



SATURDAY 1 JANUARY 2022

“Building resilience through education, training, and research”

www.ufs.ac.za/dimtec



Dear UFS–DiMTEC Class of 2022

A WARM WELCOME

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to UFS–DiMTEC, where you will now commence the important process of developing your career in disaster management.

Admission to UFS–DiMTEC is very competitive; you are the selected few of many who have applied to join this prestigious and largest disaster management training and education centre in South Africa and Africa.

At UFS–DiMTEC, we pride ourselves on producing the best graduates with the right attributes to efficiently and effectively plough back skills and knowledge of the highest standards into society. For this reason, we do not for any reason lower the high standard of scholarship that we are historically known to provide.

You will need to work extremely hard to go through your studies with flying colours. You will be guided by very competent and professional staff who will journey with you through this academic process. There is no need to nurse any fear about your success; all you have to do is work hard and cooperate with the DiMTEC staff and other UFS stakeholders.

At UFS–DiMTEC, we fully understand the current and possible future societal challenges, which is why we are a resilient centre that always proactively plans to improve our resilience year after year.

Enjoy the beauty and hospitality of Bloemfontein, the UFS, and feel at home away from home with us at DiMTEC.

May God protect you and bless all your efforts!

Yours sincerely

PROF JOHANNES BELLE
UFS–DiMTEC: ACTING DIRECTOR

UFS–DiMTEC News

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The editor reserves the right to accept or reject submissions

Editor: **Dr Olivia Kunguma**



STUDYING AT UFS–DiMTEC: WHAT AN EXPERIENCE!

Words of wisdom from
a fellow UFS–DiMTEC
student/alumna;
a must-read!!



Illona Petersen is a disaster manager at the City of Cape Town Disaster Management Centre. In the year 2020, she joined UFS–DiMTEC to study Disaster Management. This year, she will be doing her master's and intends to graduate in 2023. Here is what she has to share with you about her academic journey. *"My experience at UFS–DiMTEC has been amazing thus far. I have learned and experienced many new things, knowledge, skills, and met people from diverse cultures and places. Of course, the journey was not always easy, as I faced many challenges; but to achieve my dreams, I had to start working towards them. The support and excellent assistance from the UFS–DiMTEC staff/lecturers made it possible to cope and excel in my goal. I don't believe in shortcuts, as success requires dedication, commitment, hard work, endurance, persistence, learning from failure, and the will to succeed. I see success not as a destination, but rather as a journey that we individually direct.*

Therefore, take control of your destiny if you want to get to your destination. Believe in yourself, for the power to succeed lies within you. No one is destined for failure, and if you do fail, it does not mean that it is the end of the world. You need to stand up and continue the journey and try again until you make it. The greatest fear lies within us; the best way to succeed is to never give up. Overcome your fears and move closer to your dreams."

Mendi Sigenu completed her studies with UFS–DiMTEC in 2021 and will be graduating this year. She shares her academic journey as follows: *"It is my pleasure to share my UFS–DiMTEC study experience with the class of 2022 and with prospective students. My journey as a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) and Master of Disaster Management student was marked by ups and downs, twists and turns. The PGDip allowed me to learn more about the various systems used in disaster management. This was because of my enrolment in courses such as Legal and Institutional Arrangements for Disaster Managers, Public Health in Disaster Management, and Strategic Disaster Management. My journey was furthered when I enrolled for the master's degree during the 2020–2021 academic year. My most thrilling moment was when I completed the mini-dissertation as part of the degree requirements. Interestingly, this module allowed me to conduct hands-on research with smallholder farmers who have been experiencing drought.*



Interacting with drought-stricken farmers has helped me gain first-hand knowledge of their daily experiences in the climate-change era. The theoretical knowledge I acquired in my coursework made the data collection manageable. However, it should be emphasised that the mini-dissertation can break you, annoy you, activate your hormones, and present you with various other obstacles. The only solution is to remind yourself that you can accomplish what you have started if you work hard to achieve your goals."

