadlines), but

final selections are only made – in consultation with the STS Grade Head - in September/October of each year.

To be considered for selection, students are required to meet the criteria of *achieving more than 60 percent in Mathematics, Physical Science and English in their current schools*. Various, intensive interview processes follow with the aim of determining the student's interest in the maritime industry and their suitability to, and potential to benefit from, our programme.

Apart from their academic strength in the abovementioned subjects, we also look for young people who are goal-driven, disciplined, hard-working, committed to their studies and have a good behavioural record and positive mindset.

Interviews are done by both maritime staff and the school's Grade Head and are independent of any donor/sponsor or other influence. Organisations/potential sponsors may encourage schools to submit applications but the final decision on placements is made by the Grade Head of Simon's Town School. Records are kept of all interviews conducted.

We are often invited to participate in school awareness programmes and has also visited schools in key areas (eg the South African West Coast) with the aim of making as many young people as possible aware of the programme (and to attract the best talent into our programme).

We are also very active on social media and the number of applications received every year is proof of our extensive reach, not only into port cities such as East London, Port Elizabeth and Durban, but also into inland and rural areas. Some of our top students are from inland areas - eg Welkom in the Free State and from rural villages in the Eastern Cape such as Ngcobo and Tsomo.

Note: Existing bursary sponsors have first option for sponsorships ie they are able to replace the students exiting the programme in Grade 12 with a new Grade 10 student. If they choose not to do so, those places (sponsorship slots) become available to new sponsors.

(More details on our selection process are available on request).

8. What are the financial governance/controls in place?

The STS Lawhill Maritime Centre forms part of a state secondary school, Simon's Town School (Registration: CEMIS 0104312245). We are a separate subject department (not a separate legal entity) and are accountable to the School's Governing Body and Principal.

We do not receive any direct government funding and rely for our operation entirely on grants from the shipping or related industries.

As per the SA Schools Act, South African donors and sponsors are requested to pay all tuition and boarding bursary funds in support of the maritime programme upon invoice and within 60 days into the Simon's Town School (STS) account.

Lawhill Maritime Educational Trust

An independent Trust was established in 2015 at the request of international donors and private individuals whose wish was to have an independent entity, with trustees appointed by industry, administer their donations/endowments prior to the funds prior to them being paid to Simon's Town School (a government school).

Once the fees are paid by the Trust to Simon's Town School, the accountability rests with the School Governing Body whose members comprise parents and educators (and not industry or donor representatives).

All maritime-related payments made to STS are monitored and administered by the Bursar at Simons Town School.

In addition to supporting the maritime programme, donors are also welcome to provide additional (ie non-maritime) support to Simon's Town School. These funds remain in the School main account, to be used in accordance with donor wishes (eg upgrade of the school's facilities eg Physical Science and Mathematics classrooms).

BBBEE

Because we are part of a government school, we are tax-exempt and do not require a Black Economic Empowerment audit or certificate. However, Simon's Town School and the Lawhill Maritime Educational Trust are both authorized to provide Section 18A certificates for donations made.

Prospective donors are kindly advised to inform us, prior to making donations, of their BBBEE documentation requirements. This is because our maritime programme is not a separate legal entity and, being part of a Government-funded School, we may not be able to provide certain documents. These documents may however be obtainable from the Trust, because it is a separate legal structure/registered PBO/NPO.

We are also able to provide an affidavit confirming the percentage of learners - as per the racial classifications required - who are following our maritime courses in Grades 10, 11 and 12 and who benefit from any donations and grants made directly or indirectly to the STS Lawhill Maritime Centre.

Please note, however, that we prefer not to make reference to the racial classification of our students or staff as we believe in one human race. *We also encourage cultural and racial diversity as this better prepares our students for their future careers in the international maritime industry, which is highly diverse.*

As such, we strive to be a facility that is open to all races and would appreciate bursary support for deserving students, irrespective of race.

9. How do you communicate and recognize donors/supporters?

We undertake to provide sponsors with the following as a minimum:

- Recognising donor sponsorship (subject to sponsor approval to do so) via mentions on our "marketing" channels such as the www.lawhill.org website, our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), newsletters and in our annual prize-giving/awards evening programme.
- Donors who sponsor tuition and boarding bursaries receive:
 - o An end of term academic report for each of the sponsored students (this includes their position in the Grade). We also provide a 'top 10' summary per grade (this will show if any/how many of the sponsored students in the grade are in the Top 10 in STS, and their performance relative to other students)
 - o Regular reports on any issues relating to the student/s and their growth and development within our programme. This can range from news (such as being selected as a head prefect) to a request for further interventions/support (eg require reading glasses to be sponsored or professional counselling etc). Current bursary sponsors - who have sponsored a student's studies - have 'first option' to fund students for tertiary studies. If the bursary sponsor is unable to support them further, Lawhill management will assist the student in finding a sponsor or helping them apply for a student loan for tertiary studies.
 - o Details of the annual Grade 12 results.

