

CORPORATE PROFILE



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

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Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



DID YOU KNOW

The University of the Free State (UFS) is
112 years old (1904–2016)



48 satellite campuses



135-plus departments, schools, and institutes



4 175 staff members



3 campuses

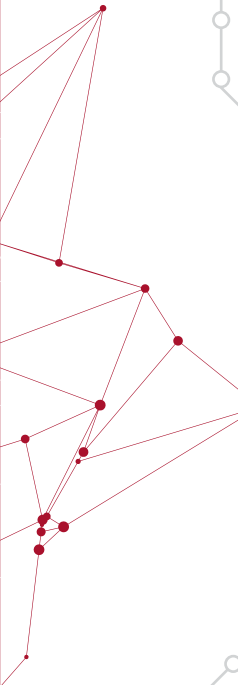
7 faculties



33 121 students (as at the end of May 2016)



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VISION

A university recognised across the world for excellence in academic achievement and in human reconciliation.



VALUES

Five core values embody deeply-held commitments that underscore policies and actions and are the foundation for the Academic Project and the Human Project of the UFS.

- Superior Scholarship
- Human Embrace
- Institutional Distinctiveness
- Emergent Leadership
- Public Service





MISSION

The university pursues the vision through:

- Setting the highest standards for undergraduate and postgraduate education.
- Recruiting the best and most diverse students and professors into the university.
- Advancing excellence in the scholarship of research, teaching, and public service.
- Demonstrating in everyday practice the value of human togetherness and solidarity across social and historical divides.
- Advancing social justice by creating multiple opportunities for disadvantaged students to access the university.
- Promoting innovation, distinctiveness and leadership in both academic and human pursuits.
- Establishing transparent opportunities regarding lifelong learning for academic and support staff.





ACADEMIC AND HUMAN PROJECTS




In the **Academic Project** the UFS recognises that superior scholarship is essential in the global market. The UFS is a strong academic institution, marked by distinctiveness in teaching, research and public scholarship. The project includes rigorous entrance qualifications for first-time students, elevated standards for the professoriate, the transformation of undergraduate curricula, and the identification and promotion of the next generation of professors.

Through the **Human Project** the university bridges the divide between the academic world and people/communities in need, by creating a culture where teaching and research can improve human life. A myriad of projects and initiatives makes the vital connections between campus and communities through the production and dissemination of knowledge.

History



The UFS had a humble beginning with six students in the Humanities in 1904. Today, the UFS with its seven faculties and more than 33 000 students, is solidly interwoven with the global academic and research world.



The UFS boasts three campuses in the Free State, one of the nine provinces of South Africa. The footprint stretches further, with 48 satellite campuses bringing education to all corners of South Africa. The university had been established in Bloemfontein, and expanded with the addition of the Qwaqwa Campus (in the Eastern Free State) in 2003, and the South Campus also in Bloemfontein in 2004.

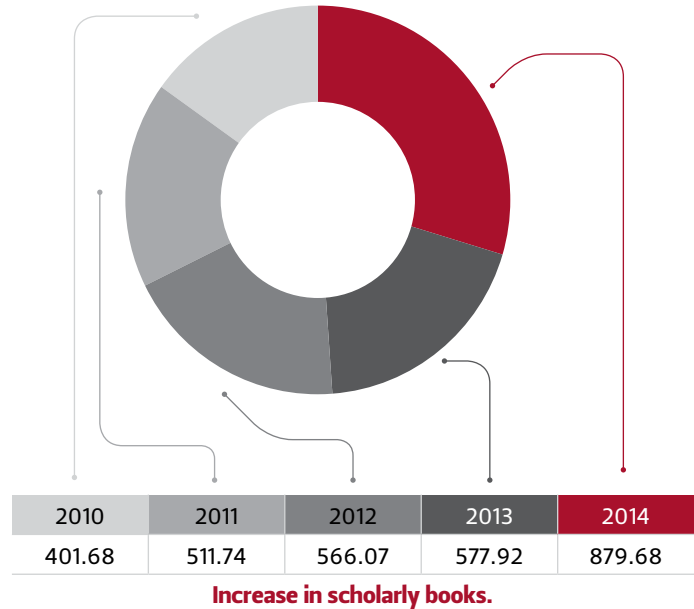
With more than 50 international agreements and leading researchers serving in top positions of international organisations, the UFS is well-established in the world of higher education.

Since 1904 the faculties (not in order) of Economic and Management Sciences, Education, Health Sciences, Law, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Theology were added. The Business School and the School for Open Learning complemented the higher education offering.

RESEARCH

Research and innovation are becoming a major supplier of third-stream income for the UFS and has grown to almost R20 million per annum. The research output in terms of scholarly books increased dramatically from 401,68 in 2010 to 879,68 in 2014 – more than 221% – bringing the UFS to 4th position nationally.

