

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE 2026



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 contributing meaningfully to ***Responsible Societal Futures***, using our knowledge and resources to build a more just, sustainable, and humane society.”

*Prof Hester C. Klopper,
Vice-Chancellor and Principal*





Our vision

The UFS aspires to be an innovative research-led, student-centred, and regionally engaged university that contributes meaningfully to responsible societal futures.

Our mission

The university will generate and impart new knowledge that advances innovative and sustainable solutions to inform society's contemporary and future progress.

Our values

The UFS subscribes to the values of *excellence*, *impact*, *accountability*, *care*, *social justice*, and *sustainability*, which are realised through the conduct of the wider university community that shapes and informs our culture and provides a framework for our actions and decisions.



Established in
1904



Student
registrations (2026)
39 367



Students
(2025 graduates)
9 804



Staff
4 955

3 campuses **7** faculties



Registered
students

38 414
contact

953
distance

39 367
total



Faculty of
Economic and
Management
Sciences



Faculty of
Education



Faculty of
Health
Sciences



Faculty of
The
Humanities



Faculty of
Law



Faculty of
Natural and
Agricultural
Sciences



Faculty of
Theology
and Religion

University rankings



25th in Africa in the
THE World University
Rankings 2026



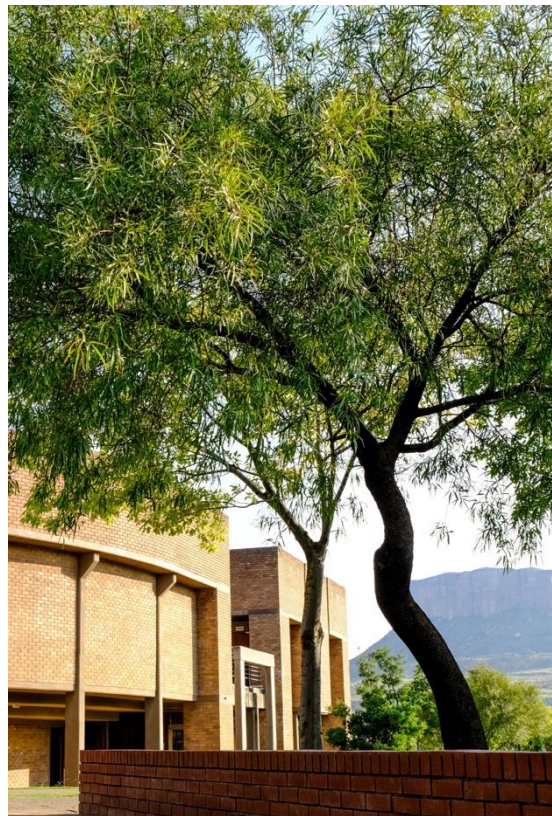
9th place in the
QS World University
Rankings: Sub-Saharan
Africa 2026



