



INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

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

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



UFS IN NUMBERS



2521
staff members





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Message from the Rector and Vice-Chancellor

Since 1904, the University of the Free State (UFS) has grown steadily as a recognised university, with scholars who influence global growth. Today, we have several international partnerships that contribute to a rich body of knowledge and skills, because research and learning is what you expect from an excellent university.

My vision is to grow a university that embraces diversity, inclusivity, and academic excellence. Everybody must feel welcome and safe when they enter our learning and living spaces on the three campuses in Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa. It must be a place where both social and academic dreams are realised – an experience that forms a balanced foundation for whatever the future demands.

I want the UFS to be of service and value to its staff, students, and community, and to act as an agent of diversity and inclusion in its immediate space, as well as beyond. I want it to

be an environment that encourages tough-topic conversations – because that is the only way to truth and justice. I would like to invite you to be part of my vision for the UFS.

The UFS will continue to search for worthwhile local, national, and international research collaborations. Exposure to various researchers across the globe will help us to stay current and respond to the quest for multidisciplinary programmes.

I am proud to offer you a glimpse of who we are in this publication. Whether you are a visiting academic, prospective student, a current Kopsie, alumnus, donor, or prospective donor, choosing this university will be one of the best decisions you could make. From the moment that you become one of us, we will make your stay with us a memorable experience. And while you are with us, let us learn from you too.

After all, at Kopsies we inspire excellence and transform lives.

The UFS is a research-led, student-centred and regionally-engaged university that contributes to development and social justice through the production of globally competitive graduates and knowledge.

Vision



Goals

UFS goals according to the 2018–2022 Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1:** Improve student success and wellbeing.
- Goal 2:** Renew and transform the curriculum.
- Goal 3:** Increase UFS contribution to local, regional and global knowledge.
- Goal 4:** Support development and social justice through engaged scholarship.
- Goal 5:** Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of governance and support systems.
- Goal 6:** Achieve financial sustainability.
- Goal 7:** Advance an institutional culture that demonstrates the values of the UFS.

Our motto

IN VERITATE
SAPIENTIAE
LUX

(In Truth is
the Light of
Wisdom)



Our priorities

Academic excellence.

We encourage our academic staff to become specialist researchers and transfer their knowledge and skills to our students. While we have access programmes in place, rigorous entry requirements support graduate success. By emphasising research outputs, expert staff, and promising students, we incubate a productive economy, and next generation academics.



Diversity, transformation, and inclusivity.

The progress we made in this regard is recognised both nationally and internationally for its sophistication and boldness. Our culture of inclusion and diversity creates a welcoming space for students, staff, and visitors. This culture is stretched beyond our boundaries with different community projects and initiatives. We bridge the divide between academics and communities by sharing knowledge and putting skills to practice.





Innovation.

Sophisticated systems govern academic efficiency, management, facilities, funding, marketing, and ICT. These systems provide valuable student, staff, and customer-related data for decision-making and improving. Furthermore, we encourage pioneering projects for 3rd stream income generation to achieve financial sustainability.



Then and now



1904

Founded as Grey College School with 6 students



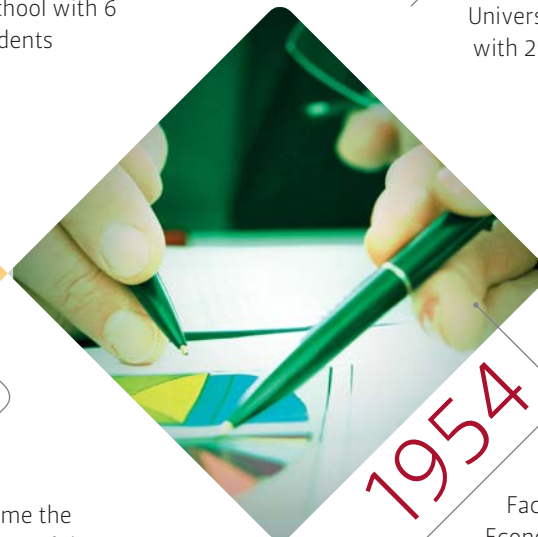
1906

Renamed as Grey University College with 29 students



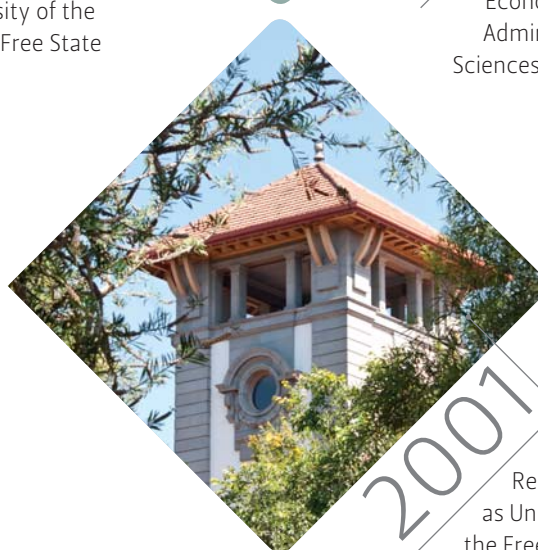
1950

Became the University of the Orange Free State



1954

Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences established



2007

Renamed as University of the Free State with 30 000+ students

From a humble start, the UFS became a well-known institution boasting 158 NRF-rated researchers and 2 521 staff members.

Our students can participate in 22 different sport disciplines and study from 671 182 library books, including 14 000 E-books. The Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support at the UFS is working hard to create an institutional culture where persons with disabilities are embraced and welcomed on all three our campuses. The university has a holistic coordinated approach to render a proper and appropriate individualised support service to students with disabilities. Our ever-expanding facilities and knowledge base present many opportunities for scholars to impact locally and globally.