In 2015 the UFS produced two A-rated researchers. The rated researchers have grown to 127 in 2016.



NRF-rated researchers

The UFS has 127 rated researchers in total.

In recent years, the university experienced an increase in the rating of its researchers as a result of raised academic

standards. This is in line with the Academic Project of the UFS. The university attracts top professors from across the country and other parts of the world, and in 2015 two researchers were awarded A ratings by the National Research Foundation (NRF). It is the first time in the history of the UFS that two A ratings were received from the NRF at the same time. The most researchers ever have also been rated by the NRF in 2015 (an increase of 33% from 2010 to 2015).


The UFS also has five Tier 1 SARChI research chairs. Tier 1 research chairs are awarded to established researchers who are leaders in their field, and whose work is recognised internationally.

Research at institutional level

Research is conducted at the UFS in various fields and across several disciplines, including:

- The **Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice** is a critical space where engaged scholarship, public discussion, research, community engagement, and teaching are innovatively integrated towards exploring and finding solutions to the complex and challenging work of social transformation in South Africa.
- **Trauma, Forgiveness and Reconciliation Studies** focuses on trauma, forgiveness, and reconciliation to explore new areas of investigation in the field of trauma and its repair. It is a cross-disciplinary research platform that brings together an international group of leading scholars and practitioners in trauma and forgiveness, as well as reconciliation strategies, aimed at trauma repair in the lives of individuals and societies affected by historical trauma.
- In the **International Studies Group** a network of postgraduate researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and academic staff work together.
- The **Jonathan Edwards Centre Africa** was founded in 2009 as a result of the strategic partnership between Yale University, Jonathan Edwards Center, and the UFS. This strategic partnership empower aspiring next generation African academic and church leaders with primary resources for research, education, and publication.
- The **Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Scholars Programme (PSP)** accelerates scholarship of junior UFS scholars in the first five years post PhD. These scholars participate in an intensive programme of support that includes international placement and mentorship.





No institution of higher education can operate in a vacuum, isolated from the world. Universities with the right collaborations and partnerships can push the frontiers of knowledge and scholarship. They can also be strong drivers of innovation and economic growth for the communities they serve.

Therefore, the UFS nurtures its agreements with universities and other institutions around the world. It has extensive agreements on institutional, faculty, and departmental level. Some of the agreements date back to 2004.

The more than 50 partner institutions are in Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the USA. Among the partners are universities of Stanford and Cornell in the USA, the European South African Science and Technology Programme, the Institute of Political Science at Bordeaux, France, and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa.

Agreements make provision for the exchange of researchers, lecturers, and co-research projects.



INTERNATIONAL FOOTPRINT

Business School

The UFS Business School in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences established itself as a leader in the provision of management and leadership programmes in South Africa.

The Centre for Business Dynamics at the Business School has a large portfolio of products and services. In cooperation with a network of national and international experts it offers tailor-made, state-of-the-art organisational and personal development solutions to organisations and individuals.

The vision of the Business School is to be one of the top ten of its kind in South Africa. It is already in high regard, with people enrolling not only from the Free State, but from the rest of South Africa and abroad.

The School's mission is not only the empowerment of management leaders with the applicable management and leadership skills, but the school is also recognised as a leader in the recognition of prior learning. For this segment of the market the school offers accredited certificate, diploma, degree and short learning programmes.





**BUSINESS SCHOOL
SAKESKOOL**
BE WORTH MORE
WEES MEER WERD



FACULTIES



Economic and Management Sciences



**ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
EKONOMIESE EN
BESTUURSWETENSAPPE**

This dynamic and innovative faculty is well-positioned to provide in the growing demand for education in economic and management sciences in South Africa and from other countries in Africa.

It trains managers, accountants, industrial psychologists, marketing professionals and other professionals for the private and public sector. B degrees in the faculty include programmes in private and public sector management and accounting. Students will be prepared for careers as chartered accountants, economists, resource managers and, for

instance, marketing and labour relations.

The number of foreign students has increased significantly and contributed to the substantial growth of the faculty.

The interest in the master's degree in Development Studies, the MBA, and the Baccalaureus Degree in Management Leadership confirms the quality of the academic programmes. This interest is mainly from African countries. Various exchange agreements give students the opportunity for international exposure.

Education

With education and the quality of education in schools in South Africa a concern, the Faculty of Education is in an excellent position to provide skilled teachers to the profession. It offers four-year undergraduate programmes in the Foundation, Intermediate, Senior and FET phases.