10. What are the fees for enrolling a single student into your programme?

The fees for the following year are published in October/November and are based on ACTUAL expenses as at end November of each year.

The BASIC boarding and tuition fee for 2022 is R79 920 per student, per annum.

The BASIC boarding and tuition fee includes all tuition, school fees, extra-murals etc but **excludes transport** costs as not all students require transport home. Where possible, we request that sponsors cover the transport costs of students, particularly for families who do not have the means to cover these.

For budgeting purposes, please note the following: Transport costs do vary depending on the distance between Cape Town and the home destination of the student. However, as a guideline we recommend that a budget of around R8000 to R10000 be set aside for transport (these cover long distance bus fees plus a shuttle service between the hostel and the Cape Town Bus Terminus).

Where possible, sponsors are also requested to consider budgeting for emergency medical expenses (particularly dental, psychological counselling and optometry costs) as students often need this assistance during their three year stay with us.

It would also be appreciated if sponsors would consider providing a THREE YEAR commitment to the student ie to sponsor them from Grade 10 to Grade 12, and possibly beyond (into tertiary) to ensure maximum return on investment.

11. What M&E data do you have available to demonstrate the programme's impact/success?

GENERAL:

- Maritime Studies/boarding students consistently dominate the top 10 positions in Grades 10 to 12 at Simon's Town School.
- For the past 27 years, 41 of the head students (head boy/girl and deputies) at Simon's Town School have been involved in the Lawhill Maritime Studies programme, either as boarders or day students.
- Maritime students have traditionally made up the majority of Simon's Town School's students' representative council (RCL).
- The vast majority of maritime students who apply for tertiary maritime studies, are accepted into the programme at tertiary institutions such as CPUT or SSTG.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

- 1999 - Lloyds List Salute to Youth and Training Award (London)
- 2012 - Seatrade Award – Investment in People (London)
- 2013 – Impumelelo Platinum Award – Training (South Africa)
- 2016 – Maritime Maestro Award (South Africa) to Brian Ingpen
- 2017 - Maritime Africa Review Magazine – Maritime Newsmaker of the Year (South Africa)
- 2018 – Seatrade Education and Training - Africa, Middle East and India (Dubai)

ALUMNI

We are immensely proud of our alumni's track record of success. A few examples are:

- We currently know of FIVE qualified Master Mariners - FOUR male and ONE female. These students are qualified to captain any ship, of any size, anywhere in the world. A further two alumni are due to obtain their Master Mariner Certificates of Competency in 2019/20.
- Two of our alumni are serving as qualified Chief Engineers and we have several Second and Third Engineers working at sea.
- South Africa's *most senior female marine engineer*, Ms Kelly Mars (*nee Klaasen*) is a former maritime student. She is currently serving as second engineer in the Maersk fleet. She has successfully completed her Chief Engineers' examinations. She was also selected as the South African Seafarer of the Year in 2010.
- Traditionally the top (dux) students at the Maritime Studies Faculty at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology have been ex-Lawhill students. In 2017 Aubrey Sosibo, Class of 2010, received the Dean's Medal for the Faculty of Engineering. He joined the STS Lawhill Maritime Centre staff in January 2020 as a Maritime Economics teacher following the retirement of Mr Brian Ingpen.
- In 2018 Thami Hoza received the Global Teen award (the only South African to do so) as well as the Queens Youth Award (from HM, Queen Elizabeth). In 2016, Bokamoso Molale and Thami were recognised by Swiss-based African Innovation Foundation as the top 10 innovators in Africa under the age of 26. Their HotNozzle innovation is available for purchase and has attracted international investment. **See** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm0Q395WQm4>.
- We are aware of more than 500 former students have either entered tertiary studies or moved into entry level jobs/internships in the maritime industry after matriculating from our school. *While we do try and stay in touch with alumni (and use social media to track their whereabouts), we do not have 100 percent accurate data on which of our alumni are still in the industry today or have completed their tertiary studies.*
- In addition to these, we have also had alumni enter university for study in other fields, such as medicine, commerce and law. Our alumni include doctors, lawyers and accountants.

Please do watch our official Lawhill VIDEO on the link below

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bbe6zOu_xUM

Many thanks

Yours in Maritime Education

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Simon's Town, South Africa

www.lawhill.org. Visit www.maritimesa.org to access the Gr10-12 Maritime Economics syllabus content. PSE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER and INSTAGRAM - @Lawhillmaritime

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FUTURE MARITIME
GENERATION**