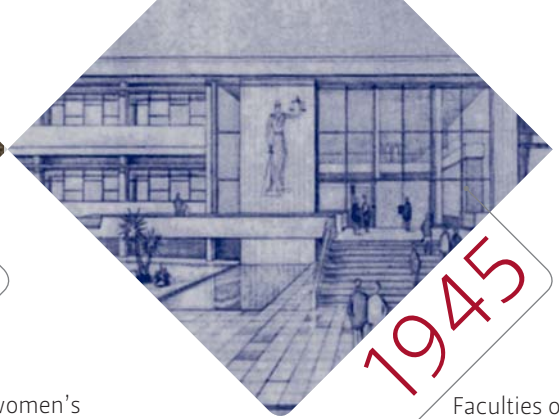
1909

First men's residence, House Abraham Fischer, completed



1919

First women's residence, President Steyn, completed



1945

Faculties of Law, Education, and Social Science established



1958

Faculty of Agriculture established



1969

Faculty of Medicine established



1980

Faculty of Theology established



2003

Qwaqwa Campus incorporated



2004

South Campus incorporated

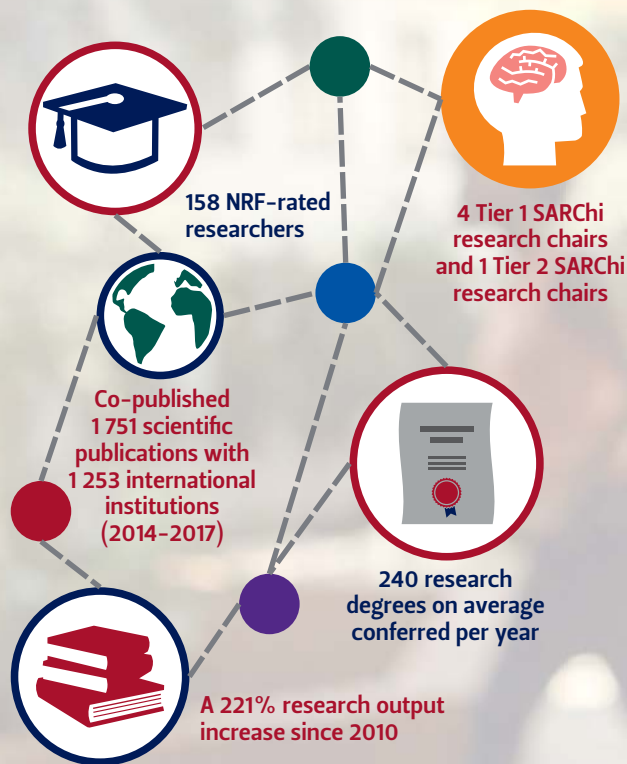


2018

40 491 students enrolled

Research

Universities collect and confirm knowledge about the past, present, and possible future. We use this knowledge for social and economic development. The UFS boasts an increase in knowledge generation with both essential and captivating projects that generate a significant 3rd stream income. We are proud of:



Our top-notch researchers have many exciting opportunities that not only produce critical knowledge, but also generate an income and contribute to the economy. Growing these knowledge platforms and entrepreneurial research will increasingly become the future of universities.

CELEBRATED RESEARCH

Discovered...

the mineral tredouxite near Barberton. The chemical composition of tredouxite is NiSb_2O_6 (nickel antimony oxide).



Explored...

nanotechnology that brings us closer to non-penetrative cancer treatment



Exposed... life in deep earth at 1,3 km below the surface, where a small worm thrives under extreme conditions in deep, hot, mines.



Implanted...

a special pulmonary heart valve in a young person, making paediatric history.





Produced a...
vaccine against a virus
that cannot be cultured,
making vaccines against
more viruses a possibility.



Showed... surprising
links between Hebrew and
African languages.



Starred... in a
documentary, *Last of the
Longnecks*, about the
extinction of giraffes.



Unravelled... the story
behind the Dead Sea Scrolls
during a chance discovery
of correspondence depicting
the cloak-and-dagger
purchasing of these scrolls.



Uncovered that...
Ethiopian gelada monkeys cheat
on their partners and cover it up
– while studying their cognitive
and communicative skills.

Institutional research contribution

Besides the many inter-faculty, -department, and -unit research undertakings, we run large-scale projects as an institution. The following are some of our flagship ventures:

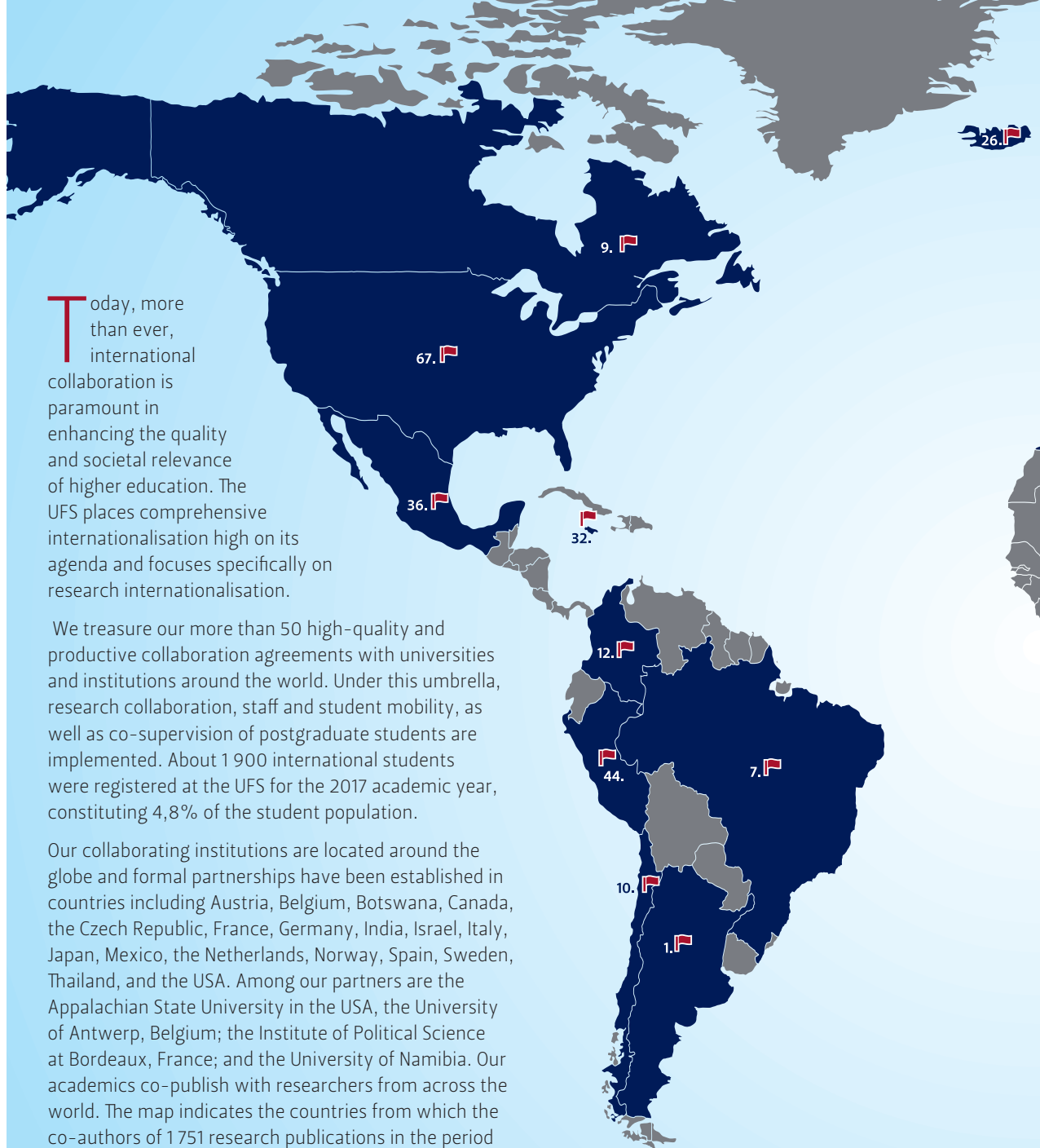
- A number of academics at the UFS are conducting research on an international level. One of these researchers is **Dr Lize Joubert**. Her research field is **plant systematics and pollination biology**, which led her to Cambridge University for nearly two years where she became part of a research group under an expert in her field, Prof Beverley Glover. Another researcher doing international work is **Prof Abdon Atangana** (Institute for Groundwater Studies), having research collaborations with **more than 60 international institutions**. He specialises in, among others, applied mathematics, groundwater modelling, and fractional calculus.
- The **Afromontane Research Centre** on the Qwaqwa Campus is ideally placed to promote interdisciplinary research on sustainable development of the area and recognises the importance of montane environments.
- The **Centre for Research on Higher Education and Development (CRHED)** is concerned with increasing social justice and equality in and through higher education. Our research focus on how higher education contributes to human development by growing people's capabilities and agency.
- The astronomical research station, the **Boyden Observatory**, situated 26 kilometres east of Bloemfontein, also offers a Science Education Centre with the help of the UFS and its donors.
- Established by the UFS with the support of the Department of Science and Technology, the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and the Mangaung Metro Municipality, the **Naval Hill Planetarium** is the **first digital planetarium** in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The **International Studies Group** is a network of postgraduate researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and academic staff who work together. During regular meetings, they discuss and comment on one another's research.