PhD by monograph or publication? Advice for prospective PhD students

Depending on the higher academic institution you have chosen for your PhD studies, you might be asked this question, 'will your PhD going be by monograph or by publication?' In most instances, you might not have to answer this question because the institution has a preferred

route that it wants its PhD candidates to follow. Nonetheless, whichever path you are going to follow, this article was written by Dr Olivia Kunguma and Dr Yong S Nyam to share their experiences of doing a PhD by monograph and publication. The aim is to appraise and weigh the costs and benefits of whatever route you take. There are other forms of PhD outputs, such as 'creative output'; for now, the focus is on the monograph and publication.

Understanding monograph- and publication-based thesis

Upon completing your PhD research, a thesis based on single or multiple research problems is required before the examination. It should also have been supervised by a qualified academic. In case you are wondering what 'monograph-based' and 'publication-based' are, here are the definitions. The monograph-based PhD thesis entails an introduction and background to the study, followed by several chapters such as theoretical framework, legislative framework, literature review, research design and methodology, research results, and conclusions and recommendations. Take note, the content of a monograph thesis might not be as presented above. A publication-based PhD thesis requires you to produce several peer-reviewed publications.

In some cases, the institution will state that it requires a 'publishable article'. Several academics have debated the term, 'publishable'. The published articles must be from when the student registered for their PhD, relate to the PhD research problem, and objectives or hypothesis. They should also form part of the thesis. Even though the dissertation will be by articles, it should include an introduction indicating the relationship between or among the various articles.

Dr Olivia Kunguma's perspective and experience

Doing my PhD by monograph or by publication was a decision I battled with from the beginning of my studies. When I started my PhD, I had already published six peer-reviewed articles, and looking back at how difficult the reviewers were, and the lengthy time it took to publish one article, I finally decided to go the monograph route. Working chapter by chapter helped me focus on a specific theme. Besides the in-depth knowledge I gained from working on each chapter, it was comforting to have the chapter approved by my promoter. After that, I would move to the next chapter. The challenges encountered were with the results and recommendations chapter, because this is mainly where the scientific contribution of the study must be provided.

Nonetheless, the empirical findings helped with making a valuable contribution through my recommendations. The other challenge was with the literature review, which was hefty and time-consuming. In the end, my monograph thesis was a good 298 pages, including the clerical pages (e.g., cover page, table of contents, declaration, reference list, appendices, etc.).

Dr Yong S Nyam's perspective and experience

Deciding whether to do your PhD by monograph or by publication should be based on your research area and objectives. Publications add value to your profile after the completion of your PhD. Before embarking on my PhD journey, I had only one publication, and I knew I needed more

publications to get any chance in academia. I decided to structure my objectives in a way that allowed me to write manuscripts based on each objective of the study. All the drafted manuscripts were cohesively linked to each other. I knew I could get quality feedback from journal reviewers all over the world. I got different perspectives from different reviewers during my PhD research, which shaped my research and made it better. Another reason for choosing to do my PhD by publication was because my supervisors were not experts in the methodology I used. So, I needed the perspectives of different experts from around the world. This method allowed me to get a PhD and increase my publication portfolio at the same time. I produced five manuscripts, four of which were published in international journals, and one is currently under review. I have collaborated on and published other manuscripts not related to my PhD research. I cannot count the number of times my manuscripts were rejected, but each rejection came with valuable comments and suggestions that assisted me in writing better and improving the manuscripts.

The decision

Doing a PhD by monograph involves a lot of reading and writing, but you are done once you have completed a chapter. Publication is required for someone choosing an academic career. So, the monograph route might be limiting in that you produce a dissertation without a published article. You only start publishing after graduation, unless you are brave enough to do it concurrently. Once you are done with the publication route you are ready for an academic career, because you have a dissertation plus publications.

