



# CORPORATE PROFILE

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## UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

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 UFSUV |  UFSweb |  UFSweb

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

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



113  
years old  
(1904-2017)



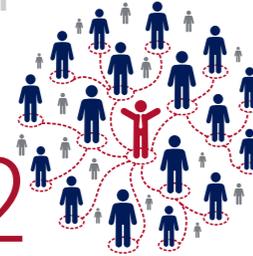
7  
faculties



39 311  
total students



122  
departments



3  
campuses



26 100  
Bloemfontein Campus  
students



5 423  
Qwaqwa Campus  
students



7 788  
South Campus  
students



12  
new  
buildings  
(2012-2017)



2 388  
staff members



1 200  
works of art



157  
renovated  
buildings  
(2012-2017)



51  
satellite  
campuses



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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 lays 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 Kovsie, 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 Kovies we inspire excellence and transform lives.

2 Prof Francis Petersen  
Rector and Vice-Chancellor  
University of the Free State



## Vision

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



## Values

These five core values guide all our policies and actions

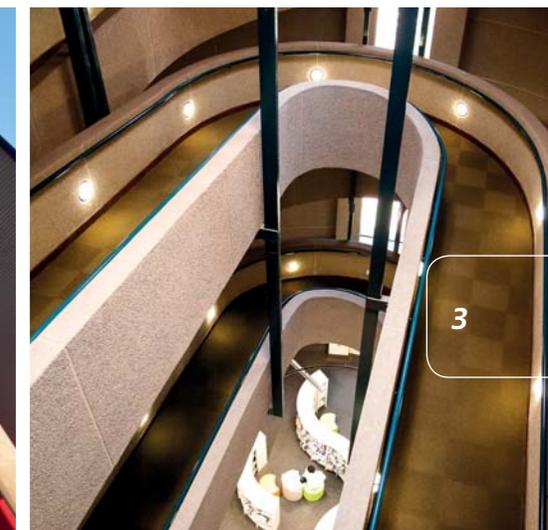
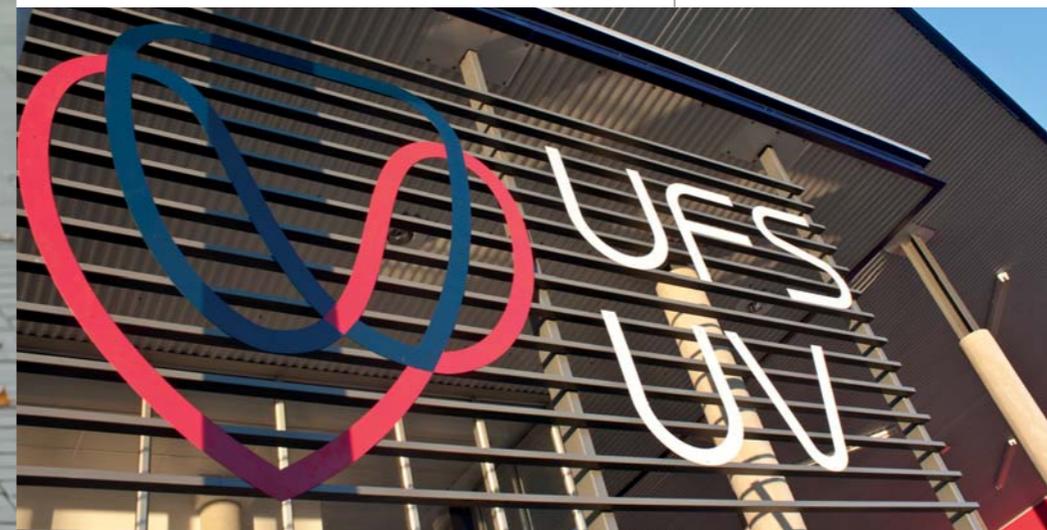
- Superior Scholarship
- Human Embrace
- Institutional Distinctiveness
- Emergent Leadership
- Public Service



## Mission

We pursue our vision by:

- 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.



# Our priorities

## On leading...

**Value progress.** We seek innovation in all we do. Sophisticated systems look after academic efficiency, management, facilities, funding, marketing, and IT. These systems provide valuable student, staff, and customer-related data for decision-making and improving. Furthermore, we encourage pioneering projects for third-stream income generation in order to drop our dependence on tuition fees and achieve financial sustainability.

## On living...

**Have a heart for people.** We drive diversity, transformation, and inclusivity. The progress 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.

## On learning...

**Seeking academic excellence.** We deliver by inspiring 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 professors.