**Top
200** globally for SDG 10:
Reduced Inequalities
(THE Impact
Rankings 2026)

UFS IN NUMBERS

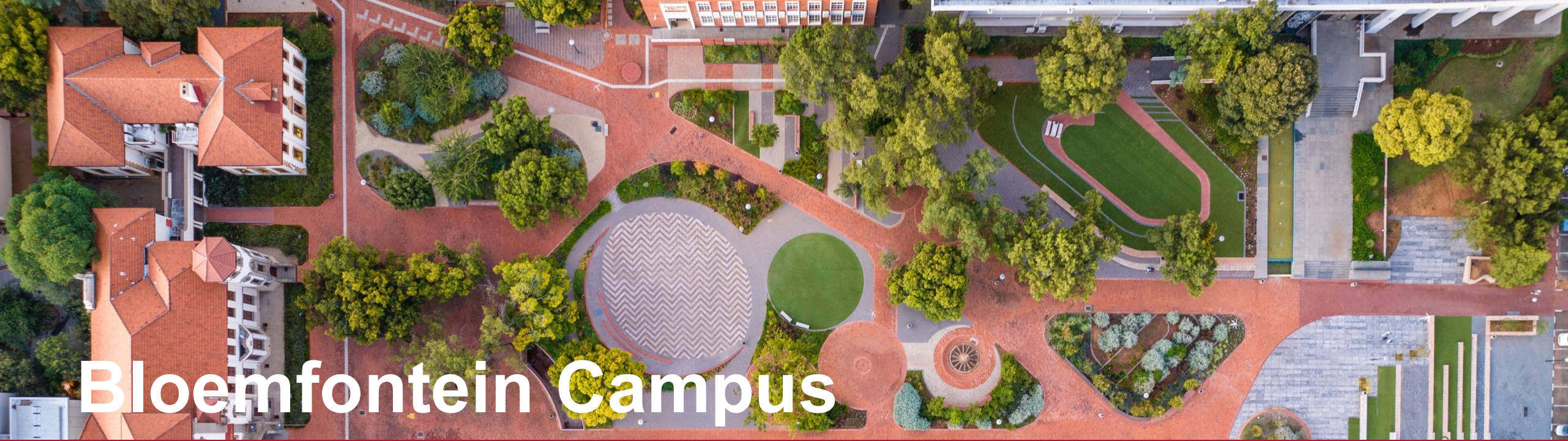




Our campuses

The University of the Free State 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, while further east – surrounded by mountains – the Qwaqwa Campus offers a more scenic setting.



An aerial photograph of the Bloemfontein Campus. The image shows a central circular plaza with a large, circular, patterned tile design. To the left of the plaza is a large, multi-story building with a red-tiled roof. To the right of the plaza is a green lawn area with a red running track. The campus is surrounded by trees and other buildings.

Bloemfontein Campus

On the Bloemfontein Campus, students from diverse backgrounds come together to learn, grow, and build their future in one of seven faculties – 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 work hand in hand to shape the full student experience.



The Qwaqwa Campus is a dynamic and vibrant centre of learning for students from nearby towns and neighbouring provinces. Rooted in its rural setting, the campus plays an active role in driving local socio-economic development. Through relevant academic programmes and focused research, it works closely with communities to unlock opportunities, support entrepreneurship, and contribute to sustainable job creation in the region.

Qwaqwa Campus



South Campus

The South Campus is home to the Blended Learning Innovation Support and Services (BLISS) within the Centre for Teaching and Learning, where digital tools, multimedia production, and academic support strengthen the university's blended learning approach. It also hosts the BEd Foundation Phase programme, and will soon establish a School of Veterinary Sciences, offering a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) to meet professional standards for veterinary education.



UFS 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

Whether you are aiming to build a career in finance, accounting, or management, the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences offers programmes designed to prepare you for success.





Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education prepares future teachers with the knowledge and skills to step confidently into the classroom, while also supporting those already in the profession through continuous learning and development.



Faculty of Health Sciences

We are proud to train skilled health professionals across five schools. Our programmes focus on excellence in healthcare, preparing graduates who are adaptable, forward-thinking, and ready to meet the needs of communities.



Faculty of The Humanities

The Faculty of The Humanities offers a vibrant mix of disciplines where creativity, communication, and care come together to make a real impact. Graduates enrich communities through the arts, social services, and cultural understanding, while language programmes – including South African Sign Language – add to the faculty's distinctive offering.



Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law equips graduates with the tools to think critically about justice and the role of law in society. Here, they will gain the knowledge and practical skills to build a strong career and make a difference in South Africa and abroad.





Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

We're proud to offer 25 divisions across natural, agricultural, and building sciences. Our programmes embrace multidisciplinary thinking, preparing graduates who are adaptable, innovative, and ready to make an impact through education and research.