The faculty also plays a major role in the training of teachers already in the profession. On postgraduate level, it also offers honours, master's, and doctoral degrees in Curriculum Studies, Higher Education, Psychology of Education, Philosophy and Policy Studies in Education and Comparative Education, and Educational Management. Large numbers of students enrol for these programmes.

In the continuing education sector numerous short courses are offered, such as the Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) and the National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDE). These programmes address the changing needs of the teaching profession and focus primarily on the upgrading of the knowledge and methodology of Science, Mathematics, and Technology teachers in all the school phases.





EDUCATION
OPVOEDKUNDE





HEALTH SCIENCES
GESONDHEIDSWETENSKAPPE

The Faculty of Health Sciences – consisting of the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, and the School for Allied Health Professions – produced health professionals of the highest quality in South Africa over many years.

The School of Medicine has consistently been regarded as one of the foremost medical schools in South Africa and has trained thousands of doctors since the 1970s. The faculty also trains nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, optometrists and offers a new B Biokinetics programme from 2017.

Ground-breaking research and development of unique procedures place the faculty at the forefront in the world of health.

The newly established Division of Virology at the university is one of only five laboratories in the country to be involved in crucial diagnostic and testing services for HIV viral load monitoring, early infant diagnosis, and HIV resistance testing.

Law

The Faculty of Law, one of the oldest and most distinguished faculties of its kind in South Africa, produced many of the top legal minds in the country.

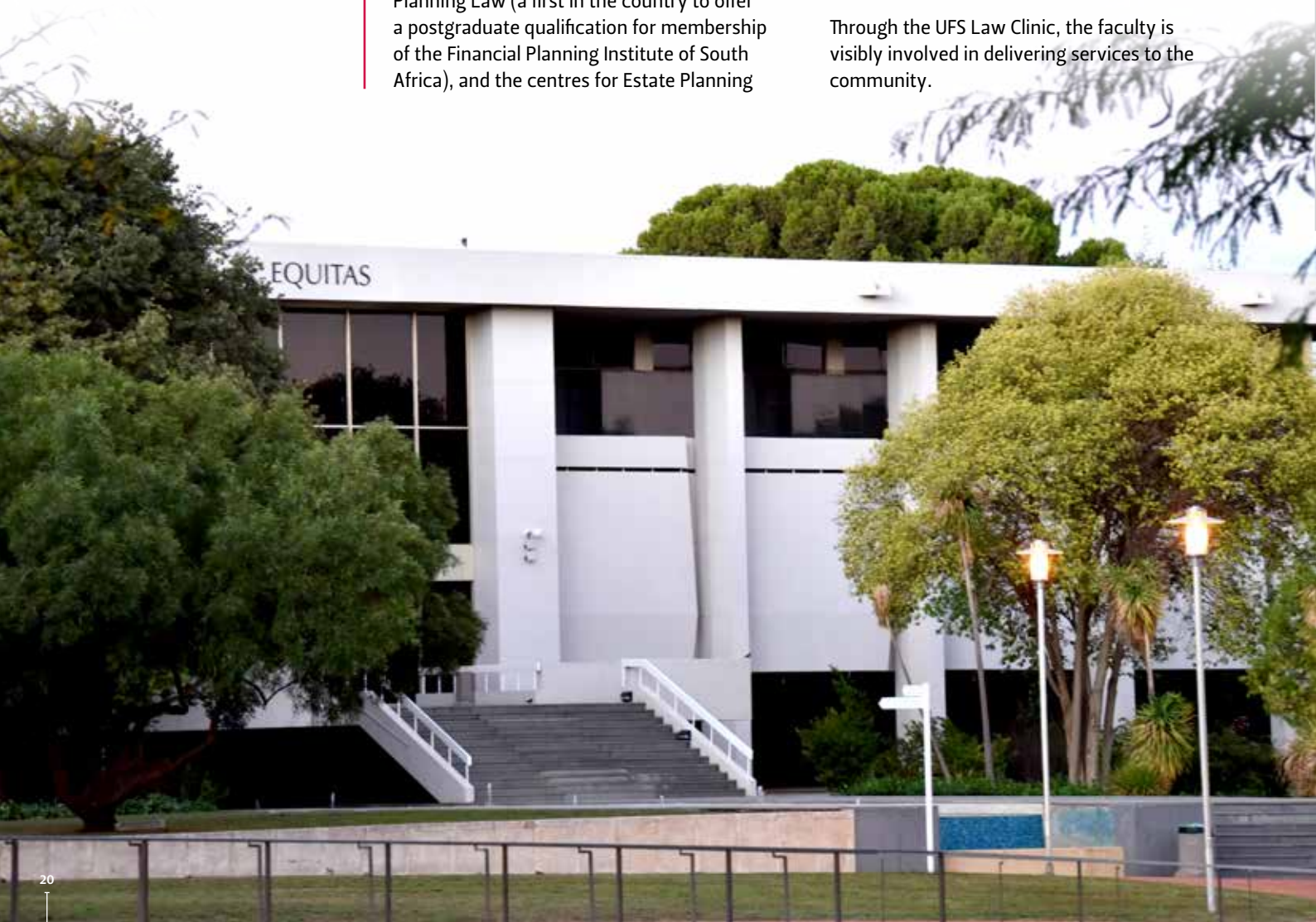
The faculty is renowned for research of international standing and has close relationships with law schools and law faculties in Britain, Europe, and the USA.