# Then and now

1904

Founded as Grey College School with 6 students



1906

Renamed as Grey University College with 29 students



1958

Faculty of Agriculture established



1969

Faculty of Health Sciences established



1909

First men's residence, House Abraham Fischer, completed



1919

First women's residence, President Steyn, completed



1980

Faculty of Theology established



2001

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



From a humble start in 1904, the UFS became a well-known institution, boasting 148 NRF-accredited professors and 2 866 staff members. Our students can participate in 22 different sport disciplines and study from 671 182 library books, including 14 000 E-books. Our ever-expanding facilities and knowledge base present many opportunities for scholars to impact locally and globally.

1954

Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences established



1945

Faculties of Law, Education, and Social Science established



1950

Became the University of the Orange Free State



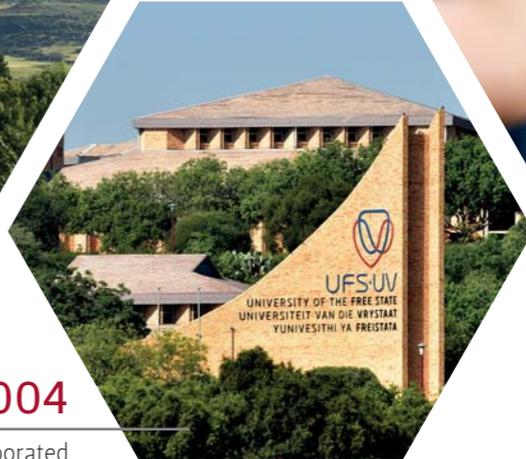
2003

Qwaqwa Campus incorporated



2004

South Campus incorporated



2017

37 851 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 through both essential and captivating projects that generate a significant third-stream income. Why are we a research hub of choice for students and staff? We have:

148  
NRF-rated  
researchers



1  
P-rated scientist



3  
A-rated  
scientists



5  
tier-1 SARCHI  
research chairs  
(internationally  
recognised researchers)



18  
international  
research  
partnerships



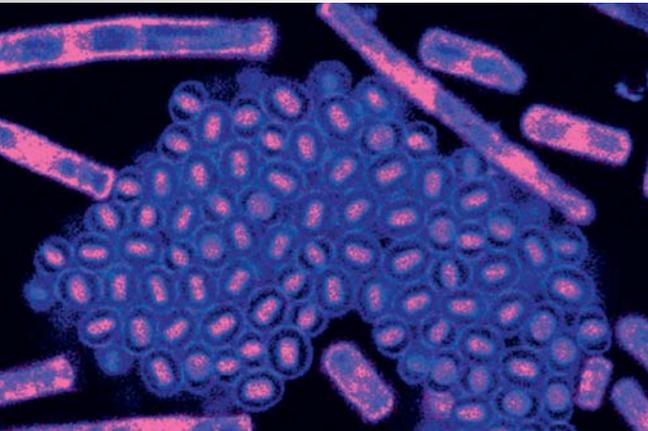
240  
postgraduate  
research degrees  
on average  
conferred per  
year



221%  
research output  
increase since 2010



Our top-notch researchers have many existing 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.



## Institutional research contribution

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

- The **Afromontane Research Unit** at the Qwaqwa Campus is interested in the conservation and sustainable use of Afromontane (as subregion of one of earth's eight biogeographic realms) biodiversity. They also research life and trade in Afromontane environments, as well as sustainable futures for Afromontane inhabitants.
- At the **Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice**, students, staff, and community members meet to find ways of connecting different views, realities, and goals. Via discussions, research, and innovative teaching, we seek solutions to complex and challenging issues.
- 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 UFS and the South African Human Rights Commission agreed to establish a human rights centre on the Bloemfontein Campus, and in 2016, the **Free State Centre for Human Rights (FSCHR)** began operation with three interrelated divisions: Research and postgraduate, advocacy, and legal services.
- 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.
- The astronomical research station, **Boyden Observatory**, situated 26 kilometres east of Bloemfontein, also offers a Science Education Centre with the help of the UFS and its donors.
- The **Naval Hill Planetarium**, 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 Metropolitan Municipality, is the first digital planetarium in Sub-Saharan Africa.

# Global footprint

*“Making our mark worldwide.”*

Today, more than ever, international collaboration is paramount. These critical partnerships help us to deliver current and relevant research.

We treasure our more than 50 high-quality and productive agreements with universities and institutions around the world. Agreements, some dating back to 2004, make provision for staff and student mobility, as well as co-research projects.

