

POLICY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE ON PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS IN JUNIOR RESIDENCES ON THE BLOEMFONTEIN AND SOUTH CAMPUS

1. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In order to facilitate ease of reference and reading of this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires, the following capitalised terms shall have the meanings assigned to them below and cognate expressions shall have corresponding meanings.

“Academic Year”	means the period of the year during which students attend university, usually reckoned from the beginning of February (first semester) to the end of November (second semester);
“Applicant”	means a student applying for accommodation at a Junior Residence;
“AP”	means Admissions Point, which is a calculated point based on a Student’s levels of achievement in the Grade 11 (ELEVEN) or Grade 12 (TWELVE) examination and which, among others, entitles students to gain entry to undergraduate qualification studies at the UFS;
“Bloemfontein Campus”	means the UFS’ main campus situated in Bloemfontein at 205 Nelson Mandela Drive, Bloemfontein;
“Extended Program”	means an extended programme option provided to Students that do not meet the requisite requirements for a particular programme offered at the UFS, as determined by the Student Academic Services department of the UFS in accordance with the relevant rule books of the UFS, in order to allow such Student the opportunity to gain entrance into the desired programme subject to completion of certain extension modules;
“HRA”	means the Housing and Residence Affairs Division of the UFS;
“Institutional Charter”	means the institutional charter of the UFS;
“ITP”	means the Integrated Transformation Plan of the UFS;
“Junior Residences”	means any junior residence of the UFS, situated on the Bloemfontein -, QwaQwa -, or South Campus, in which a Student may reside, subject to the terms and conditions of this Policy;
“Placement Advisory Committee”	means a committee of people appointed by the Rectorate of the UFS to oversee the placement processes contemplated in this Policy;

“Policy”	means thus placement policy and related regulations pertaining to placement of Students in Junior Residences;
“Prospective Student”	means a student that is provisionally admitted in a study program at the UFS;
“QwaQwa Campus”	means the UFS’ qwaqwa campus situated in Phuthaditjhaba;
“South Campus”	means the UFS’ south campus situated in Bloemfontein at Vista Park;
“Student”	means a full-time registered student at the UFS;
“UFS”	means the University of the Free State; and
“UPP”	means the University Preparation Program offered to Prospective Students at the QwaQwa -, and South Campus, who have an AP of between 18 (EIGHTEEN) and 24 (TWENTY-FOUR), the opportunity to gain access (with credit recognition) to further degree studies at the Bloemfontein Campus.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 More than approximately 9 000 (NINE THOUSAND) first year students are currently registered at the UFS.
- 2.2 Junior Residences currently accommodate less than 2 000 (TWO THOUSAND) first-year Students in on-campus accommodation at the UFS.
- 2.3 First-year students, especially first-generation students, are the most vulnerable group of students entering a new and highly challenging phase in their young adult life.
- 2.4 The gradual increase in the number of first-year students in residences over the next 3 (THREE) years (2018 – 2020) at the UFS, HRA introduced, as part of their ITP, deliverables to reach 60% (SIXTY PERCENT) placements of first-year students in Junior Residences in 2020.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1 Diversity

- 3.1.1 A general racial diversity target of 50:50 (FIFTY-FIFTY) offers is set in respect of the total capacity of a Junior Residence.
- 3.1.2 In order to achieve the above-mentioned, first-year Students are placed according to the diversity needs of the specific Junior Residence taking cognisance of the UFS Student profile.

3.2 Academic Admission Requirements

- 3.2.1 The academic merit of an Applicant is determined on the basis of the most recent AP, as calculated by the UFS. This is based on the Applicant's Grade 11 (ELEVEN) or Grade 12 (TWELVE) AP.
- 3.2.2 A minimum Grade 12 AP of 30 (THIRTY) is required for admission to a Junior Residence on the Bloemfontein Campus. Preference will be given to Top Achievers (AP of 40 (FORTY) or more) in conjunction with the UFS Marketing Department.
- 3.2.3 Students in the UPP will qualify for admission to a Junior Residence if they obtain a 100% (ONE HUNDRED PERCENT) pass rate in all their modules.
- 3.2.4 A minimum Grade 12 AP of between 25 (TWENTY FIVE) and 30 (THIRTY) is required for admission to a Junior Residence on the QwaQwa Campus.
- 3.2.5 If an Applicant is admitted to a full-time program on the QwaQwa -, and/or South Campus, he/she qualifies automatically for accommodation on the QwaQwa -, or South Campus.
- 3.2.6 Students who successfully completed their studies and stayed in a Junior Residence on South Campus, will qualify for admission to a residence on the Bloemfontein Campus.