Doing a PhD by publication has several advantages. The first and most crucial advantage is getting a PhD and publishing articles in peer-reviewed journals using one stone to kill two birds. This can significantly enhance your chances of a career in academia. A PhD by publication enhances your writing and practical skills. It helps you deal with the pressures in academia and helps you create networks and to collaborate with researchers worldwide. Many PhD candidates are tempted to write long literature reviews, which are hardly ever read. Publishing different chapters of your thesis helps you manage the literature review in small manageable chunks and ensures that the literature is relevant. The feedback from reviewers can also help a PhD candidate to become a better supervisor for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The obvious disadvantage with this method is that it takes time to publish a paper. So, the process needs time and patience. The rejections and comments can sometimes be depressing, especially if you are trying to publish for the first time. Ultimately, there are many issues to consider before deciding which route to take, and we hope this article gives some perspective.

Graduations: Our time to shine!



For the year 2021, UFS–DiMTEC has graduated a total of 35 postgraduate diploma, 19 master's, and three PhD students. The graduates were honoured virtually due to the pandemic.

UFS–DiMTEC congratulates the graduands of 2021. You have achieved greatness; your hard work has been recognised and rewarded. The virtual graduation ceremonies were our time to shine, our time to harvest the hard work we have done to impart knowledge to our students. Even the graduates themselves could not keep calm as their degrees were conferred on them. May you have continued success in all your endeavours!

Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management

In no specific order, the graduates' names are as follows:

MULAUDZI, Khuthadzo Zeldah;
NGQULUNGA, Khanyisani Mzokhanyayo;
CHEELI, Fukuthu Isdorina;
CLAASSENS, Maria Magdalena;
KHUMALO, Samkeliwe Ntombiyethaya;
KORIE, Nkopane;
KUNENE, Sibonisile Fundisiwe Phindile;
LASMISI, Thandeka Mirriam;
LOTTERING, Marchel Vivian;
MAKHUBO, Zanele Ida;
MAKUYA, Lufuno;
MANQELE, Nelisiwe;

MANZI, Asanda Odwa;
MASIZANA, Kumsa;
MATHEKGA, Peggy Tlou;
MAVHONDO, Ceasar;
MODIBA, Nkoni Thabiso Selby;
MOKGADI, Nthabiseng Pretty;
MOSIAH, Laura–Romaine;
MOTENE, Karabo;
MOTSEMME, Moratwe;
MUFAMADI, Mukondeleli Sandy;
MUNTSWU, Tshifhiwa Shelter;
NAKE, Ntshalle Stella;

NHLAMBA, Lindiwe Siphiwo;
NKUNA, Shivas Richard;
NTHAPO, Mpoeleng;
NUKU, Zodidi Pearl;
PARAFFIN, Lwando;
SHELEMBE, S'Phehile Angel;
SHIVAMBU, Murhandiwani Guilty;
THAVER, Freddy;
XOAGUB, Lissie Trudie;
KAUSA, Abraham;
MJOLI, Qhamani Bahlangule.

Master of Disaster Management

In no specific order, the master's degree was awarded to:

CHAUQUE, Mthembi;
DANISO, Nqatyiwa;
DIPHAGWE, Toyi Maniki Michael;
KHUMALO, Jotham;
MABENGU, Mabel Ncumisa;
MAENETJA, Reneilwe Linah;
MAKUA, Tshepo Innocent;

MAPINGURE, Tendai;
MAZIBUKO, Bafana Alfred;
MOHOJE, Matshediso Eddith Alleta;
NDLOVU, Tobias;
TSEBE, Esther Shadi Morakane;
WILLIAMS, Rebecca Jane;
LUNGA, Ntombizodwa Elizabe;

MOTHAPO, Mmankeka Alpheus;
NKGUDI, Mampshe Sunnyboy;
CHOCHÉ, Mogomotsi Cathrine;
JANSEN, Sara–Jane Merle;
MOHLALA, Makgoke Walter.