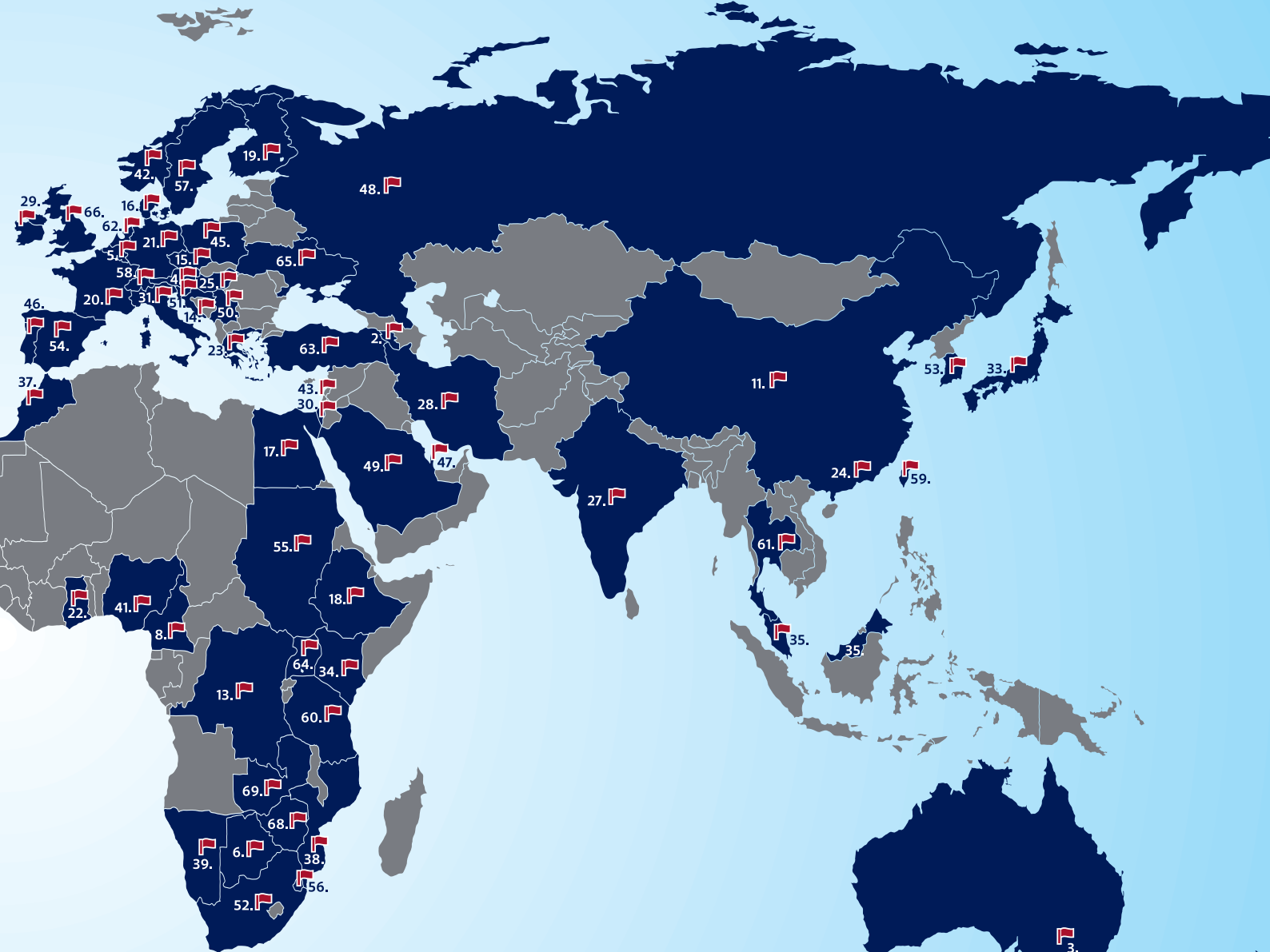
Global footprint

Today, more than ever, international collaboration is paramount in enhancing the quality and societal relevance of higher education. The UFS places comprehensive internationalisation high on its agenda and focuses specifically on research internationalisation.

We treasure our more than 50 high-quality and productive collaboration agreements with universities and institutions around the world. Under this umbrella, research collaboration, staff and student mobility, as well as co-supervision of postgraduate students are implemented. About 1 900 international students were registered at the UFS for the 2017 academic year, constituting 4,8% of the student population.

Our collaborating institutions are located around the globe and formal partnerships have been established in countries including Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the USA. Among our partners are the Appalachian State University in the USA, the University of Antwerp, Belgium; the Institute of Political Science at Bordeaux, France; and the University of Namibia. Our academics co-publish with researchers from across the world. The map indicates the countries from which the co-authors of 1 751 research publications in the period 2014–2017 hail.





- | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Argentina | 13. Congo | 25. Hungary | 37. Morocco | 49. Saudi Arabia | |
| 2. Armenia | 14. Croatia | 26. Iceland | 38. Mozambique | 50. Serbia | |
| 3. Australia | 15. Czech Republic | 27. India | 39. Namibia | 51. Slovenia | 61. Thailand |
| 4. Austria | 16. Denmark | 28. Iran | 40. New Zealand | 52. South Africa | 62. The Netherlands |
| 5. Belgium | 17. Egypt | 29. Ireland | 41. Nigeria | 53. South Korea | 63. Turkey |
| 6. Botswana | 18. Ethiopia | 30. Israel | 42. Norway | 54. Spain | 64. Uganda |
| 7. Brazil | 19. Finland | 31. Italy | 43. Palestine | 55. Sudan | 65. Ukraine |
| 8. Cameroon | 20. France | 32. Jamaica | 44. Peru | 56. Swaziland | 66. United Kingdom |
| 9. Canada | 21. Germany | 33. Japan | 45. Poland | 57. Sweden | 67. The USA |
| 10. Chile | 22. Ghana | 34. Kenya | 46. Portugal | 58. Switzerland | 68. Zambia |
| 11. China | 23. Greece | 35. Malaysia | 47. Qatar | 59. Taiwan | 69. Zimbabwe |
| 12. Colombia | 24. Hong Kong | 36. Mexico | 48. Russian Federation | | |



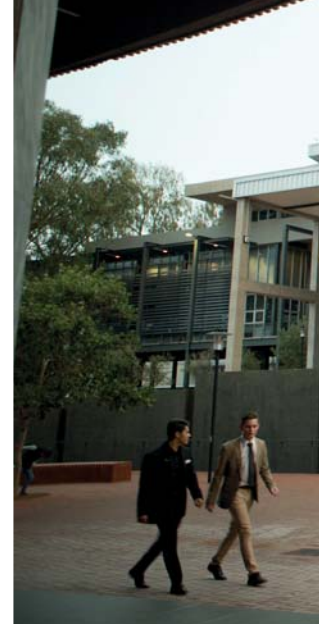
Business School

"We create opportunities for the future."

The UFS Business School in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is a leader in providing management and leadership programmes in South Africa. We are also at the forefront of recognising prior learning.

A dual on-campus and on-line coaching environment maximizes student potential and deliver exceptional results. We empower individuals and organisations by sharing our knowledge and converting learning to practice.

Also operating under the school's banner, The Centre for Business Dynamics offers customised non-curricular training to help companies and individuals bridge skills gaps for enhanced performance and competitiveness. In cooperation with a network of national and international experts, we offer tailor-made organisational and personal development solutions.





UV SAKESKOOL
UFS BUSINESS SCHOOL



Economic and Management Sciences

"Get market-driven knowledge and skills."

As the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, our mission is to be dynamic, innovative, and quality-driven. We cover a diverse academic spectrum, from public and private sector management, to specialised training for accountants at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Our graduates typically include managers, accountants, chartered accountants, economists, industrial psychologists, and marketing professionals.

Innovative programme development that addresses market demands, and increased global exchange agreements attract international interest. We are well positioned to equip both national and international students with the knowledge and skills required by the world economy. Classes are presented on both our Bloemfontein and our Qwaqwa Campuses.



A photograph of a modern, white, multi-story building with large glass windows. The building has a clean, minimalist design. In the foreground, there are vibrant red flowers and green foliage, slightly out of focus. A tall, black lamp post with a modern, tiered design stands to the right of the building. The sky is overcast with soft clouds. The overall scene is bright and modern.

FLIPP
GROENEWOUD
E



Education

"Learn with us."

The faculty educates teachers in several disciplines. Classes are presented on both our Bloemfontein and our Qwaqwa Campuses. Our primary role is to prepare students for work. Continuous research and community outreaches help us to keep theory and practice relevant. Once qualified, we also help teachers to stay informed and skilled.

We produce many honours and master's graduates in critical areas such as Curriculum Studies, Higher Education, Psychology of Education, Philosophy and Policy Studies in Education, and Comparative Education and Educational Management.

In the continuing education sector, short courses such as the Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) and the National Professional Diploma in Education (NPDE) address the profession's changing needs, focusing on the upgrade of Science, Mathematics, and Technology knowledge and methodology.







Health Sciences

"Cultivating quality healthcare service."

The School of Clinical Medicine, School for Allied Health Professions, School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Pathology, and School of Nursing in the Faculty of Health Sciences offer excellent healthcare qualifications. Ground-breaking research and development of unique procedures place the faculty at the forefront in the world of health, delivering sought-after graduates.

We develop students' academic knowledge and clinical expertise with innovative teaching and learning styles, including simulated and clinical skills development. The faculty boasts with a high-tech educational facility for students in the School of Nursing, The Space. A magnificent clinical skills and clinical simulation laboratory is operational and used for student training in the School of Clinical Medicine. In addition to training doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, and optometrists, we have added a new B Biokinetics programme.

As a centre of excellence, the Faculty of Health Sciences is committed to teaching, research, and community service.



ITALIA LOOTS

GEBOU
BUILDING





Law

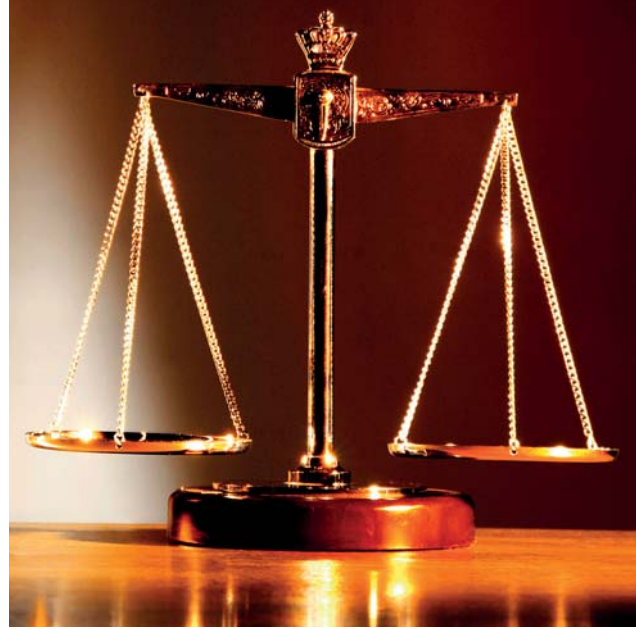
"Socially aware and culturally relevant."

The Faculty of Law is one of the oldest and most distinguished faculties of its kind in South Africa, and produced many top legal minds. Situated in the judicial capital, Bloemfontein, our students are exposed to the practice of law in the lower and higher divisions of the courts.