International exposure and researcher collaboration are valuable to both the researcher and the partner institutions.

Our 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 the Stanford and Cornell Universities 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.



# Business School

*“We create opportunities for the future.”*

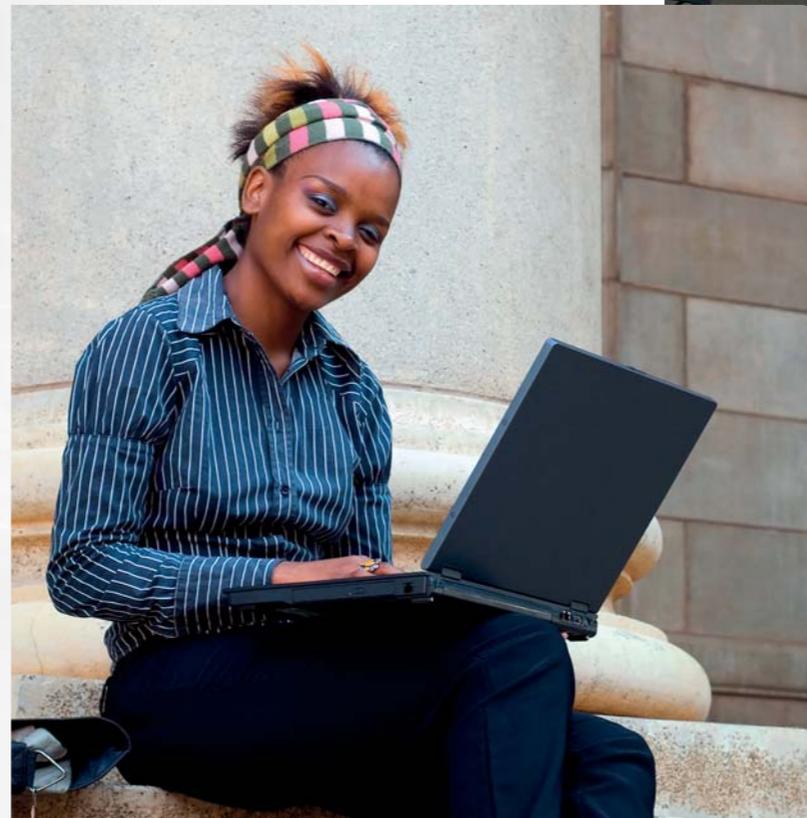


The UFS Business School in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is a leader in providing management and leadership programmes in South Africa. We are also at the forefront of recognising prior learning.

A dual on-campus and on-line coaching environment maximise student potential, and deliver exceptional results. We empower individuals and organisations by sharing

our knowledge, and converting learning to practice.

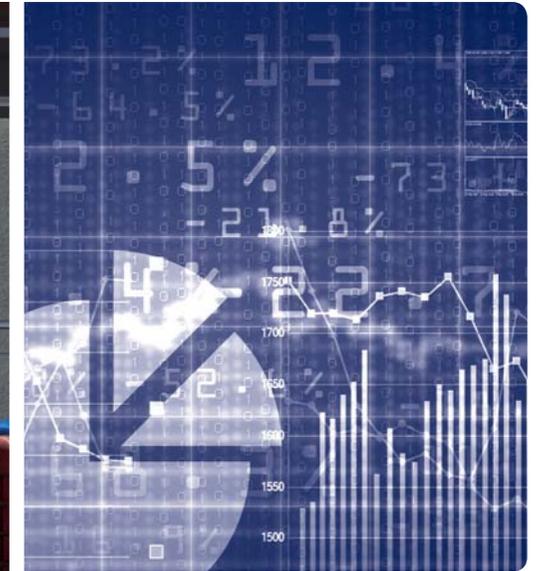
Also operating under the school's banner, the Centre for Business Dynamics offers customised non-curricular training to help companies and individuals bridge skills gaps for enhanced performance and competitiveness. In cooperation with a network of national and international experts, we offer tailor-made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



# 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.

*“Learn with us.”*



The faculty educates teachers in several disciplines. 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 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) addresses the profession’s changing needs, focusing on the upgrade of Science, Mathematics, and Technology knowledge and methodology.



*“Cultivating quality healthcare service.”*



The School of Medicine, the School for Allied Health Professions, and the 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.