The faculty is proud of the School for Financial Planning Law (a first in the country to offer a postgraduate qualification for membership of the Financial Planning Institute of South Africa), and the centres for Estate Planning

Law, Business Law, Judicial Excellence, Labour Law, and the Unit for Children's Rights as well as the Student Discipline and Mediation Unit. The Law Clinic delivers valuable services to the community.

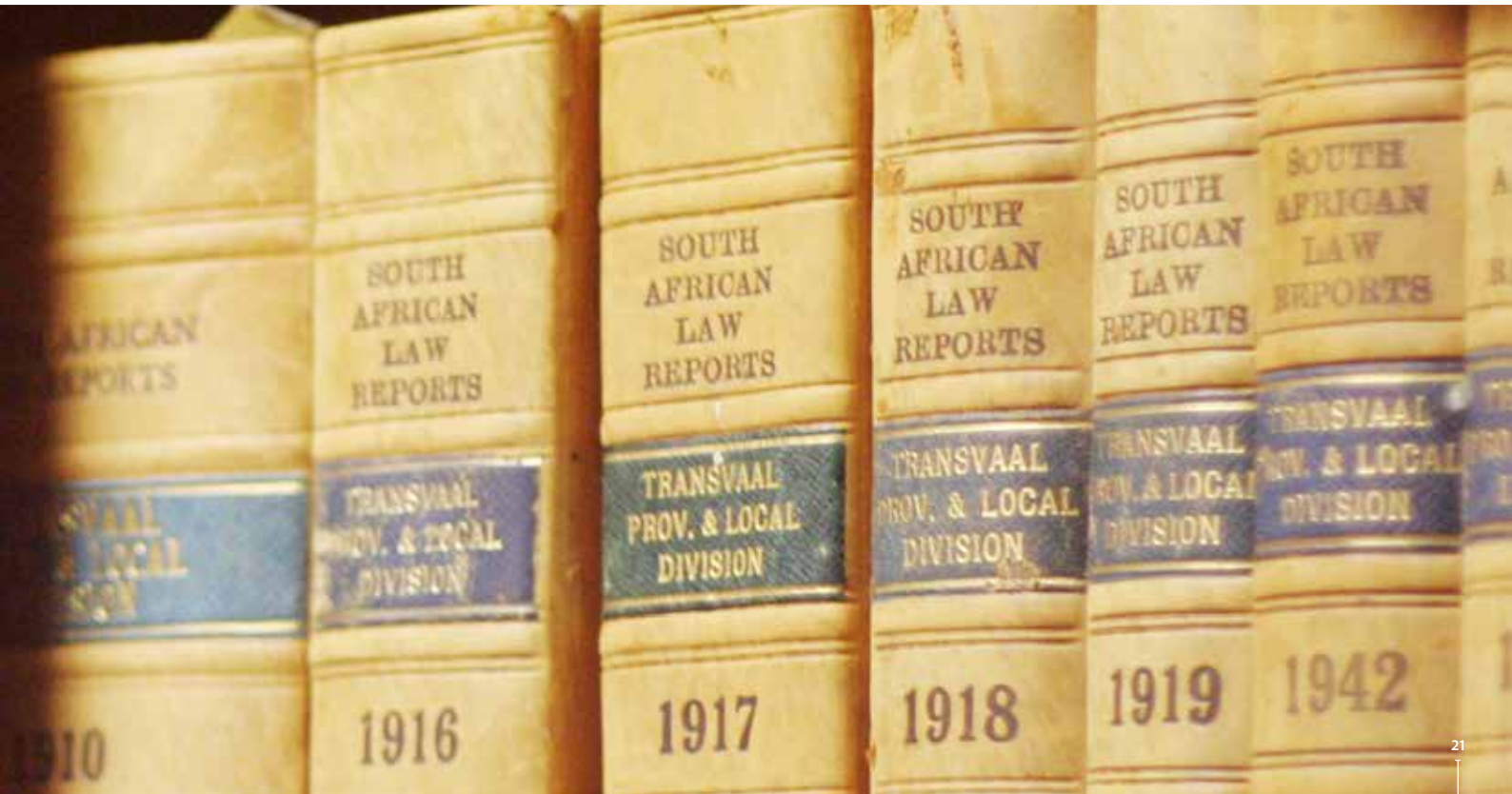
Degree programmes open doors to a wide variety of professions, such as advocates, attorneys, legal advisers, labour consultants, prosecutors, magistrates, and the insurance and banking industries.