Faculty of Theology and Religion

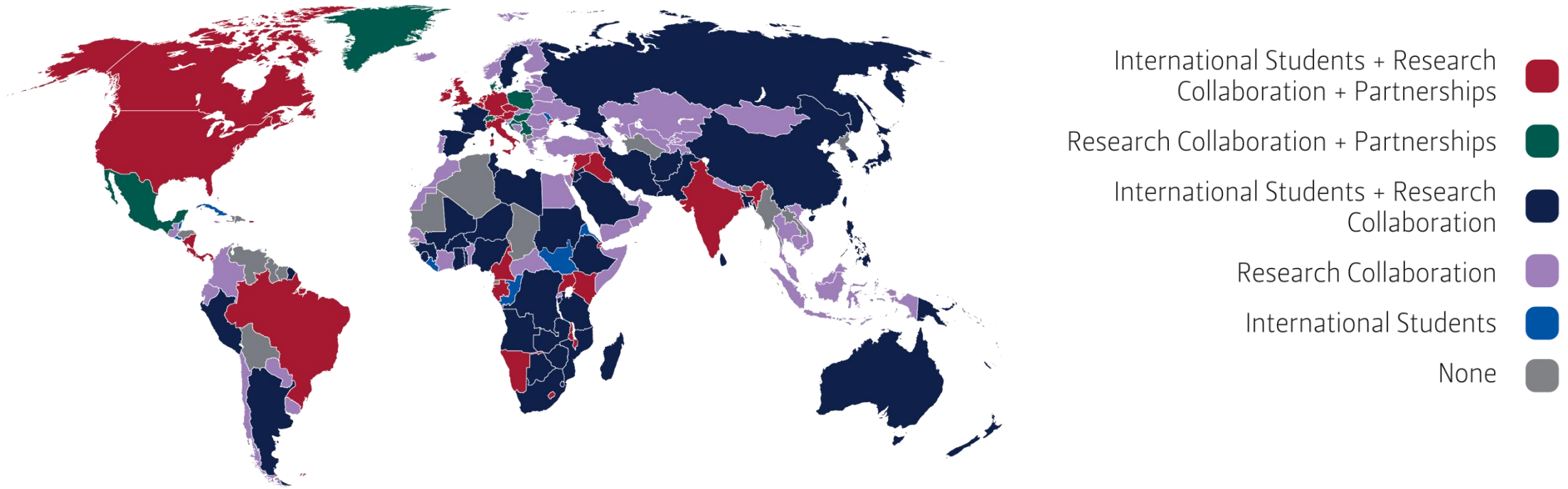
The Faculty of Theology and Religion's focus is on original, context-driven theological thinking that responds to both local and global realities. Rooted in Africa and engaged with the world, the Faculty of Theology and Religion equips students for transformative leadership through undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programmes.





Learning and teaching

The UFS' learning and teaching environment is always evolving to meet the needs of a changing world. It equips students to make an impact in a global, digital, and diverse society, positioning the university as a future-focused institution with local relevance and international reach.



International Partnerships and Relations

At the University of the Free State, internationalisation focuses on developing intercultural competence, global citizenship, and epistemic openness among students and staff, while global engagement represents the outward expression of these capabilities through partnerships, research collaboration, and participation in global knowledge networks.

Research chairs



7 SARCHI¹
research
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

¹ South African Research Chairs Initiative.

² South African National Roads Agency Limited.

³ Education, Training and Development Practices
Sector Education and Training Authority.

Research that matters

Academics at the UFS address society's most urgent challenges through bold ideas, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation that delivers real-world impact.



Research that matters

Water and water quality:



Social justice and the removal of inequalities:



Health and well-being:



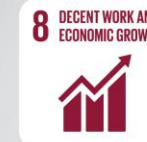
Food security and land reform:



New scientific and industrial challenges:



Local and regional socio-economic development:



Our research focus areas.

Innovation and industry impact

The University of the Free State is steadily expanding its innovation and intellectual property footprint through a growing ecosystem that connects high-quality research with industry collaboration and societal impact.





Student life and success

At the University of the Free State, we place holistic growth and the overall student experience at the heart of everything we do. We believe that student life is about shaping well-rounded individuals and creating an environment where they are supported academically, personally, and socially.



Student life and success

Supporting a culture of care is a core priority. A committed team of professionals is ready to support students in every aspect of their well-being.

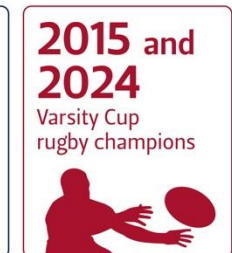
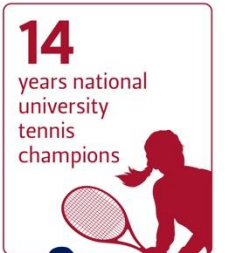
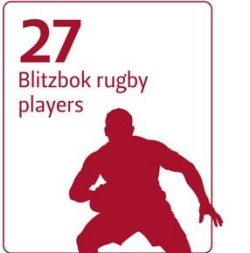
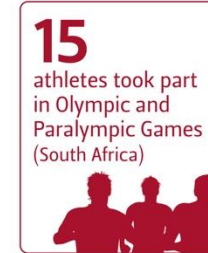
A dedicated team of Protection Services staff is also working around the clock to ensure a safe and secure environment across our three campuses.