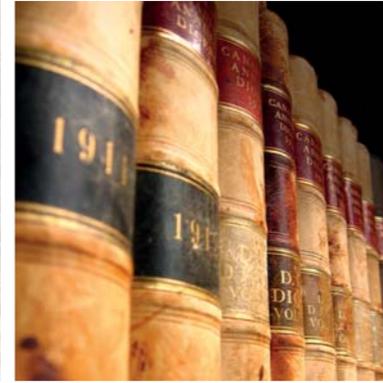
We develop students' academic knowledge and clinical expertise with innovative teaching and learning styles, including simulated and clinical skills development. In addition to training doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, and optometrists, we have recently added a new B Biokinetics programme.

As a centre of excellence, the Faculty of Health Sciences is committed to teaching, research, and community service. Community-based education plays an important role and we are actively involved in community health services on both national and international level.





*“Socially aware and culturally relevant.”*

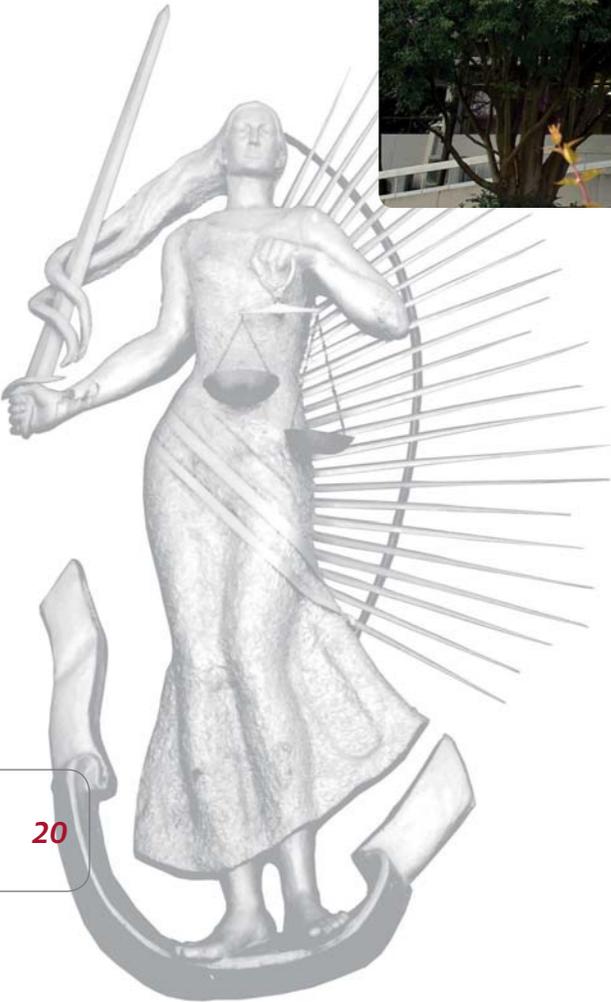


The Faculty of Law is one of the oldest and most distinguished faculties of its kind in South Africa, and has produced many top legal minds. Situated in the judicial capital, Bloemfontein, our students are exposed to the practice of law in the lower and higher divisions of the courts.

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.



# Natural and Agricultural Sciences

*“No substitute for excellence.”*

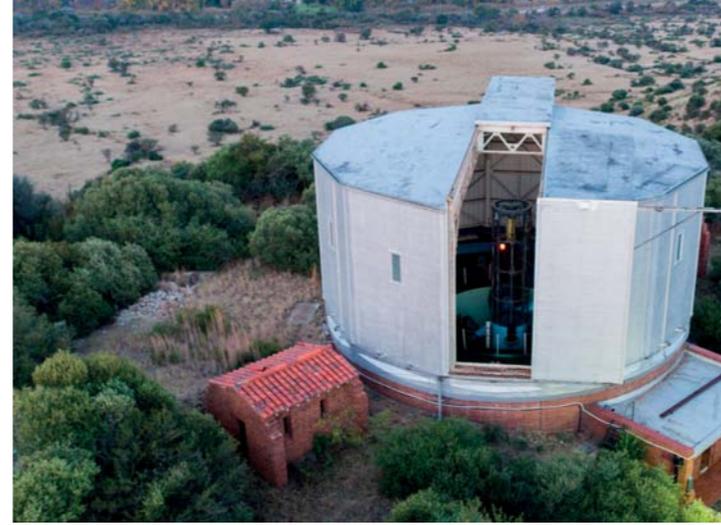


The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences offers more than 160 internationally accredited undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in three main categories: Natural Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, and Building Sciences.

We attract both national and international students with our interesting curricula and exciting research agenda. 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 include many academic departments and modules, with disciplines such as Languages, the Arts, Human Sciences, Social Sciences, and Cultural Sciences. Due to this variety, students can compile a degree programme that suits their career choice, interest, 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 who are 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.