Through the UFS Law Clinic, the faculty is visibly involved in delivering services to the community.





LAW
REGSGELEERDHEID



Natural and Agricultural Sciences



The faculty is divided into Natural Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Building Sciences.

In Natural Sciences the faculty is a world leader in material, nano and polymer science, and it carries out work on photoluminescence, quantum-dot synthesis, and astrophysics. Expertise lies also in plant pathology, algology, palynology, and lipid biotechnology

Natural Sciences also focus on disciplines such as Actuarial Sciences, Computer Sciences, and Mathematical Sciences.

The Agricultural Sciences draw students countrywide and from abroad. The farm and animal industry is serviced with the faculty's expertise in breeding, nutrition, and physiological

manipulation. Research on irrigation and salinity, water harvesting, and the optimisation of water use are also focus areas.

The Building Sciences produce leaders in their disciplines in South Africa. Students, staff, and alumni receive recognition nationally and internationally.

Career opportunities for students in the Natural, Agricultural, and Architectural Sciences are, for instance, that of agricultural economist, soil and animal scientist, medical technician, jobs in the food, medical and chemical sectors, environmental consultant, climate specialist, architect, urban and regional planner, construction manager and more.



NATURAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
NATUUR- EN
LANDBOUWETENSCHAPPE



HUMANITIES
GEESTESWETENSCHAPPE

The Humanities

The Faculty of the Humanities is the cradle for many distinguished academics, researchers, and authors recognised nationally and internationally.

The faculty encompasses disciplines such as languages, arts, human sciences, social sciences, and cultural sciences.

Some of the research focuses, for instance, on Bible and religious translations, Biblical Hebrew grammar research and translator education in South Africa. French translations were even honoured by the French government. A feather in the faculty's cap is probably also the development and establishment of Sign Language as an academic programme

and possibly a 12th language for South Africa.

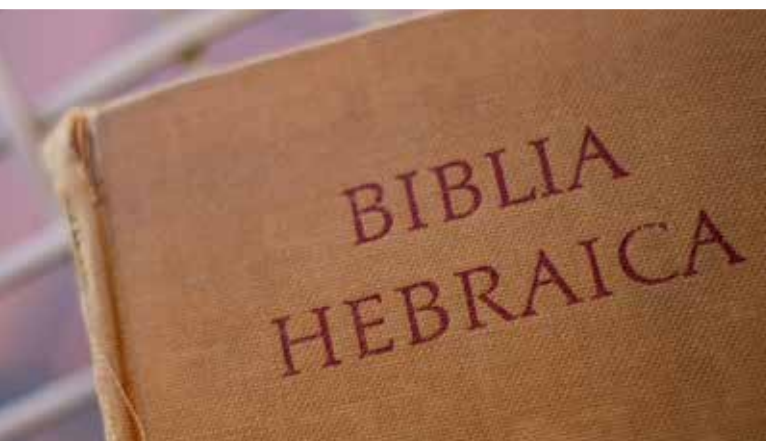
Some of the career options available to students include journalism, criminology, psychology, sign language and other interpreting, acting, politics, and social work.

The mission of the faculty is to generate, introduce/develop and disseminate knowledge, to stimulate critical intellectual investigation, and to inspire innovation in students and academic staff by means of teaching, basic and applied research, and service delivery aimed at enriching and uplifting the community, the region, the country, and the continent.





Theology



The Faculty of Theology firmly established itself since inception in 1980.