Doctor of Philosophy majoring in Disaster Management

In no specific order, the graduates' names together with the title of their research are as follows:

Dr Olivia Kunguma
Thesis titled –



SOUTH AFRICAN DISASTER MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK:
DYNAMICS FOR ESTABLISHING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS IN PROVINCIAL DISASTER
MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Dr Moddie Z Nyahwo
Thesis titled –



A CLIMATE CHANGE–INDUCED DROUGHT RESILIENT
FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT FOR RESETTLED WOMEN
UNDER FAST–TRACK RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME:
A CASE OF ZIMBABWE

Dr Karneels Thabang Thinda
Thesis titled –



MODELLING LAND REFORM BENEFICIARIES' CHOICE OF
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION ADAPTATION STRATEGIES IN
RESPONSE TO CLIMATE VARIATIONS

Dr Yong Sebastian Nyam
Thesis titled –



MODELLING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA USING
APPLIED SYSTEM DYNAMICS

Get to know your lecturers and UFS–DiMTEC staff

Meet some of your lecturers and the subjects they offer.



Prof B Grove:
Lecturer:
1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"Knowledge is power!"



Dr A Ncube: Short Learning Programmes Officer/Lecturer:
1. Research Design and Methodology
2. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"Through perseverance you can achieve your goals. Studying as an adult requires more than intelligence, you must be able to multi-function as a parent, worker, and member of a complex society. Hence, it is not easy, but doable."

Mr M Serekoane:
Lecturer:
1. Ethnic and Cultural Conduct

"I am naturally troubled by social suffering."



Prof R Bragg:
Lecturer:
1. Public Health
2. Management of Natural and Man-made Disasters

"Understanding microorganisms that can be disastrous is important for disaster management. It is important for me to educate disaster managers about the differences between bacteria, viruses, and fungi."



Ms G du Toit:
Lecturer:
1. Legal and Institutional Arrangements

"Change is the end result of all true learning." – Leo Buscaglia



Dr Y Nyam:
Research Assistant/Lecturer:
Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"It is far more honourable to fail than to cheat." – Abraham Lincoln



Prof A Ogundenji:
Lecturer:
1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment
2. Management of Natural and Man-made Disasters

"Education and knowledge transfer are a priority for the future."



Ms L de Wet:
Lecturer:
1. Management of Natural and Man-made Disasters

"Be attentive in class and enjoy the lecturer as well."



Prof N Matthews:
Lecturer:
1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"In a time of destruction, create something." – Maxine Hong Kingston



Get to know your lecturers and UFS-DiMTEC staff *(continue)*

Meet some of your lecturers and the subjects they offer.



Dr J Belle:

Acting Director/Lecturer:

1. Research Design and Methodology
2. Ecosystems-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
3. Legal and Institutional Arrangements

"Remember always, winners never quit, and quitters never win."

Dr O Kunguma:

Marketing Officer/Lecturer:

1. Strategic Disaster Management
2. Management of Media Relations and Communication Systems
3. Legal and Institutional Arrangements

"Knowledge is power, the question is, what are you going to do with it?"



Mr E Willis:

Lecturer:

1. Political Strategic Planning

"You have to be fast on your feet and adaptive or else a strategy is useless." – Charles de Gaulle



Dr Tlou Raphaela:

Lecturer:

1. Public Health
2. Ecosystems-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
3. Disaster Mental Health
4. Research Design and Methodology

"Strive for progress, not perfection."



Ms Z Poto:

Lecturer/Programme Director, Assistant/Lecturer:

1. Strategic Disaster Management

"Prepare in advance, and you will never have trouble ahead. A prudent person foresees danger ahead and takes precautions. Because we can!"



Dr C Greyling:

Lecturer:

1. Information Technology in Disaster Management
2. Management of Media Relations and Communication Systems

"You are what you consistently do."



Prof A Jordaan:

Lecturer:

1. Disaster Risk and Impact Assessment

"People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do." – Rob Siltanen



Ms J Joubert:

Lecturer:

1. Disaster Mental Health

"No one can go back and make a brand-new start; anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending."