# Theology and Religion

*“Teaching, research, and community service.”*



As the youngest faculty on campus, Theology and Religion 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.

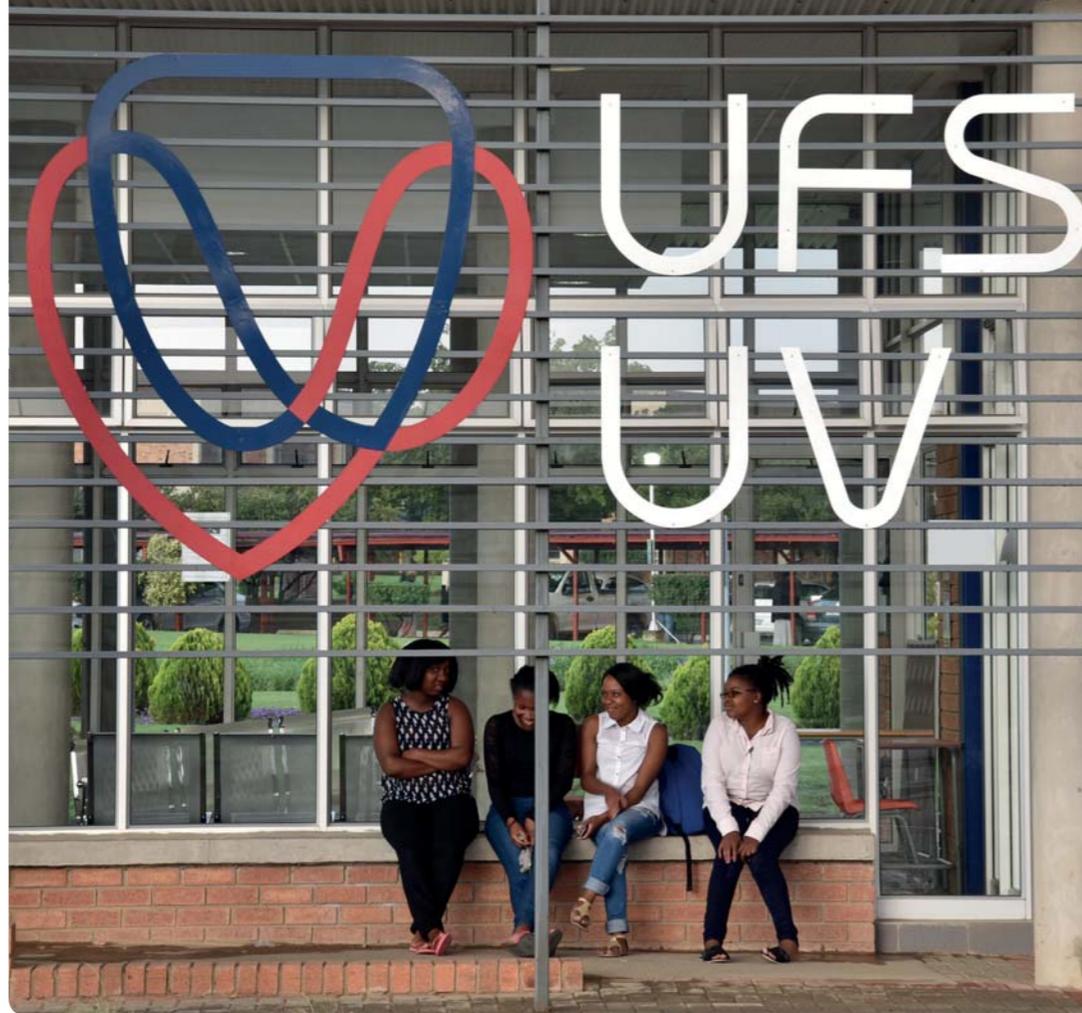
Our aim is to train and serve responsible and innovative spiritual leaders who will make a difference wherever they go. Career options for students with a degree in Theology and Religion include minister, pastor, lifestyle coach, pastoral therapist, chaplain, missionary, and youth worker. Another popular option is Biblical translation, for which we have a specialised qualification.

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.