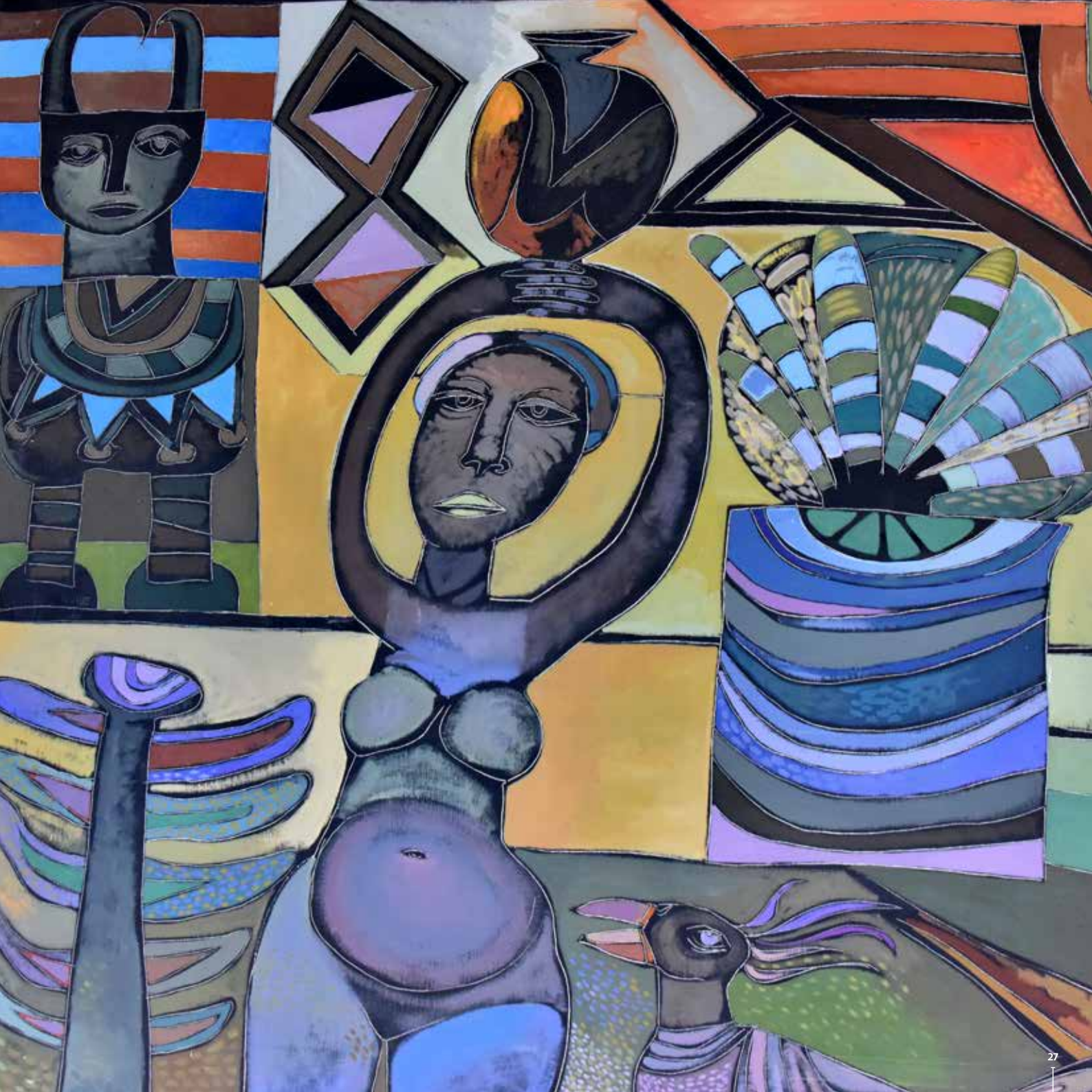
It is the only institution of its kind in central South Africa that offers fully fledged, all-inclusive theological education. The focus of the faculty is to train and serve responsible and innovative spiritual leaders who will make a difference wherever they go.

About 60% of the students are postgraduates. These students constitute a significant strength of the faculty and

are from all over the world, including Africa, Europe, Asia, and the USA.

Students in the faculty are from various church denominations. Career options for students with a degree in Theology include those of minister, pastor, lifestyle coach, pastoral therapist and youth worker.

The faculty makes a unique national and international contribution to the development of the church, society, and the academic theological environment.



A photograph of a brick building facade under a blue sky with clouds. The building's name is inscribed in large, dark, three-dimensional letters. The text is arranged in three lines, with the first line in English, the second in Afrikaans, and the third in Sesotho. To the right, a portion of a colorful circular logo is visible.