3.3 General Admission Requirements

In order to place well-balanced Students in Junior Residences on the Bloemfontein Campus, the highest level of achievement, in respect of leadership, culture and sport is considered and calculated as follows:

- 3.3.1 School Level = 4 (FOUR) points;
- 3.3.2 Provincial = 8 (EIGHT) points;
- 3.3.3 National = 12 (TWELVE) points; and
- 3.3.4 International = 16 (SIXTEEN) points.

4. SCOPE AND APPLICATION OF POLICY

- 4.1 This Policy is for the placement of Students in Junior Residences on the Bloemfontein -, QwaQwa -, and South Campus.
- 4.2 Only registered Students of the UFS may be accommodated in Junior Residences, subject to the terms and conditions as set out in this Policy.
- 4.3 Students from other tertiary institutions (excluding, without limitation, exchange students studying at the UFS) shall not be accommodated in Junior Residences.

5. FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

- 5.1 Prospective first-year Students of the UFS are selected according to a differentiated approach.
- 5.2 Over the next 3 (THREE) years (2019 – 2021) HRA will gradually increase the number of first-year Students in Junior Residences on the Bloemfontein Campus as follows, in respect of the relevant Academic Year indicated below:

- 5.2.1 50% (FIFTY PERCENT) for the 2019 Academic Year;
 - 5.2.2 60% (SIXTY PERCENT) for the 2020 Academic Year; and
 - 5.2.3 65% (SIXTY FIVE PERCENT) for the 2021 Academic Year.
- 5.3 If an Applicant has accepted accommodation on the Bloemfontein Campus prior to disclosure of his/her Grade 12 (TWELVE) results, and his/her final results determine studies in an Extended Program on the South Campus, he/she will be obliged to make use of the Junior Residences on the South Campus.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 6.1 The residence application points for each Applicant for Bloemfontein Campus will be calculated as follows:
- 6.1.1 The sum total of the admission points (carrying a weight of 2/3), calculated in the manner as set out in paragraph 3.2 (Academic Admission Requirements).
 - 6.1.2 The general admission points (carrying a weight of 1/3), calculated in the manner as set out in paragraph 3.3 (General Admission Requirements).
- 6.2 Continuous random selection will take place on the basis of a residence application point, provided that the Applicant shall have conditional admission to a particular programme at the UFS prior to selection. Preference will be given to Applicants with an application point of 40 (FORTY) and above, as well as Top Achievers identified by UFS Marketing as contemplated in paragraph 3.2.2 above.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The Policy will be implemented by HRA, in conjunction with the Placement Advisory Committee.

8. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This Policy's purpose is –

- 8.1 to align this Policy with –
 - 8.1.1 the goals of HRA's ITP;
 - 8.1.2 the vision, mission and values of the UFS; and
 - 8.1.3 the Institutional Charter, read with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa;

in order to create a feeling of unity and cooperation in the Junior Residences, which is based on integrity, mutual respect and fairness, within the context of the constitutional values of non-racism, non-sexism and non-discrimination;
- 8.2 to follow an educational approach to diversity in Junior Residences;
- 8.3 to facilitate and manage interaction and mutual learning among Students from different racial, cultural, economic and historical backgrounds (among other dimensions of diversity) in Junior Residences;

- 8.4 to pursue innovation with regard to equity, justice and fairness in dealing with diversity at the UFS;
- 8.5 to reflect diversity in a balanced and respectful manner at the UFS;
- 8.6 to create essential and sufficient multi-linguicism at the UFS;
- 8.7 to prevent dominance and marginalisation of any group and to proactively protect the interest of minority groups at the UFS;
- 8.8 to promote an all-permeating academic culture and an intellectual stimulating environment at the UFS; and
- 8.9 to create a sense of belonging at the UFS.

9. OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY

The operational implementation of the Policy is done by the following sub-division of HRA, namely the Placement Administration department within HRA, which will liaise with other relevant role players such as the Assistant Director: Residence Life, Residence Heads and the Residence Committees.

10. REVIEW PROCEDURE

This Policy will be reviewed annually by HRA in conjunction with the Placement Advisory Committee.

11. GENERAL

- 11.1 The impact and implementation of this Policy must be monitored continuously.
- 11.2 No pattern of 'black' or 'white' areas or floors or groups of rooms is allowed in Junior Residences.
- 11.3 Alignment with other policies related to the management of diversity must be monitored carefully by the UFS.
- 11.4 Students who are 23 (TWENTY-THREE) years old on 1 January of the current year in which the application is made, must apply for senior residence at the UFS.

12. POLICY RECORD

Document Name	Placement Policy
Document Number	
Coordinating UMC Member	Prof Prakash Naidoo
Contact Person	Mr Quintin Koetaan
Status	Senior Director
Approved By	
Date Finally Approved	
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Person Responsible for Review	Mr Hein Badenhorst
Monitoring By	Mr Quintin Koetaan
Related Documents	
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