



— UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN —
SHAWCO

Academic Interventions Unit



Our Vision

Working together towards informed, healthy and thriving communities.

Our Mission

To become a reputable school of excellence that offers quality teaching in core academic areas to enhance learners' academic potential.



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1. INTRODUCTION

The SHAWCO Saturday School and SHINE Programmes were established to assist school learners in core academic areas such as Mathematics, Physical Science, Accounting, Life Sciences and English. With seed funding received in 2007, from Bombardier Transport Company, this programme has grown from providing educational support to 200 learners in Khayelitsha, into a programme of excellence, now known, as SHAWCO Academic Interventions Programme (AIU). Based at the SHAWCO Head Office, at the University of Cape Town, SHAWCO AIU now comprises three programmes, viz. (i) SHAWCO Saturday School; (ii) SHAWCO SHINE (a fee paying programme) and, (iii) SHAWCO Learning Excellence (LEx).

2. BACKGROUND

From its humble beginnings in 2007, SHAWCO AIU expanded to Nyanga in 2008. After two years of consolidating its offering the programme expanded again in 2009 and partnered with 34 schools in the Cape Town Metropolitan area with close to 250 learners. The methodology was that the SHAWCO SHINE (fee paying programme) would subsidise the SHAWCO Saturday School (non-fee programme). This worked very well, and SHAWCO AIU was able to provide needed tuition for learners from low-resourced schools.

In 2011 SHAWCO AIU had 200 Saturday School learners and 170 SHINE learners. By the end of 2011, it was apparent that the number of fee-paying learners would increase dramatically and we prepared to take on 600 learners across all of the programs. Our dream of financial self-sustainability will be realised by 2013. SHAWCO's unique 'Robin Hood Model', which employs the resources of those who can afford to pay tuition fees to subsidise those who cannot, ensured the longevity of the Saturday School and SHINE Program. In 2012, there are 200 learners fully subsidised by SHAWCO in the Saturday School Project, 300 learners in the SHAWCO SHINE Project (Gr 10, Gr 11 & Gr 12) and 100 learners from the University of Cape Town (UCT) 100-UP Programme. In total SHAWCO now had 600 learners and 32 teachers in this programme. The demand for admittance into the SHAWCO SHINE Program remains overwhelming. With 425 learners currently registered in the Saturday School and SHINE Programmes, UCT upper campus of is now taken over by these learners on Saturdays throughout the year.

The LEx Programme proposal meeting was held on 10 February 2017 between local school principals - Mr. Trevor Jacobs (Kensington HS), Mr. Craig Leetz (Windermere HS) and Mr. Leon Kapp (Maitland HS) - and the SHAWCO management team - Mr. Gavin Joachims (Director), Mrs. Thara Kallungal (Operations Manager) and Mr. Neil de Wet (AIU Programme Manager). This meeting identified an urgent need for intervention in Mathematics and Physical Sciences at local public high schools. Some of the teachers in our SHAWCO AIU Programme had asked for SHAWCO to replicate its programme at a community level. We undertook to initiate a yearlong pilot programme for a group of carefully selected Grade 12s. Tuition would be subsidised and the focus of the programme is Mathematics and Physical Science. SHAWCO LEx Programme currently has 78 registered learners and in 2018 we will expand the programme to two other sights.

3. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



The three programmes follow the same teaching methodology: intensive learning and revision; small classes (15-20 learners); top Educators; strict rules; career guidance; academic excellence.

3.1. EDUCATORS

All SHAWCO AIU Educators are highly professional and recruited with the assistance of curriculum advisors in the Department of Education, and word of mouth. As qualified teachers, they are all currently employed in schools around the Western Cape region. All Educators are contracted and paid by SHAWCO. Educators are required to follow the lesson plans which have been created in conjunction with the pace setters from the Department of Education. The Educators therefore follow the Department's prescribed syllabus for Grade 10, 11 and 12 pupils, to ensure that learners receive relevant tuition.

With the assistance of the Department of Education and SHAWCO's AIU Programme Manager, Educators are required to create a workbook for each subject where the learners will work from each week. Included in the workbook are notes, worksheets, tutorials, assignments examples etc. The SHAWCO AIU Programme Manager evaluates the performance of each Educator through teaching assessments completed by the scholars, academic results of learners and observational techniques (performance standards) that have been developed by SHAWCO AIU Programme. If SHAWCO AIU is satisfied with an Educators' performance, then their contract is renewed for another six months.