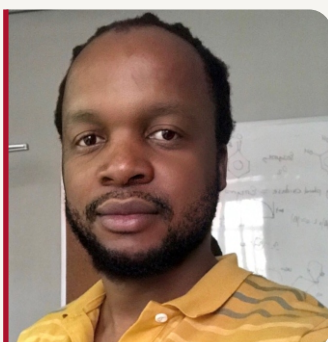


Dr D Kama:

Lecturer:

1. Management of Natural and Man-made Disasters

"Winning starts with 'I can'."



Get to know your lecturers and UFS–DiMTEC staff *(continue)*

Ms D Banyane:

Lecturer:

1. Strategic Disaster Management

"You might wake up one day and realise that the life you are living today is not the one you truly want; don't allow your circumstances to contaminate your future. To become an exceptional human being tomorrow, make the decision and take action that will make you become exceptional today."



Meet some of your lecturers and the subjects they offer.

Dr H Booysen:

Lecturer:

1. Information Technology in Disaster Management

"UFS–DiMTEC provides a valuable service to South Africa through disaster management practitioners' production research. UFS–DiMTEC cares for its stakeholders."

**Prof Weldemichael Tesfahuney:**

Lecturer:

1. Ecosystems Based Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation

"The climate is changing, the proper political debate would be how to deal with these risks" – Steven Chu.



Meet UFS–DiMTEC support staff.

Ms C Nel:

UFS Librarian/Facilitator: Library Orientation and Academic Writing

"The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible." – Winston Churchill

**Ms S Mkafu:**

Facilities Maintenance Officer

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures forever – Psalms 1"

**Dr A van Straten:**

Senior Assistant Officer/Secretary

"Nothing in life that is worthwhile comes easy. You reap what you sow – in all your ways, acknowledge God, for he has set you on a journey, and he will direct your path."

Ms N Towa:

Learning Developer: Blackboard Training

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." – Abigail Adams

**Mrs L van der Westhuizen:**

Science Writer, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences/Academic Writing

"We define ourselves by our actions. With each decision, we tell ourselves and the world who we are. Think about what you want out of this life, and recognise that there are many kinds of success." – Bill Watterson



UFS–DiMTEC collaborations, academic escapades, and achievements

UFS–DiMTEC student escorts President Ramaphosa during the Freedom Day celebrations

Ms Dithuso C Monare, a Postgraduate Diploma student in Disaster Management with the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC), escorted the President during the Freedom Day celebrations in Botshabelo on 27 April 2021. She is currently the Director and Centre Manager of the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre. Ms Monare escorted the President's delegation during a tour of the Charlotte Maxeke Treatment Centre before he addressed the nation.



Two academic achievement prizes awarded to UFS–DiMTEC students for the first time

Late Jonty Ndlazi prize
Best student in the Post Graduate Diploma
in Disaster Management
Lindiwe Nhlamba

DiMTEC prize
Best Masters student in Disaster Management
Thobile Makhubu

For the first time, UFS–DiMTEC participated in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences' Academic Awards Ceremony. The award ceremony was held virtually on 26 May 2021. The Dean of the faculty presented the awards to the students and thanked both the lecturers and the students with these encouraging quotes. "A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others," and "Teachers open the door for you, but you must enter by yourself." With these inspiring words, congratulations to the two students.



Lindiwe Nhlamba

The 'Best Student in the Postgraduate Diploma in Disaster Management' in honour of the late Jonty Ndlazi, was awarded to Ms Lindiwe Nhlamba. She achieved the highest average in her class and was awarded a certificate and a cash prize.



Thobile Makhubu

he 'Best Master's Student in Disaster Management' – a DiMTEC prize, was awarded to Ms Thobile Makhubu. She obtained the highest average for her coursework and thesis. She was rewarded with a certificate and a cash prize. We hope that these awards will make a significant contribution towards encouraging our students to perform exceptionally in their studies.