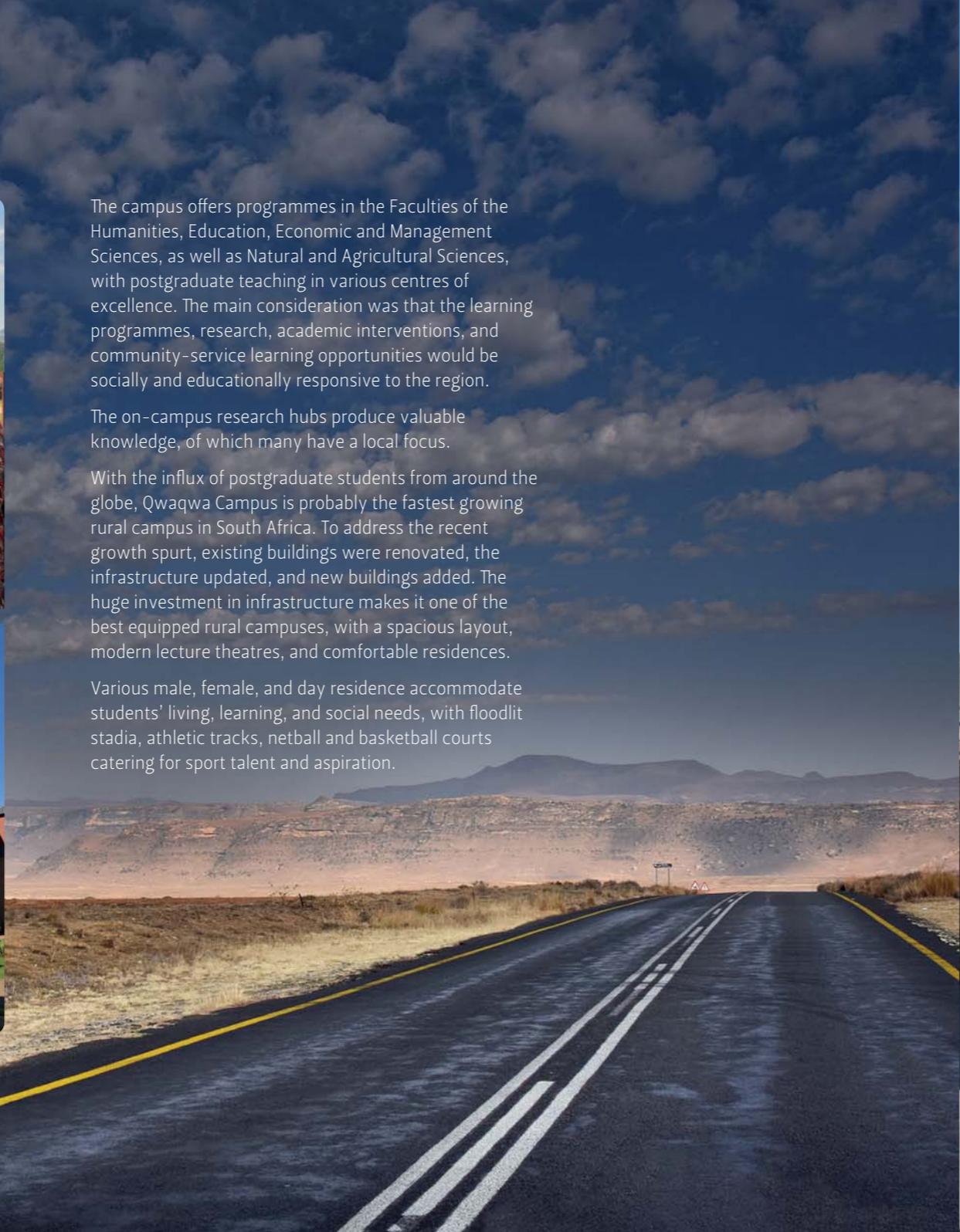


The campus offers programmes in the Faculties of the Humanities, Education, Economic and Management Sciences, as well as Natural and Agricultural Sciences, with postgraduate teaching in various centres of excellence. The main consideration was that the learning programmes, research, academic interventions, and community-service learning opportunities would be socially and educationally responsive to the region.

The on-campus research hubs produce valuable knowledge, of which many have a local focus.

With the influx of postgraduate students from around the globe, 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 residence accommodate students' living, learning, and social needs, with floodlit stadia, athletic tracks, netball and basketball courts catering for sport talent and aspiration.