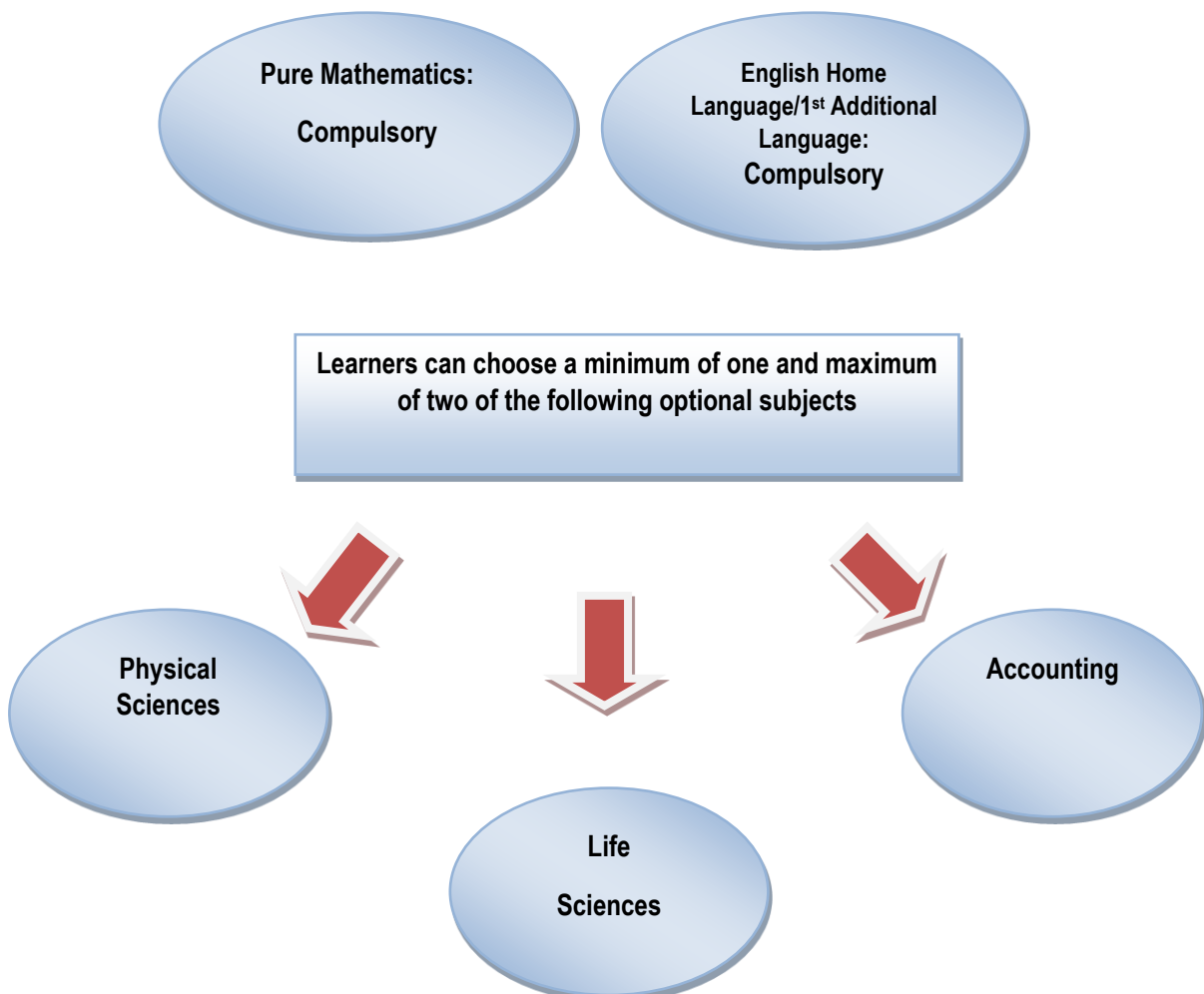


3.2. SELECTION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS OF LEARNERS FOR SATURDAY SCHOOL

All learners are selected from low resourced communities around the Western Cape region. SHAWCO predominantly focuses on areas in which the organisation has community centres and where there are established relationships with partnering schools. Over time, SHAWCO extended its boundaries into different areas within the Western Cape region. The Programme, SHAWCO engage 42 different schools throughout the Western Cape region in pursuit of recruiting learners with academic potential. The partnership between the schools and SHAWCO Saturday School includes regular meetings with these schools and their Grade 12 coordinators. The schools also assist SHAWCO in tracking attendance, assisting with parental participation, and providing academic information.

3.2.1. Systematic process

- Step 1: Students are referred to SHAWCO via their school Coordinators
- Step 2: Students complete an application form signed by parents/guardians
- Step 3: All applicants write an entrance exam at UCT.
- Step 4: Students are selected according to their entrance test results, school results and motivation
- Step 5: Students are notified in November of their acceptance for the programme.
- Step 6: Accepted learners must pay a registration fee and sign an acceptance form to guarantee their place on the programme.