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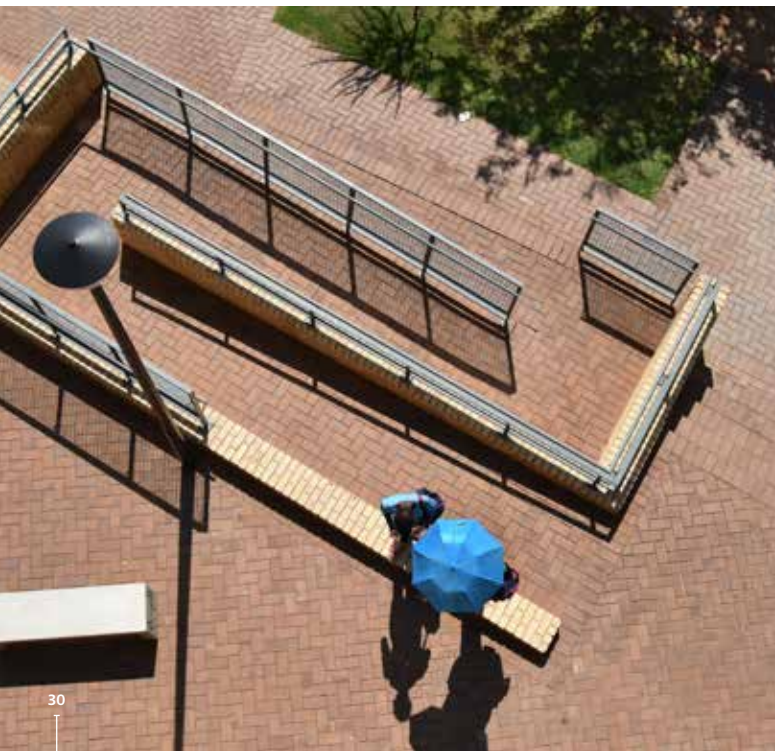
School of Open Learning

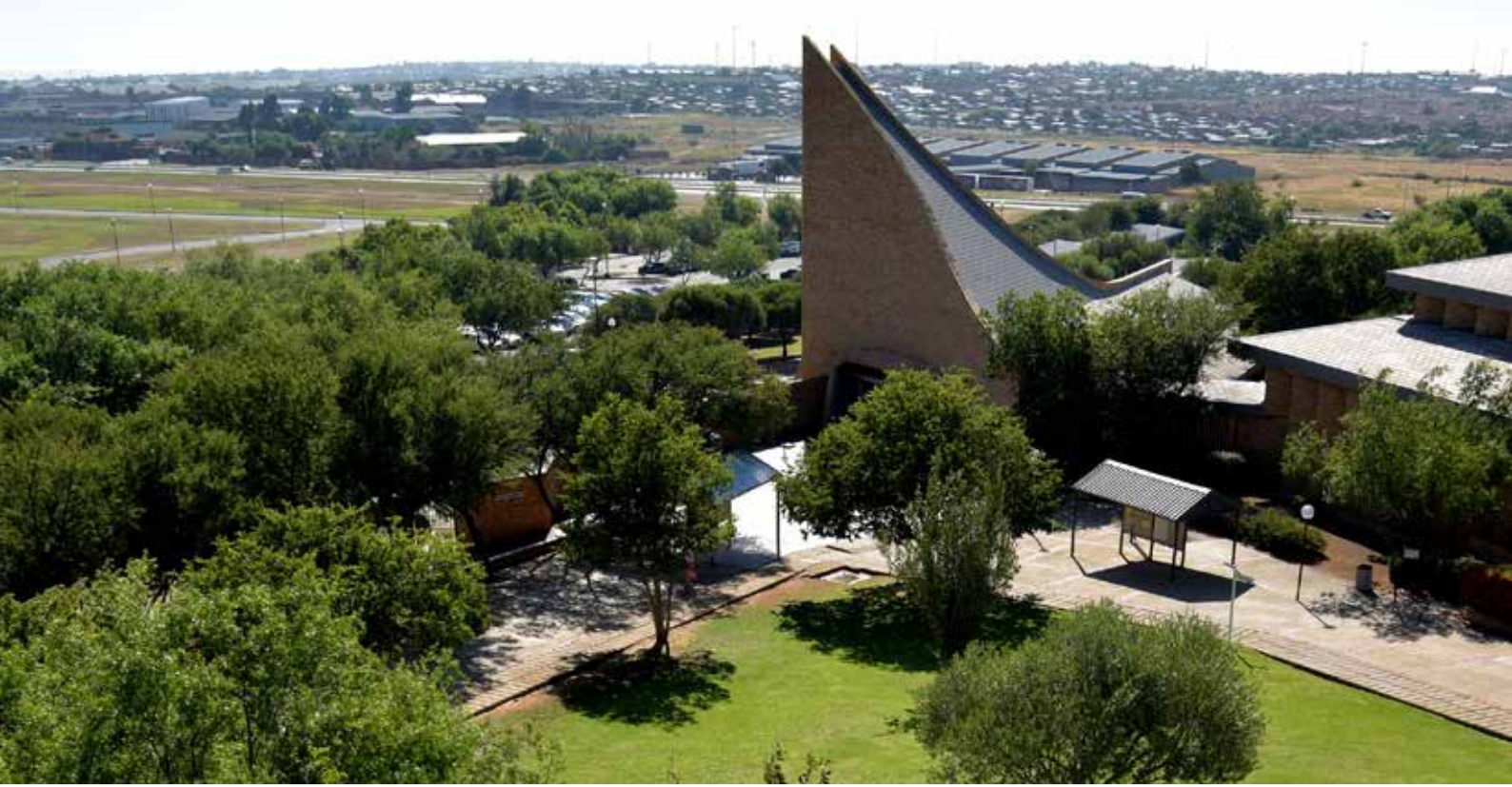
The School of Open Learning on the South Campus in Bloemfontein is the hub for the distance-learning programmes of the UFS such as the Advanced Certificate in Teaching.

