

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE 2025



T: +27 51 401 9111 | E: info@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za

*Inspiring excellence, transforming lives
through quality, impact, and care.*

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





*“At the University of the Free State (UFS), we are committed to our North Star - **Responsible Societal Futures** - using our knowledge and resources to build a more just, sustainable, and humane society.”*

– Prof Hester C. Klopper

UFS IN NUMBERS



Established in **1904**



3

campuses



7

faculties



ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



EDUCATION



HEALTH SCIENCES



THE HUMANITIES



LAW



NATURAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



THEOLOGY AND
RELIGION



BUSINESS SCHOOL

Students
(2025 registrations)
39 639



Students
(2024 graduates)
9 250



Registered **97%** | **3%**
contact distance

Research
chairs:
6 SARCHI¹
Chairs

1 SANRAL² chair
in Mathematics, Natural Sciences
and Technology Education

1 ETDP-SETA³ chair
in Mathematics Education

7 Chairs under the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Department
of Agriculture, and the University of the Free State (UFS) (ARC-DoA-UFS)
research chair initiative



5 018
staff (permanent
and temporary staff)



247
NRF⁴-rated
researchers



650
master's
graduates



193
Postdoctoral fellows
(68% from outside the UFS)



496
research
fellows



163
doctoral
graduates



3 707
international collaborating
institutions



With high-tech solar plants

lighting up all three campuses, the university is turning sunlight into savings and solutions. With the first pilot plant in 2017 and rapid expansion since 2022 to a total of 8 MW solar PV, these systems have already saved over R41 million, sharply reducing the effects of load-shedding and shrinking the institution's carbon footprint.



Water-wise thinking

flows through every level of campus life. The UFS has redesigned its outdoor spaces with indigenous plants, smart irrigation, and greywater systems. Rainwater harvesting, waterless urinals, and pressure-controlled systems work quietly in the background; but make a big difference in saving resources.

**Research data is based on 2024 outputs.*

¹ South African Research Chairs Initiative. ² South African National Roads Agency Limited.

³ Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority. ⁴ National Research Foundation.



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.



ACCOUNTABILITY



EXCELLENCE



CARE



INNOVATION
AND IMPACT



SOCIAL JUSTICE



SUSTAINABILITY

The UFS is committed to impart and generate new knowledge that impactfully supports societal development.

Our **values** shape and inform the UFS culture and provide a framework for our actions and decisions.

Our campuses

The UFS brings learning to life through its campuses in central South Africa. In Bloemfontein, the Bloemfontein and South Campuses share space in the bustling heart of the Free State. Further east, surrounded by mountains, the Qwaqwa Campus offers a more scenic setting. This multi-campus setup provides an integrated higher education experience, connecting individuals from diverse backgrounds and locations.





Bloemfontein Campus

Students from all walks of life come together to study, from first year to postgraduate level. It is a place where old buildings and modern design stand side by side, where unique artworks catch your eye, and where state-of-the-art research, learning, teaching, and sports facilities shape every experience.

Qwaqwa Campus

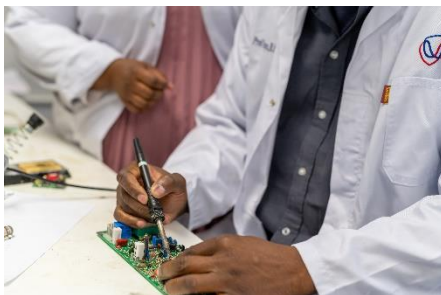
It is a vibrant learning space for students from nearby towns and neighbouring provinces. The campus has a strong focus on socio-economic development, informed by the rural context in which it is located.



South Campus

The campus is a hub of innovation that houses the Blended Learning Innovation Support and Services and the BEd Foundation Phase programmes.





Our faculties

The UFS is home to seven faculties offering quality programmes, led by passionate and experienced staff members who are focused on making a real-world impact in their fields.



Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences equips students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in the workplace and contribute as active citizens.



Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education plays a key role in shaping future educators by preparing pre-service teachers with a strong academic foundation for the classroom. We also support in-service teachers through continuous learning and development.



Faculty of Health Sciences

We are proud of the highly skilled health professionals trained across our five schools. Our programmes support excellence in health care and scholarship by building a community of forward-thinking, adaptable health-care educators.