3.2.2. Entrance Tests (TAP)

For recruiting, we administer a standardised entrance test known as TAP (Testing Academic Potential) during the Grade 11 year. Learners with academic potential are selected for the programme. Two tests are administered namely the TAP and MCOM respectively. Dr Alan Cliff from the Higher Education Department (Alternative Admissions Research Project - AARP) was responsible for setting the benchmark levels for the tests. It was decided to use a ranking system where learners were placed into deciles. A decile is a tenth, so every 10% of the cohort fall into a decile (with some calculation if more than one score is at the decile boundary). Therefore, if there were 500 writers, the first 50 would fall into decile 1, the second 50 into decile 2, and so on. The range of scores for each decile will be dependent on the number of students who fall into that decile.

Note: For SHAWCO SHINE Programme there is no entrance test.

3.3. VENUES

UCT offers the learners a beautiful picturesque view of the city with its historical buildings giving one the feel of university life. SHAWCO Saturday School and SHINE Programmes take place at the University of Cape Town upper campus. All lecture venues are on the north side of the university. The programme occupies the RW



James Building, Computer Sciences Building, the Microbiology Building and the Zoology Building. All venues are classroom-like and able to accommodate 20 learners per classroom. The time tables have been arranged in a fashion that allows learners to rotate in an efficient manner leaving them five minutes to get from one class to the next. Part of SHAWCO'S objective is to provide the learners with an experience of a positive learning environment which is conducive to learning. The small intimate class also creates an atmosphere of healthy competitiveness which is a key ingredient to successful academic performance.

3.4. SCHOOL ACADEMIC DATA

SHAWCO Saturday School captures all academic results from Grade 11 to Grade 12 June of every year. In order to display the comparison between results, we compare the learners' Grade 11 final marks, the Grade 12 March, and Grade 12 June results. Analysing the results, have shown a marked improvement in performance from Grade 11 to the learners' participation in the SHAWCO Programme in Grade 12. It is evident that the Programme benefitted and contributed to improving academic results in Grade 12.

3.5. ATTENDANCE OF LEARNERS

One of the biggest milestones of the SHAWCO AIU, is the improved attendance rates of learners. This does not only apply to learners' attendance on a Saturday, but partner schools have also indicated that the results, confidence and English proficiency of learners who attend the SHAWCO AIU Programme have also significantly improved at school. The current

attendance rate across the SHAWCO AIU Programmes is 88% for 2017 – i.e. on average 436 learners Grades 10 to 12 attending our Programme every Saturday.



3.6. INTERNAL CONTROL TESTS (STANDARDISED TESTS)

The administration of three internal tests are conducted throughout the year. The first Control Test are in March, May and September every year. Every term we reward the top performing learners' in each respective subject in order to create a positive and healthy competitive environment.

3.7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

3.7.1. M&E Techniques

- Collecting and analysing academic results for Grades 10, 11 and 12 from relevant schools to keep abreast of the academic progress each term.
- Administrating and analysing internal control tests/standardised tests in each term for all subjects.
- Tracking attendance data and follow up on absentees weekly.
- Learner surveys on project and teacher evaluation.
- Educators are monitored and evaluated based on observation techniques and performance standards
- Learner outcomes after graduation are tracked (tertiary uptake and NSC results)