The South Campus plays a significant role in the economy of the region, the enhancement of its people, as well as being the hub for distance learning programmes offered by the UFS.

It reaches more than 6 000 students on 48 satellite campuses in South Africa. With the influx of long-distant learners, the South Campus is the fastest growing UFS campus. The facilities on the South Campus can accommodate up to 4 000 students and include lecture rooms, an auditorium, a library, an impressive administration building and residences.

The South Campus also plays a major role in providing a gateway to higher education and training for students from lower levels of school education to develop their potential and reach their dreams. The University Access Programme enable learners to ultimately enter the mainstream curriculum. Success stories are abundant and some of the former students are medical practitioners today.





Qwaqwa Campus



The Qwaqwa Campus lies in one of the most beautiful areas of South Africa – the foothills of the majestic Drakensberg Mountains. Tucked away at Phuthaditjhaba in a tiny corner of the beautiful Eastern Free State, the campus has humble beginnings of hardship and struggle, but also of progress and achievement.



Born out of a desperate need for a higher education institution, the campus became a place of choice over the years. Today, not only local students are enrolled here. Many postgraduate students from all over the world also join the ranks. The Qwaqwa Campus is probably the fastest growing rural campus in South Africa.

This is not only seen in student numbers and the academic offering, but also in the infrastructure. The mushrooming of new buildings in the past decade has changed the skyline where the campus nestles as the gateway to the QwaQwa region. The beautiful grounds, planted with grass, trees and roses, the new walkways and common spaces, add to the atmosphere.

In the academic offering, careful consideration was given to the reality of the campus's geographic position, the socio-economic background of potential students, the educational needs of the catchment area, and the natural resources of the region. The main consideration was that the learning programmes, research, academic interventions, and community-service learning opportunities would be socially and educationally responsive to the region.

In line with the vision of the UFS to develop niche areas for its campuses, socio-economic development, informed by a rural context, is the envisaged niche-area focus for the Qwaqwa Campus. Stimulating growth, job creation and entrepreneurship in the region has always been the main focus in the creation of demand-driven academic, skills and community development programmes offered here. Programmes are underpinned by a strong research agenda that focuses on identifying the best possible strategies for creating jobs in impoverished rural areas and understanding how best to stimulate economic growth in these contexts.

The campus offers programmes in the faculties of the Humanities, Education, Economic and Management Sciences, as well as Natural and Agricultural Sciences, with postgraduate teaching in various centres of excellence.







Postgraduate School

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FREISTATA



UFS·UV
POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
NAGRAADSE SKOOL



As one of the latest ventures of the UFS, the Postgraduate School helps students in their transition from undergraduate to postgraduate studies. Important adjustments must be made in students' thinking about their academic work, their motivation, their academic competencies, and the environment in which they do it.

The Postgraduate School assists in breaking down the isolation in which the students work by providing support and guidance through research supervisors.

SPORT



With 22 sporting codes to choose from, the UFS is an important incubator for participants in national sports teams and individual activities. Over the years, the UFS produced more than 80 national athletes. Of these athletes, 15 were world champions and/or participated in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. More than 100 Springbok and Seven's players called the UFS home. Netball delivered three national captains in the past 15 years. The UFS was also the national tennis champions for eight consecutive years.



22

Sport codes



More than 100 Springbok and Seven's players

More than 80 national athletes



Three national captains in netball



National tennis champions for eight consecutive years

SPORT STATISTICS

COMMUNITY

The UFS cannot be separated from the environment and communities it is serving. The commitment not only lies in the academic and research offering, or the economic contribution to the welfare of the region. The UFS takes it further, with service learning built into the various programmes and projects, such as:

- The No Student Hungry Bursary Programme, with about 150 deserving students receiving grants to buy meals.
- More than 70 schools in the country are part of the Schools Partnership Programme, showing a remarkable improvement in their final-year results.
- The Family Maths and Family Science Initiative.
- The Schools Change Project focuses on the improvement of dysfunctional and disadvantaged high schools around the university, with special emphasis on Science, Mathematics, and Accountancy. The project started off with 23 schools.

The UFS has more than 60 community projects.



COMMITMENT



DROP US A LINE

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South Campus

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Photos: Charl Devenish | Johan Roux | Sonia Small | Anja Aucamp