Our 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.

Rated among the best in the country, we take pride in our high academic standard. Celebrated for research of international standing, we have close relationships with law schools and faculties in Britain, Europe, and the USA.

Through the UFS Law Clinic, the faculty is visibly involved in delivering services to the community. The Free State Centre for Human Rights also forms part of the Faculty of Law. This institution focuses on research and activism with regard to issues related to human rights and transformation.







Natural and Agricultural Sciences

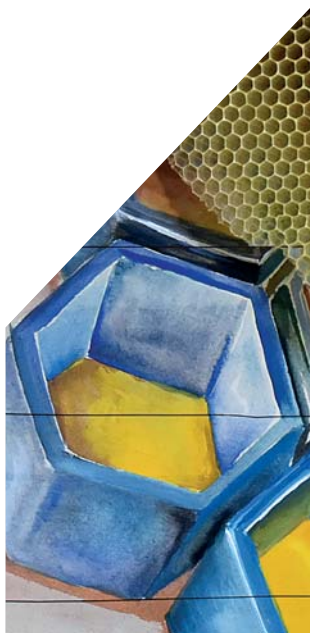
"No substitute for excellence."

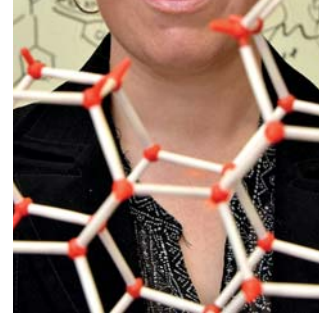
The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences offers more than 160 internationally accredited undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in three main categories: Natural Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Building Sciences.

With our interesting curricula and exciting research agenda, we attract both national and international students to our Bloemfontein and Qwaqwa Campuses. Our students have many opportunities for further study, research, and scholarly community engagement in diverse disciplines spanning the natural, agricultural, and building sciences.

Possible careers include 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 many more.

We are an engaged faculty, and our interactions with our community is integrated with research and teaching.







The Humanities

"Excellent, creative, equitable."

The Faculty of the Humanities has many academic departments and modules that include disciplines such as Languages, the Arts, Human Sciences, Social Sciences, and Cultural Sciences. The faculty also has students on the UFS Qwaqwa Campus. Due to this variety, students can compile a degree programme that suits their career choice, interests, and skills. Career options include journalism, criminology, psychology, sign language and other interpreting, acting, politics, and social work.

We boast many distinguished academics, researchers, authors, and artists recognised nationally and internationally. Exceptional milestones include the French government commending our French translations, and establishing Sign Language as an academic programme.

We aim 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.





STABILISGEBOU

WYNAND MOUTON-TEATER

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
SCHOOL VAN MUSIEK



Theology and Religion

"Teaching, research, and community service."

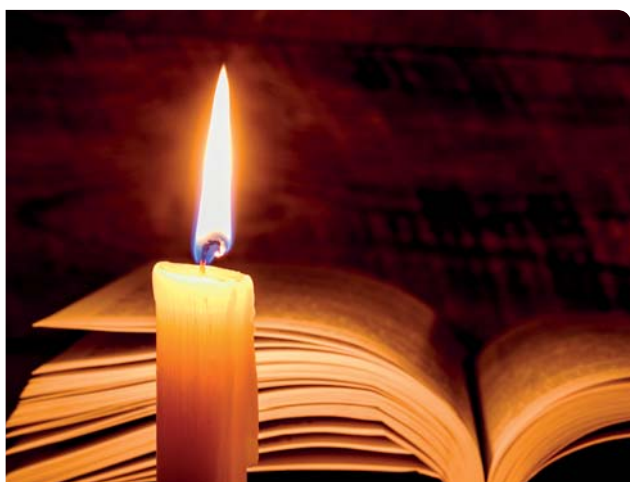
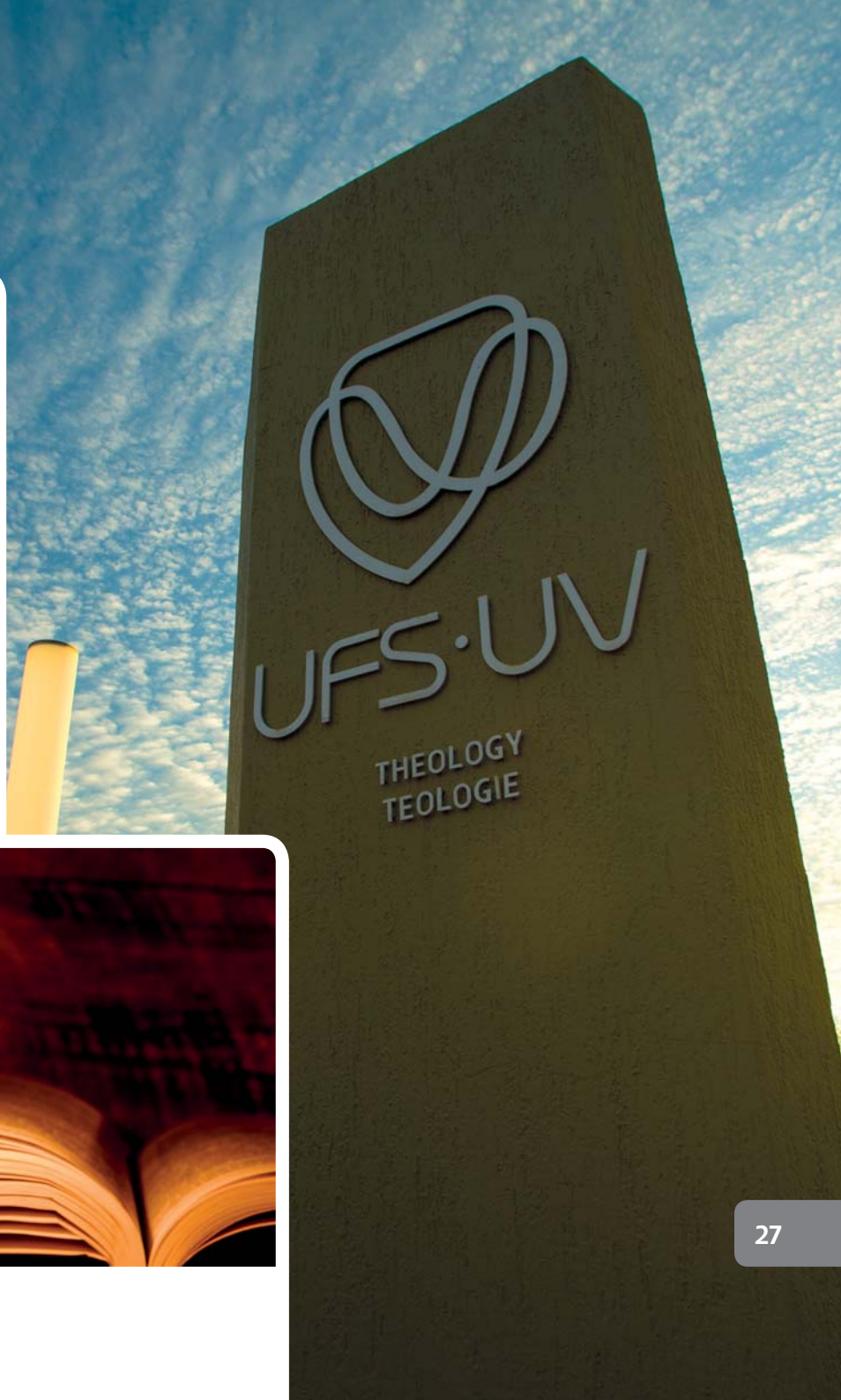
As the youngest faculty on campus, Theology firmly established itself since our inception in 1980. We are the only fully fledged, all-inclusive theological education institution of its kind in central South Africa.