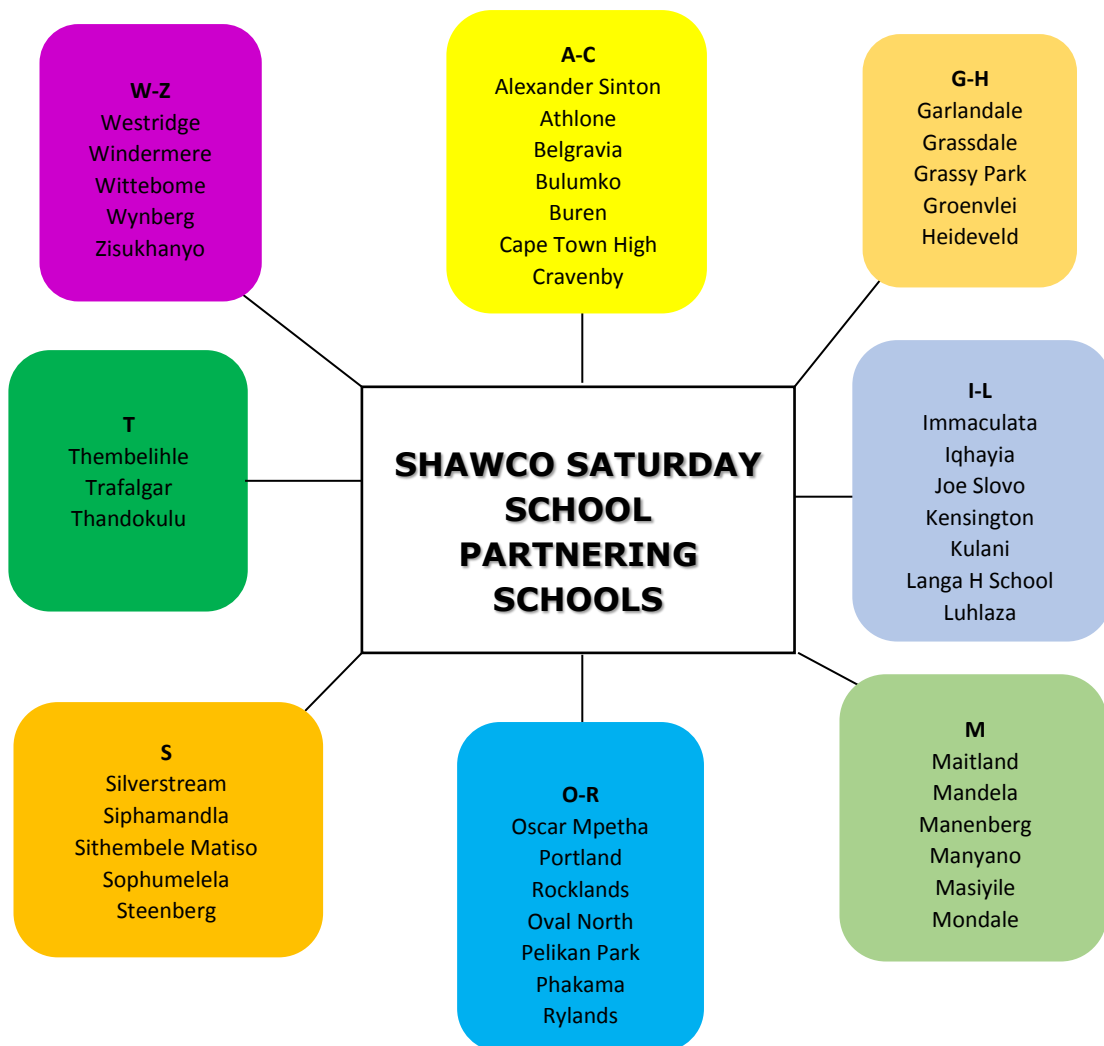
3.7.2. Project evaluation by the learners

Every year SHAWCO conducts a learner survey twice to assess the effectiveness of the programme. Project evaluation forms and Educator evaluation forms are administered to students in May. Various statements are provided, for example, 'The project helped me to

improve my Mathematics marks at school'. Learners have to rate the statement on a four-point Likert scale consisting of 1 – definitely not, 2 – maybe not, 3 – maybe, and 4 – definitely.

3.8. PARTNERING SCHOOLS WITH SHAWCO IN 2017

All the partnering schools were awarded certificates for participating and supporting the SHAWCO Saturday School initiative. One of the key fundamentals to a successful programme is the relationships developed with the relevant schools. SHAWCO is in the process of developing strong partnerships with these schools in order to benefit the programme, the schools and most importantly, the learner. Forty-two partnering schools joined the programme for 2017.



3.9. STUDENT TRANSPORT

SHAWCO is one of the few organisations that owns and manages its own transportation system. All SHAWCO Saturday School learners are picked up in their relevant townships or Cape Flats communities and safely delivered to the University of Cape Town's Stop and Drop. After the programme, learners are dropped off at their relevant drop off points. Learners have to sign in a transport register on their initial pick up and sign off on their return pick up.



3.10. SHAWCO CAREER WORKSHOP AND UCT OPEN DAY

UCT has an annual Open Day aimed at high school students in Grades 10, 11 and 12, their families, teachers and guidance counsellors. SHAWCO learners are given the opportunity to engage in both events during the year. Different universities attend the SHAWCO Career Exhibition (Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape, and Cape Town University of Technology) and numerous private educational institutes, like National Students' Financial Aid Scheme, South African Institute for Chartered Accounts, and Deloitte and Touché.

3.11. THE DURATION OF CLASSES ARE AS FOLLOWS

Lesson Activity	Time Schedule
Period 1	09:30 – 10:30
Period 2	10:35 – 11:35
LUNCH BREAK	11:40 – 12:10
Period 3	12:15 – 13:15
Period 4	13:20 – 14:20

4. SHAWCO WINTER SCHOOL



SHAWCO offers a Winter School Programme in the June-July holiday. Based at the UCT Upper Campus, learners receive 5 days of intensive revision classes and complete designated practical work in Physical Sciences and Life Sciences, respectively, under the supervision of an experienced team of SHAWCO tutors and UCT professors and laboratory assistants.

5. CONCLUSION

We are proud of the great success that SHAWCO Academic Interventions has achieved. We are honoured by the confidence and the support of our partners and donors. We are grateful that we have been able to assist hundreds of learners to accomplish their goals. We are humbled as we remain in service to our communities and building responsible South African citizens.

SHAWCO



Academic Interventions

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