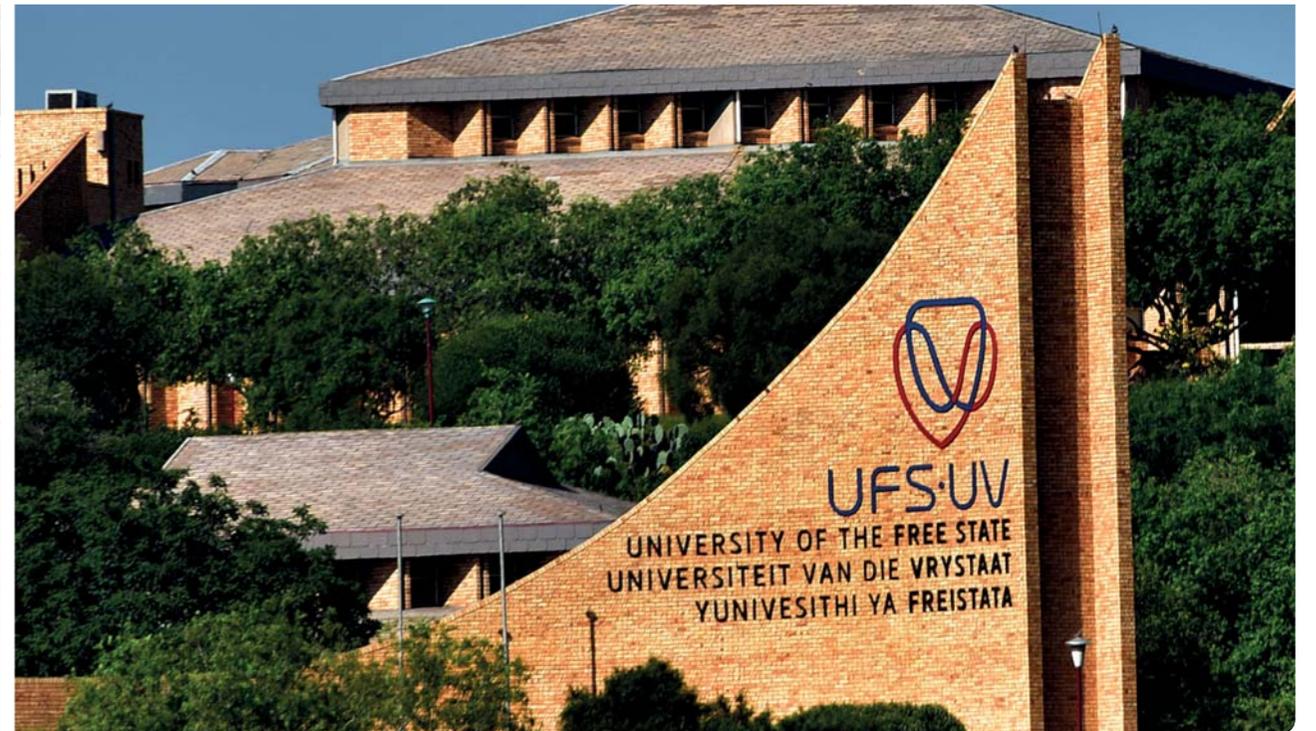


# South Campus (Open and Distance Learning)

*“Gateway to education.”*

Incorporated into the UFS in 2004, the School of Open Learning at our South Campus in Bloemfontein 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.

South Campus also boasts flagship programmes such as The Schools Partnership Project that improves disadvantaged schools, the Internet Broadcast Project that streams school lessons to various education centres, and the Advanced Certificates in Teaching (ACT) that is 100% online, allowing learning flexibility.





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. In 2017, the South Campus residence, Legae, opened its doors. With room for 270 students, it is also the first UFS residence with a grey water system. The University Access Programme enables 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.