Our aim is to train and serve responsible and innovative spiritual leaders who will make a difference wherever they go. Career options for students with a degree in Theology include minister, pastor, lifestyle coach, pastoral therapist, and youth worker.

We underwrite high academic standards, focused on nationally and internationally acknowledged research. About 60% of our students are postgraduates from all over the world, including Africa, Europe, Asia, and the USA.

With students from various church denominations, we make a unique national and international contribution to the development of the church, society, and the academic theological environment.







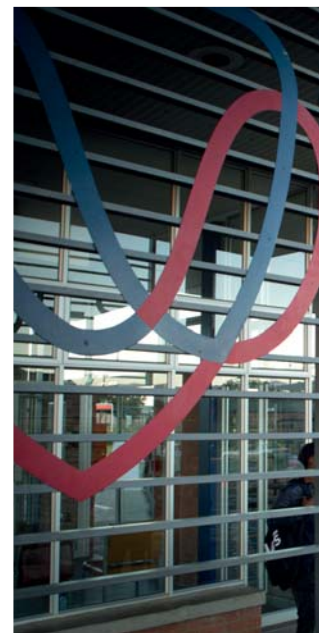
Qwaqwa Campus

"Empower students beyond academia."

Situated in the scenic sandstone mountains of Phuthaditjhaba in the Eastern Free State, our Qwaqwa Campus attracts students from across the continent, with the majority from the Eastern Free State and western KwaZulu-Natal.

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. Our main consideration was that the learning programmes, research, academic interventions, and community-service learning opportunities would be socially and educationally responsive to the region.

Recently added was the Afromontane Research Unit. The primary focus of the unit is the sustainable development of the Maloti-Drakensberg Afromontane area.



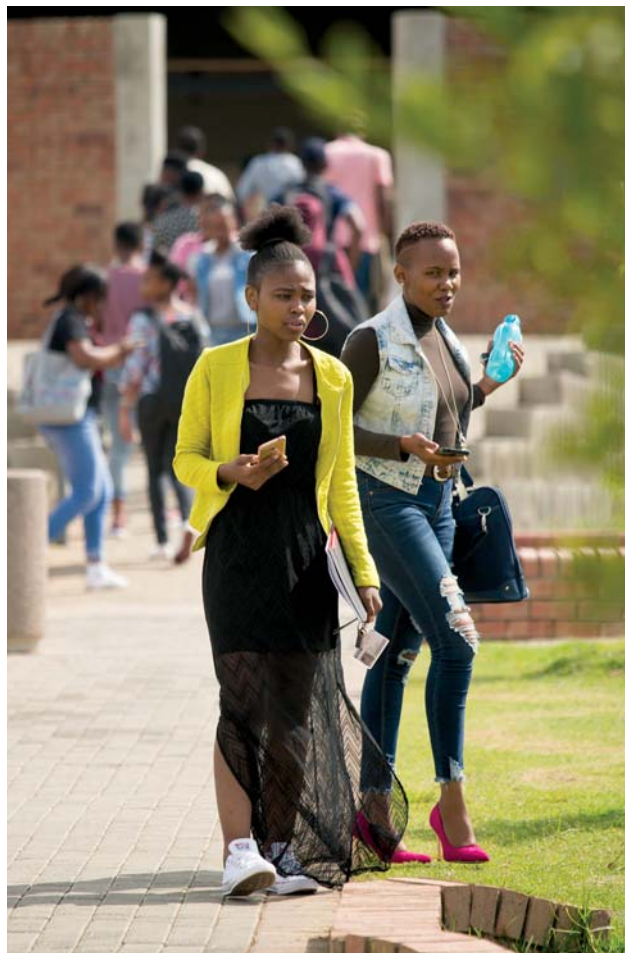


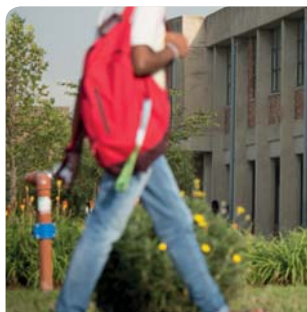
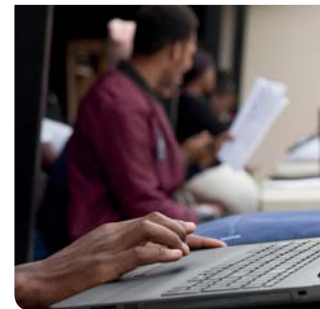
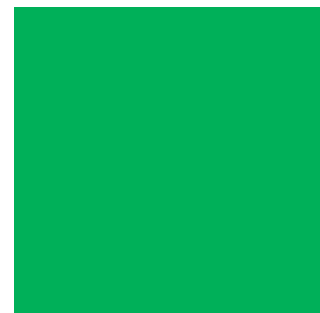


The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) has a SARCHI Chair that is to be shared with the UFS in the ARU. This collaborative research initiative will focus on trans-disciplinary mountain research, with the Chair expertise strong in the social sciences.

With the influx of postgraduate students from around the globe, the Qwaqwa Campus is probably the fastest growing rural campus in South Africa. To address the recent growth spurt, existing buildings were renovated, the infrastructure updated, and new buildings added. The huge investment in infrastructure makes it one of the best equipped rural campuses, with a spacious layout, modern lecture theatres, and comfortable residences.

Various male, female, and day residences accommodate students' living, learning, and social needs, with floodlit stadia, athletic tracks, netball and basketball courts catering for sports talent and aspiration.