UFS–DiMTEC receives Intra–Africa Academic Mobility Scheme students

Of the first six cohort students who were awarded Intra–Africa Academic Mobility Scheme scholarships at the University of the Free State, two were accepted to do their PhDs in Disaster Management. The programme aims to improve the skills and competencies of students through enhanced mobility between African countries. It also aims to promote cooperation between African countries and to reduce poverty by increasing the number of qualified professionals in Africa. The programme is also intended to increase inter–cultural exchange in Africa and prepare the background for eventual regional integration in Africa. The University of the Free State is a partner institution of the Fostering Research and Intra–African Knowledge Transfer through Mobility and Education (FRAME) project and DiMTEC, as the local coordinating partner, invited applicants to apply for its disaster management qualifications.

The four students in the picture below are from Namibia, Botswana, and Cameroon. Ms Moises will do her PhD in Disaster Management with her research titled, ‘Evaluation of operational early warning systems for flood risk reduction in Namibia’. Ms Awah will also do her PhD in Disaster Management and her research topic is ‘Assessing the impacts of floods on water resources along the Cameroon coast: Case study of Douala’. The other students will do their master’s in Agricultural Economics.



From the left: Back: Dr A Ncube, Dr O Kunguma, Ms V Poto, Dr T Raphela, Dr J Belle. Front: Ms DRJJ Moises, Mr OT Selelo, Ms LS Awah, and Ms EB Manyiyuk.

UFS–DiMTEC is proud to be part of this initiative for the first time and is hoping that the programme will further widen the centre’s footprint in Africa. The centre will also use this opportunity to enhance staff mobility and open doors for project collaborations with other institutions of higher education in Africa.

First UFS–DiMTEC academic writing retreat

As part of the student and staff development, UFS–DiMTEC obtained sponsorship from the Postgraduate School for a writing retreat. The event was held at the Bains Game Lodge over three days, from 12 to 14 October 2021. A total of 13 participants were in attendance. Each student had a lecturer guiding them step by step on writing their article or working on their PhD or master’s research. This was an interesting programme, as it involved intense reading, critical discussions, and writing – starting in the early morning hours into the late hours of the night.



Participants – in no specific order: Ms Zukiswa V Poto, Dr Alice Ncube, Dr Daisy T Raphela, Ms Mariëtte Joubert, Dr Johannes Belle, Ms Matshediso Mohoje, Mr Solomon Charumbira, Ms Oboneng Nonjola, Ms Fumiso Muyambo, Ms Collin Parkin, Dr Israel R Orimoloye, and Ms Lemohag Mokoka.

This is what two of the writing retreat participants had to say.

“The writing retreat was an invaluable opportunity created for students pursuing their master’s and PhDs in Disaster Management. The platform allowed interaction and exchange of ideas among us as students and our supervisors. What mainly stood out for me was the opportunity to sit with my supervisor, receiving one–on–one guidance through the article writing journey. With the preceding and current year being one of the most challenging periods of our time, seeing some of my classmates and lecturers for the very first time since the beginning of the COVID–19 pandemic was incredibly uplifting. Spending time with like–minded individuals was particularly delightful, because we could learn from each other and support each other with academic writing,

First UFS–DiMTEC academic writing retreat *(continue)*

drafting of proposals, and completing dissertations. I think this initiative is imperative and should be extended to more students because one gets to understand the true essence of teamwork, as no man can ever exist as an island. It has become apparent to me that education is more meaningful and beneficial when shared. Importantly, I think this retreat gives students the confidence to believe that they can become academics and that their voices matter to the body of knowledge and the society at large. I for one, had little to no idea that I would at some point in my life pursue a career in Disaster Management, yet here I am today, loving it and incorporating it in my day-to-day activities. It is the one discipline that I strongly believe more people should explore, simply because it encompasses elements of every other discipline. As the saying goes, disaster management is everyone's business, and it truly is."