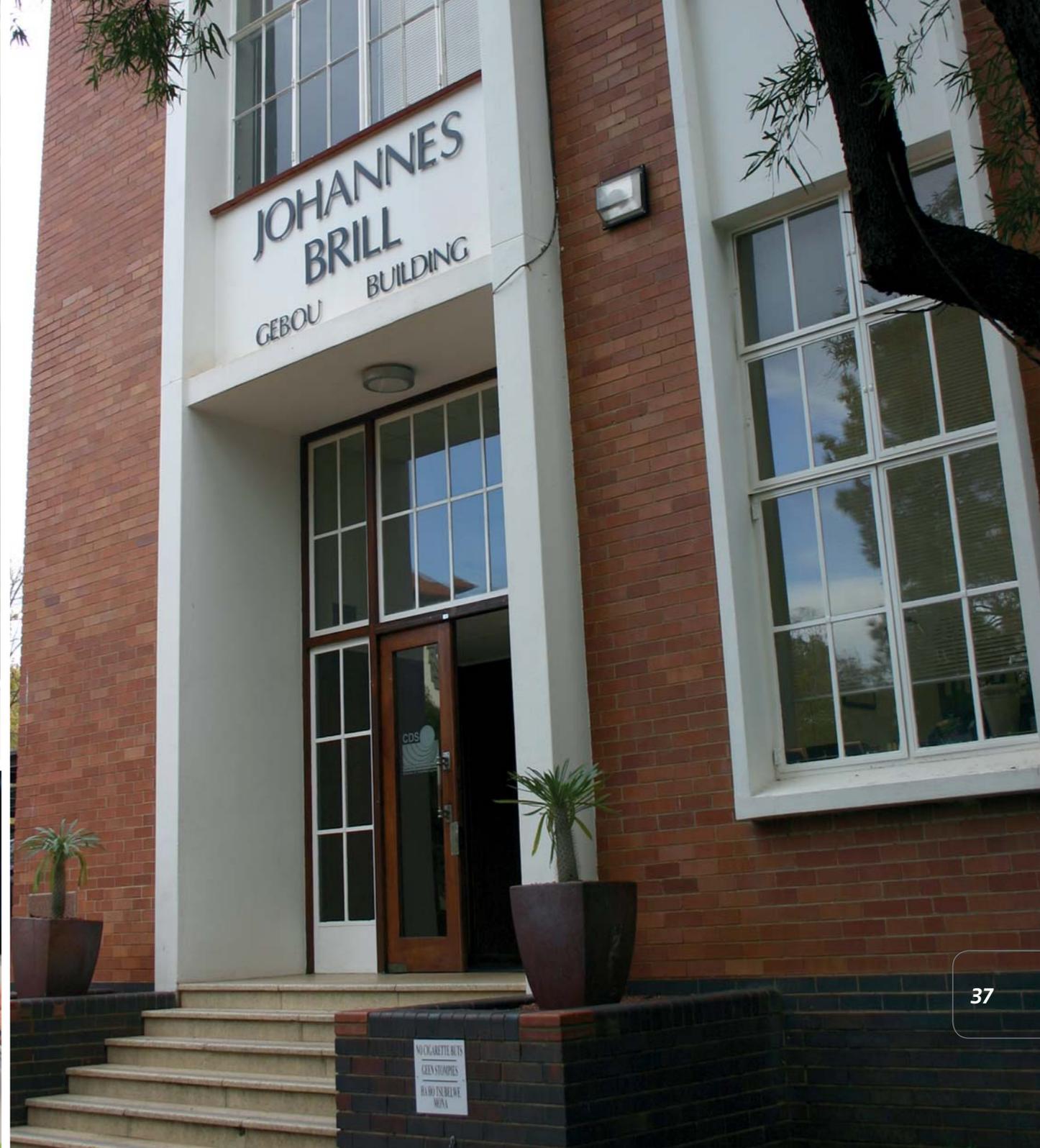
# Postgraduate School

*“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. With 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.



# SPORT

*“Participate!”*

With 22 sporting codes to choose from, the UFS is an important incubator for participants in team and individual sports. 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 study with us, and UFS netball delivered three national captains during the past 15 years. We were also the national tennis champions for nine years running.

22 

Sport codes

80  National Athletes

100+  Springbok and Sevens Rugby players

 1  Olympian Gold Medallist



# On campus



# KovsieGear

KovsieGear 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 – Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) 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.



# KovsieInn

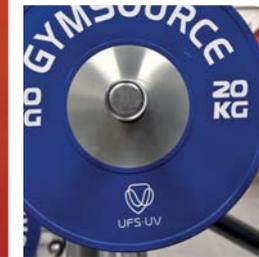
KovsieInn opened its doors in January 2015 on the Bloemfontein Campus, offering boutique-hotel type guest accommodation. Our fresh interior suits most preferences and creates a welcoming atmosphere. The 18 en suite bedrooms ensure a comfortable stay for UFS visitors.

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 is a brand-new commercial gym located in the Callie Human Centre on our Bloemfontein Campus – 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.



# KovsieFit



# Community Commitment

*“Because we care.”*

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.
- Through the **Schools Partnership Programme**, over 70 schools are mentor-assisted, showing a remarkable improvement in their final-year results.
- **Family Maths and Family Science** encourage family participation in these important subjects which form part of our daily lives.
- With the **Internet Broadcast Project (IBP)**, school lessons covering a range of subjects are broadcasted live from the South Campus studio in Bloemfontein to 83 education centres.



# Drop us a line

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+27 51 401 9111



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Phuthaditjhaba 9866  
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### **South Campus**

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