South Campus

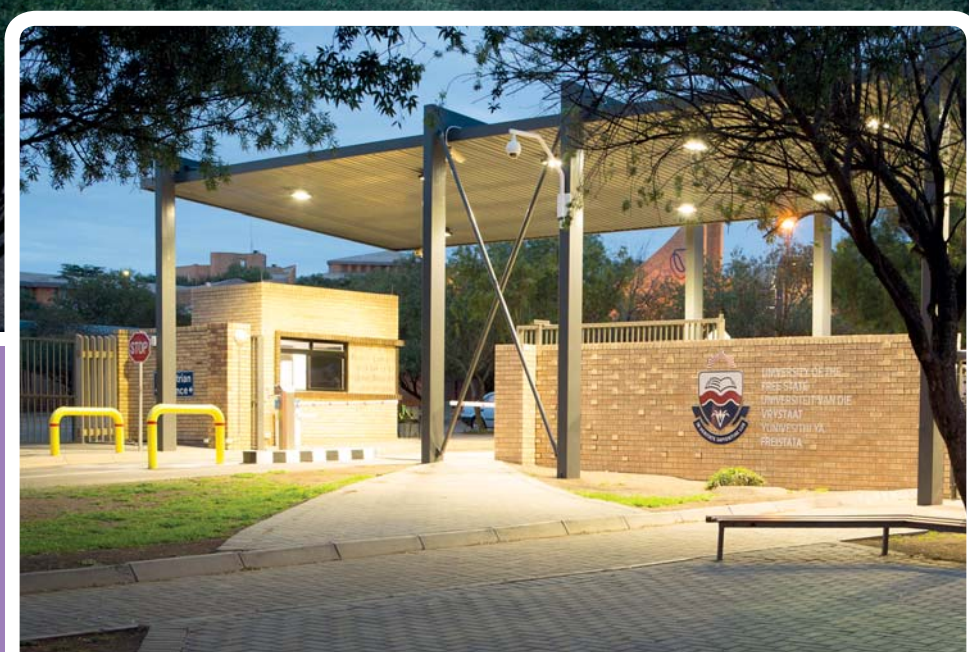
(School of Open Learning)

"Gateway to education."

Incorporated into the UFS in 2004, the School of Open Learning at our South Campus plays two important roles. As our fastest growing campus, it is a distance learning hub – reaching 6 000+ students at 51 satellite campuses nationwide. The on-site facilities can accommodate up to 4 000 students and include lecture rooms, an auditorium, a library, an impressive administration building, and residences.

In addition to boosting the economy of the region and enhancing its people, it provides 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. Since the programme began in 1993, more than 3 630 UAP students graduated – including 312 honours degrees, 38 master's degrees, and 9 MB ChB degrees.







Postgraduate School

"Study to make a change."

The Postgraduate School is a hub of support for all those who pursue studies past a first degree. We help students with the shift from undergrad to postgrad studies. There is a new type of expectancy of, and demand on the way students think, their motivation, and their academic competencies. Through mentorship programmes and social events, the Postgraduate School also assists in breaking down the isolation in which postgrad students often operate.

To equip students with postgrad skills, they can attend various workshops ranging from advanced research methodology, ethics, article writing, funding proposal, and many more.

Apart from capacity building and social activities, we also explore postgraduate funding opportunities and assist students with applications for prestigious bursaries and fellowships.



JOHANNES BRILL GEBOU BUILDING





SPORT

"Participate!"



22
Sport codes



103
Springbok
and Sevens
Rugby players



84
National
athletes



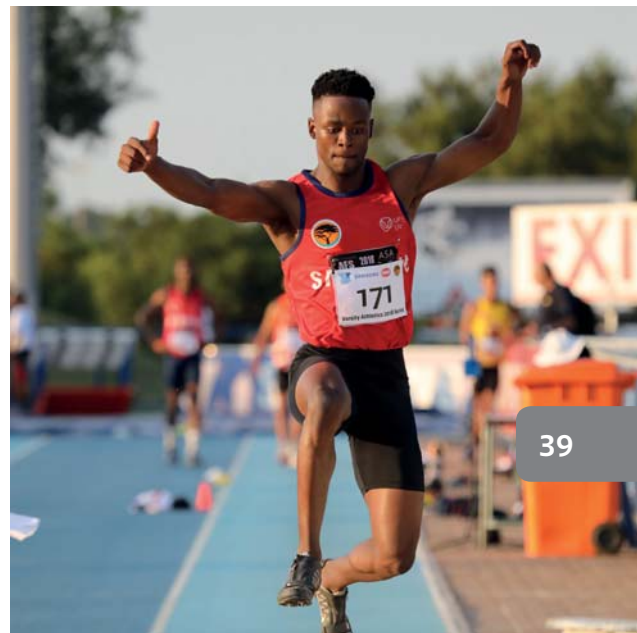
1
Olympian Gold Medallist

38

With 22 sporting codes to choose from, the UFS is an important incubator for participants in team and individual sport. We have produced more than 80 national athletes, of which 15 were world champions and/or participated in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. More than 100 Springbok and Sevens players studies with us, and UFS netball delivered three national captains during the past 12 years. We were also the national tennis champions for eight years running.

Just in the last year, the likes of Louzanne Coetzee and Wayde van Niekerk (athletics), Karla Pretorius (netball), Raynard van Tonder (cricket), and Kesa Molotsane (athletics) set the world alight at international level.





On Campus

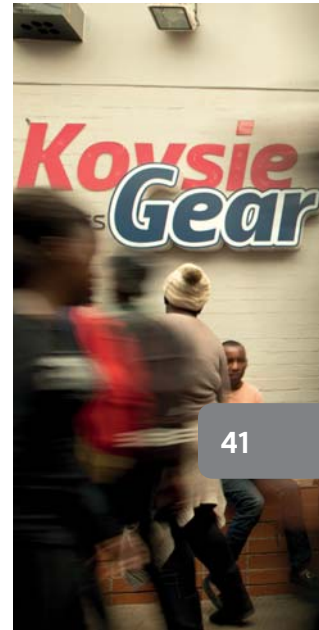


KovsieGear



KovsieGear, situated on the Bloemfontein Campus, is an award-winning shop that allows you to live the UFS brand in a real way. In 2016 we won two awards for this trendy initiative: (i) PRISM Gold Award from the Public Relations Institute of Southern Africa (PRISA) – Africa’s most sought-after award in the public relations industry; (ii) MACE Platinum Award – MACE (Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education) promotes best practices in Southern Africa with excellence awards.

From stylish shirts to hoodies with attitude, from corporate gifts to nifty gadgets – we offer a shopping experience to students, staff, alumni, and visitors. Visit us at the Bloemfontein or Qwaqwa Campuses.