Matshediso Mohoje



"UFS–DiMTEC afforded me the opportunity to attend the writing retreat. The opportunity created an academic atmosphere, which assisted me to focus on my research manuscript. Having my promoter sitting next to me helped me to focus, limiting any chances of me getting distracted by reading emails or WhatsApp messages. The retreat created the opportunity to have discussions with my promoter and other students to improve the quality of my work. I realised that I need to have dedicated times to work on my studies without interruptions. The retreat made me focus on my studies again and made me realise the importance of interacting with peers, promoters, and colleagues in order to be a good researcher and academic."

Mariëtte Joubert



An inspiring story about resilience in Africa

The primary catchment region that supplies Cape Town with water was hit by an unprecedented drought, which started in 2015. By the end of the 2017 rainy season, there were serious concerns about the city's ability to survive the dry summer months of 2017/18. In response, severe restrictions were enforced by the Department of Water and Sanitation – 60% on agriculture and 45% on urban users. Cape Town is the largest user in the system (63%), so there was considerable pressure on the people and businesses in Cape Town to save water urgently. The City of Cape Town used water demand management interventions to drive down demand and procured emergency projects to augment water supply. Businesses were hit with punitive tariff increases on their water and sanitation services to drive a rapid and significant decrease in demand.



Zukiswa V Poto

Despite the severity and harshness that the people of Cape Town faced, the province bounced back from the drought, and one can pinpoint the city's economic resilience. The City of Cape Town's tourism is a worldwide attraction. Many local and international tourists prefer to visit the Western Cape, especially Cape Town. Hence the drought had enormous consequences for the tourism industry in the province. Disasters such as this often take years to recover and bounce back from, especially economically, but the swift intervention and effective response ensured that the province could build capacity and recover from the disaster.
– written by Ms Zukiswa Poto

A word or two: wise words from wise minds

There is a proverb that says, 'He who advises you, is yours', or 'He who advises you, is on your side'. Nevertheless, this section provides you with some great pieces of advice from

Dr Alice Ncube
From the Programme Director's desk



A heartfelt welcome to the University of the Free State, especially the vibrant Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa, affectionately known as DiMTEC!, with a small letter 'i'. They say with experience comes wisdom, and as the Programme Director working directly with students, I have experienced a lot and gained some wisdom. Please allow me to share with you some 'DOs' and 'DONTs' to make your DiMTEC journey a 'bumpyless' one.

- When you send an email, always include your student number in the subject line.
- Always use the first name and surname you registered with; we know good things happen, such as getting married (congrats), but please do let me know, as well as the university's administration office. Do not just start sending emails with the new name.
- We also know that your friends and family gave you a nickname/pet name (aaaw, so sweet), but please do not use it when communicating with us, stick to the names you have registered with.

- Remind me of your scenario each time you call, as I cannot remember each one of you, especially over the phone.
- I climbed Mt Kilimanjaro to obtain the title 'Dr', so please address me as Dr Ncube and not as Dr Alice; this applies to all the lecturers.
- Do not hesitate to seek assistance in good time, not when things go wrong. When you are struggling mentally and emotionally (studying does that to everyone), do inform me without hesitation and know that I will treat the matter as strictly confidential.
- WhatsApp is very handy and can be fast, but please make sure you use it responsibly. Not at night, on weekends, and definitely no video calls.
- Lastly, complaints that are not addressed formally are rumours. Here at UFS-DiMTEC there is no favouritism, we treat everyone equally and with respect.

That's all from my wisdom purse, signing out, talk to me

Dr Yong S Nyam
Wise words from the UFS-DiMTEC statistics guru!

Welcome to DiMTEC, you have taken a very important step towards getting your qualification in Disaster Management. Statistical skills are very important in disaster management, and you will need this skill to complete your degree. Succeeding in statistics and getting your qualification is all about becoming an informed, independent learner, yet the best independent learners are those who are not afraid to seek advice regarding their work and on how to improve their studies. Luckily, we are always available to provide support to you whenever you are struggling with mathematics and statistics. We will hopefully help you develop your confidence and proficiency with any mathematics or statistics module, such as economic impact assessment, risk and impact assessment, and statistics. As the saying goes, "Statistical thinking will one day be as necessary a qualification for efficient citizenship as the ability to read and write" (H.G. Wells). All the best with your studies.