Faculty of the Humanities

The Faculty of The Humanities is home to a rich mix of disciplines. Our graduates make a meaningful impact on society through knowledge, creativity, communication, and care – enriching communities through the arts, social services, and cultural understanding.

Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law is committed to academic excellence, social justice, and transformative legal education, and to producing graduates who are well equipped to shape the legal landscape of South Africa and abroad.





Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

The faculty embraces a multidisciplinary way of thinking about education and research. With 25 divisions covering natural, agricultural, and building sciences, the faculty allows students to explore a wide range of study fields.



Faculty of Theology and Religion

Rooted in Africa, engaged with the world, the faculty equips students for transformative leadership through undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programmes that support original, contextually grounded theological thinking responsive to global and local realities. We are building a faculty that does not just respond to the times, we help shape them.



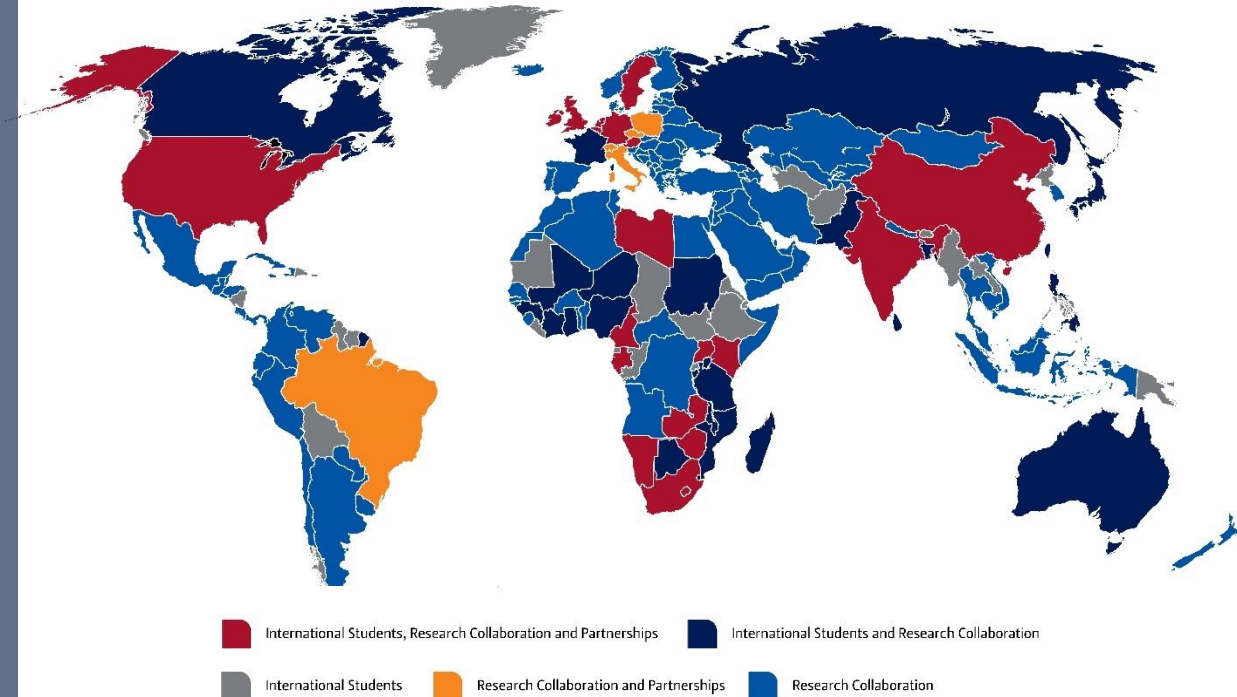
Learning and teaching

The UFS learning and teaching environment is constantly evolving, reshaping itself to meet the needs of a changing world and to equip students for impact in a global, digital, and diverse society. This plays a key role in positioning the university as a future-focused, high-performance institution with local relevance and international reach.

Internationalisation

A university deeply rooted in its region, yet boldly connected to the world, the UFS shapes graduates and knowledge that thrive on the global stage.

International collaboration with all world regions enables the university community to engage critically with diverse views and perspectives.