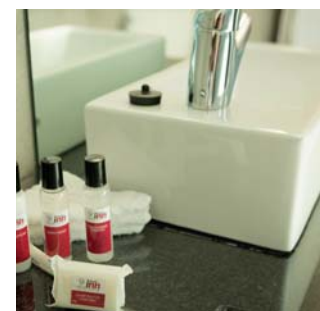
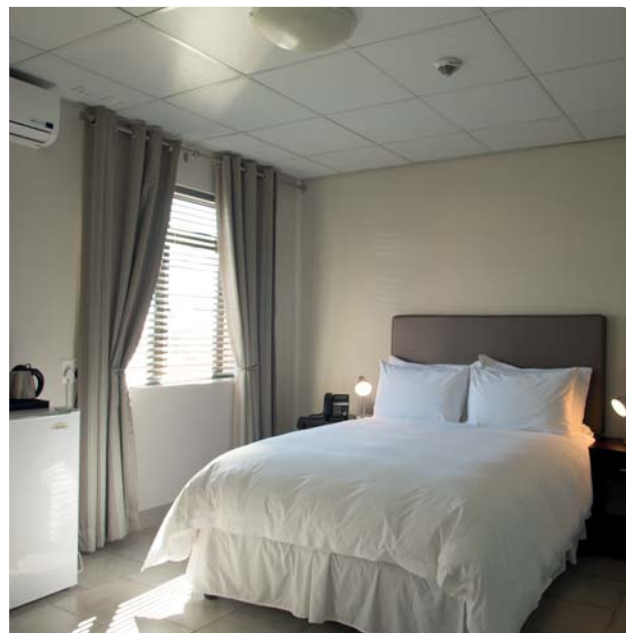
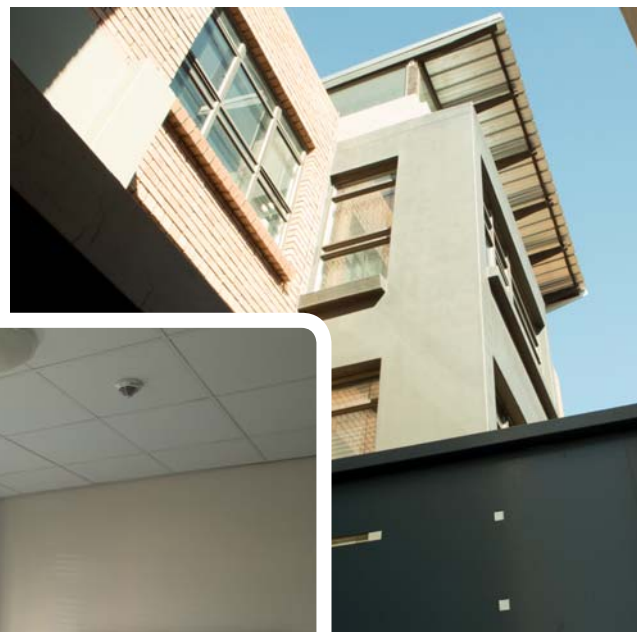


Kovsielnn



Kovsielnn, situated on the western part of the Bloemfontein Campus, opened its doors in January 2015, offering boutique-type guest accommodation. Our fresh interior suits most preferences and creates a welcoming atmosphere. The 18 en suite bedrooms ensures a comfortable stay for UFS visitors.

Guests are treated to free Wi-Fi, DSTV in all rooms, safe parking, and strict access control to ensure a relaxed stay. We serve a full English and Continental breakfast in our breakfast room and on the patio, with lunch and dinner served on request. Enjoy tranquillity, close to campus facilities.





KovsieFit

KovsieFit is a brand-new commercial gym located in the Callie Human Centre on the Bloemfontein Campus of the UFS – because a healthy body promotes a healthy mind. It is firstly available to students and staff, and then to the public. We offer various training classes, supported by a large range of apparatus and sophisticated scientific service equipment.

Postgraduate Health Sciences students provide performance testing, athlete conditioning, general fitness and wellness programmes, as well as rehabilitation in collaboration with Sports Medicine and Physiotherapy.



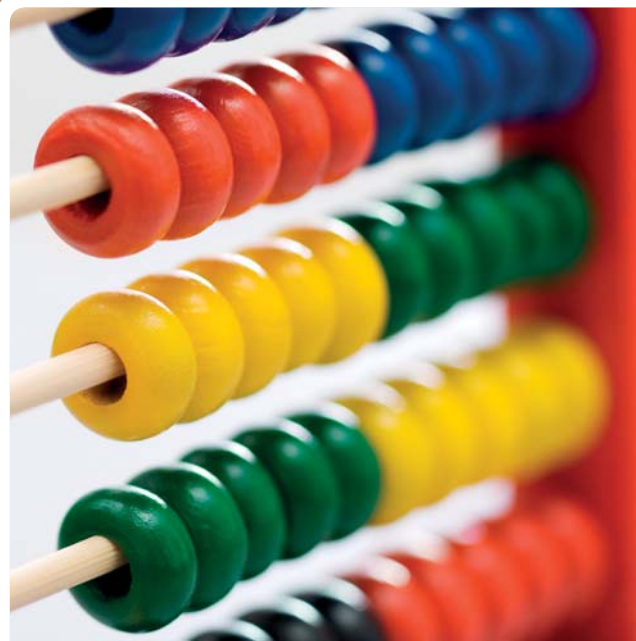
Community Commitment

We are committed to serve our community and environment. This commitment goes further than our academic and research offering, or our economic contribution to the welfare of the region. Through more than 60 community projects, we want to make a direct impact on those in need.

- **864 students** have received **No Student Hungry** meal grants, of which **62** have already graduated.
- Via our **Community Engagement Food Security Project**, a vegetable garden on the Qwaqwa Campus supplies vegetables to the **NSH** and **Team Spirit Care Centre** (place of safety for vulnerable children) in Qwaqwa.
- Through the **Schools Partnership Programme**, over **70** schools are mentor-assisted, showing a remarkable improvement in their final-year results.
- **Students** from the **Qwaqwa Campus** mentor and train high school learners to become resilient in life within the **Kagiso Trust Resilience Network**.
- **Family Maths and Family Science** encourage family participation in these important subjects that form part of our daily lives.
- **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**.
- With the **Internet Broadcast Project** (IBP), school lessons covering a range of subjects are broadcasted live from the South Campus studio in Bloemfontein to over **60** educational centres.

“Because we care.”







Drop us a line

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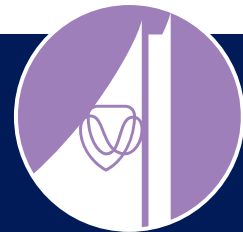
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