Bloemfontein: Get to know the home of UFS–DiMTEC and the UFS Bloemfontein Campus

Bloemfontein: the city of roses

Studying in Bloemfontein is the greatest choice and decision a student can ever make. Bloemfontein, poetically known as the 'city of roses' and also the 'place of cheetahs' because of its Sesotho name Mangaung, is the capital city of the Free State province, the judicial capital of South Africa. One of the major questions people usually ask when they plan a trip to a new place is, 'is the place safe?' and the answer to the safety of Bloemfontein is, yes, Bloemfontein is much safer than most cities. However, as a disaster risk manager, precaution is key. Here are some of the places you can visit when in Bloemfontein – after classes of course.

1. **Mimosa Mall** – Want to shop, eat, watch a movie? Then the mall is just a 30-minute walk, 7-minute drive away.
2. **Loch Logan Waterfront Mall** – Another shopping, eating, and movie spree. The mall is a 43-minute walk and a 10-minute drive away.
3. **Second Avenue** – So you want some good music, food, and drink, maybe a little bit of dancing to shake off all the heavy learning about disasters, hazards, vulnerabilities, you name it!! This street will be the perfect place to visit and enjoy the Bloemfontein nightlife, but don't stay out too long!

The rest about Bloemfontein – we are waiting to hear from you and your personal experiences.

University of the Free State – Bloemfontein Campus

The University of the Free State has three campuses, and Bloemfontein hosts the Bloemfontein Campus. So, during tea break, lunch, or dinner on the Bloemfontein Campus, take some time out to explore our beautiful, green, and well-maintained campus. Here are some key areas you need to know about.

1. **Thakaneng Bridge** – Also known as the Student Centre; here you can find a wide selection of food, books, grocery stores, banks, ATMs, internet cafes, and many other stores.
2. **The Sasol Library** – The library is a knowledge hub for students. There is a plethora of books in the library as well as places where one can study and hold discussions with fellow students. There is also a designated area for postgraduate students only.

3. **The Computer Lab** – For a wide variety of fast and advanced computers, with technicians available to assist. In the computer lab, there are also discussion rooms where students can work on group assignments.

4. **Taxi Rank** – Need transport? There is a taxi rank conveniently located on campus; you can find it next to the Visitors Centre (Gate 5).

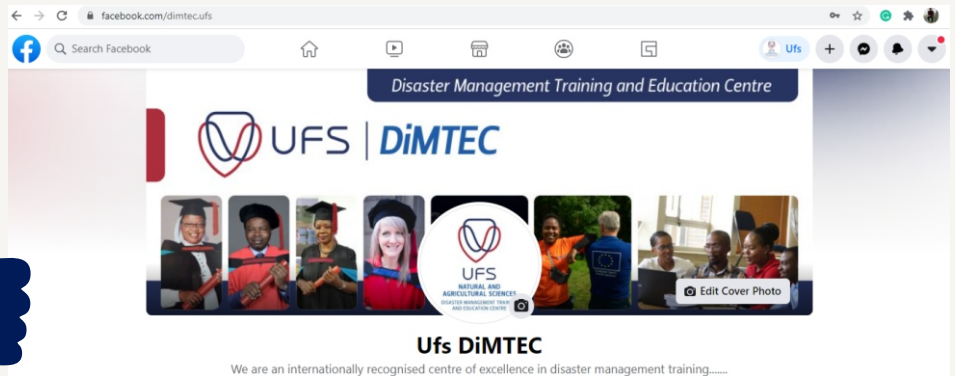
5. **Kovsie Health** – Should you require medical attention while on campus, doctors and nurses are available at Kovsie Health.

6. **George du Toit Building** – Also known as the Admin Building, where you will find all the information you need about Student Academic Services (Applications and Admissions Division, Student Accounts, Quotations, Study Records, Graduations, Financial Aid, and many more).



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