Bloemfontein Campus

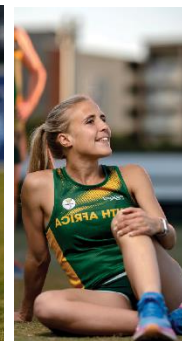


Student life and success

At the UFS, we believe that student life is about shaping well-rounded individuals. That is why we place holistic growth and the overall student experience at the heart of everything we do.

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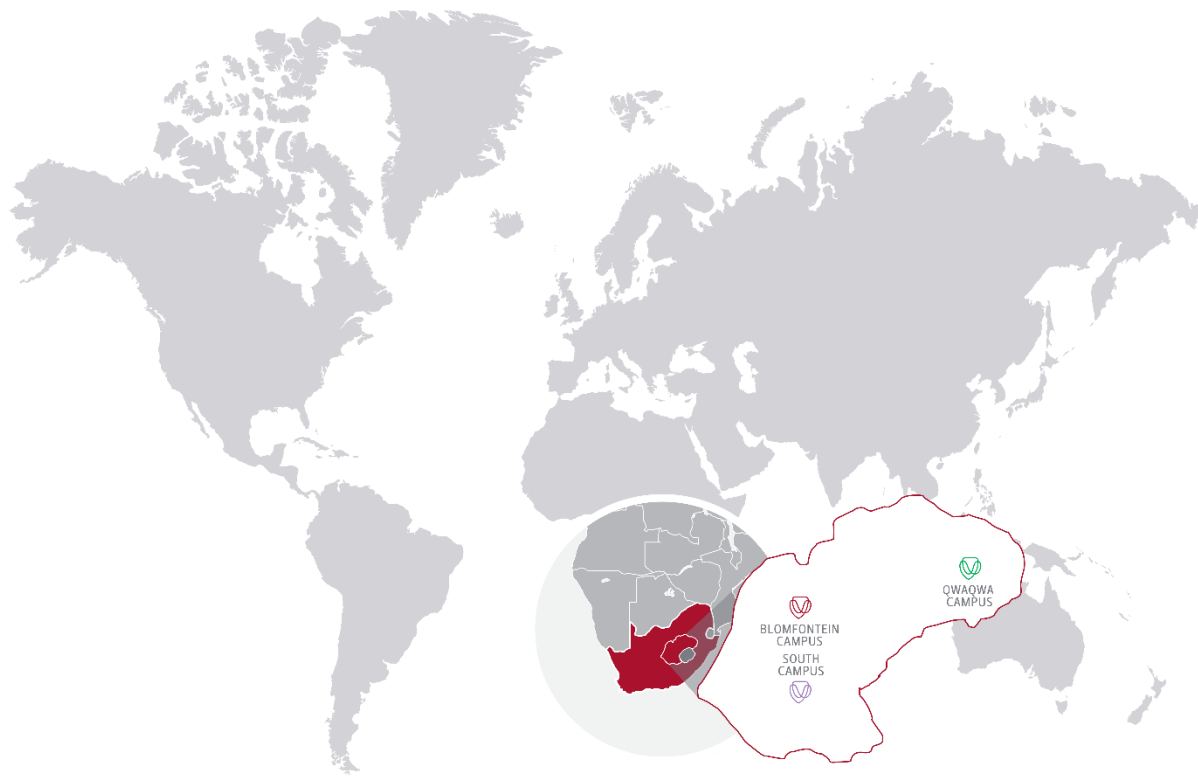


Sport

With more than 15 sporting codes to choose from at the UFS, sporting excellence is part of shaping well-rounded graduates with a proud tradition of achievements and victories across a wide range of disciplines.



Supporting a culture of care is a core priority. A committed team of professionals stands ready to assist students in every aspect of their well-being. Your safety and security are equally important. Our dedicated Protection Services staff works around the clock to ensure a safe and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors across our three campuses.



Bloemfontein Campus
Nelson Mandela Drive
Bloemfontein
9301
+27 51 401 9111

Qwaqwa Campus
Kestell Road
Phuthaditjhaba
9866
+27 58 718 5000

South Campus
Oliver Tambo Road
Bloemfontein
9301
+27 51 401 9111



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