Sport

We take pride in our sporting victories and achievements, earned across more than 15 sporting codes that not only inspire excellence on the field, but also help shape well-rounded graduates.



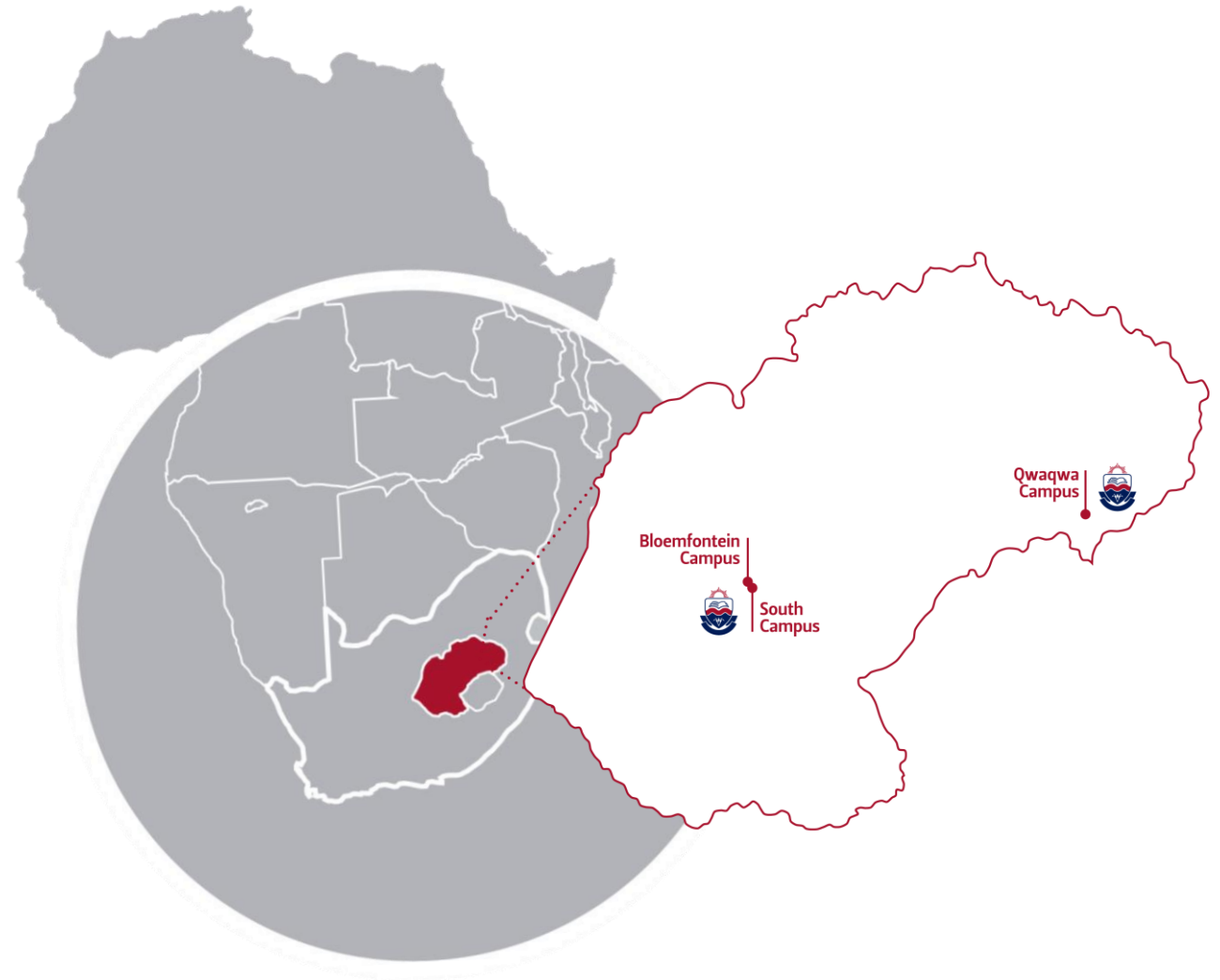
We strive to be a university with a consistent outward focus, delivering profound results – building on past achievements while constantly transforming ourselves to stay relevant in the dynamic and ever-changing international higher education sphere. We lead through service with impact.

And we walk with purpose. Welcome to the University of the Free State.



UFS ON THE MAP

One vision,
three
campuses





Thank you.

