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What is Gateway Orientation?

Two weeks prior to the start of classes, all first-years have the unique opportunity to enter the Gateway to succeed in their study careers and in university life. The annual Gateway Orientation for First-Year Students is a programme on student life. The programme is packed with a series of learning events that introduce students to campus and faculty life. It is designed to help every first-year student to adjust to the university environment, introduce students to the new environment; and to teach and transfer skills to achieve academic success and prepare students to be well-rounded graduates.

The Gateway Orientation experience includes a series of exciting lectures to guide your understanding and expectations of university life. Furthermore, it helps you to orientate yourself on campus and to all the resources available to support students. The experience includes exciting student-life activities, but also first-year sports events such as athletics and swimming as well as cultural events, among many other outcomes-based activities.

All of these events provide you with well-structured opportunities to meet new friends and establish friendship networks that will support you during your studies. During the orientation experience, you will also be introduced to a peer mentor in a student mentoring programme to further support you in adapting to university life.

Why is orientation important?

The Gateway Orientation programme introduces you to important services, programmes, and resources that will be of vital importance to becoming a successful student.

What is orientation?

The Gateway Orientation programme is a programme that facilitates a number of activities to new students during the two weeks directly before classes start for the first semester. These activities are purposefully designed to orientate new students effectively to the university environment and to assist them in this way with their higher education.

Is orientation compulsory?

Yes. It is packed with information that will be helpful for success at university.

Is orientation only for students living in university residences?

No. Orientation is for ALL first-year students.

Who should attend orientation?

All first-entry students at the University of the Free State.

What can you expect when you attend orientation?

You will receive information, tools, and resources on how to navigate campus and university life.

- You will be taken on a campus and library tour so that you don't get lost by the time the semester starts.
- You will be connected to a community and make new friends.
- You will receive a FREE gift with the attendance of each session (FREE UFS T-shirt, Gateway diary, UFS pen, booklet, lanyard and card holder, and a whole lot of great giveaways and prizes to be won for participation).

When is orientation taking place?

Before classes start. Please see the Programme for complete information on venues and times. If you are unsure about anything in the Programme, find a Gateway Buddy and ask for assistance.

Where is orientation taking place?

On the campus where you will be studying. Please see the Programme for complete information on venues and times.

What are the exact dates for orientation in 2020?

Bloemfontein Campus
18 January to 1 February 2020. Please see the Programme for complete information.

South Campus
27 January to 31 January 2020. Please see the Programme for complete information.

Qwaqwa Campus
27 January to 1 February 2020. Please see the Programme for complete information.

How will attending orientation benefit you?

You will:

- Make friends before the semester starts
- Know your way around the campus before the semester starts
- Know about various campus activities
- Receive help with class timetables
- Be allocated to a college community
- Experience student life
- Get assistance with any other important matters before the academic semester starts.



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Tips and advice

Find a Gateway Buddy whenever you feel lost!

Keep your UFS password safe and never share it with anyone.

Do not click 'Save my password' on any computer on campus.

Keep your student card safe; keep it with you all the time. Your student card is an identity card as well as a user's card. It provides access to the university campuses and the library, etc. You can also use the student card to make purchases (if loaded with money/cash). Should you lose your student card (lost, stolen or damaged), contact Office 0014, Intsika Building, Admin Ground Floor to replace it; a replacement fee is payable to replace a student card. Never lend your student card to anybody!

Keep your belongings safe! Never leave any of your belongings unattended.

Always bring a pen and notebook to class. Pay attention and be an engaged student. Ask if you are unsure or if you do not understand.

Prepare for class. Study daily.

Don't be late for classes.

Lead a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Eat. Drink water. Sleep. Study. Make friends.

Study the new words on the next page to make sure you understand university communication. If you hear a new word and you do not know what it means, "ASK"!

Enjoy your learning experience at university!

New words and abbreviations (glossary)

You will hear new words, and we have simplified a few for you so that you don't struggle with your adjustment to university 'lingo'.

AP score	Admission point score allocated to your school subjects for admission to tertiary institutions.
Applying for admission	The process by which a person's personal data is captured onto the university's database, but does not mean they have been accepted yet.
Registration	A contractual agreement entered into annually by the university and an aspirant student, subject to procedures by virtue of which she or he is granted student status.
Orientation	A period that gives first-entering students an opportunity to familiarise themselves with their university.
Module	A self-contained unit of learning that forms part of the course.
Compulsory module	A necessary module that a student has to do.
Core module	Compulsory learning required in situations contextually relevant to a particular qualification.
Elective module	A selection of additional credits from which a choice may be made to ensure that the purpose of the qualification is achieved.
Fundamental or Core module	A module of which the learning forms the basis or foundation for the education required to obtain the qualification.
Credit	The recognition obtained when a student passes examinations or tests to comply with conditions for completion of a qualification.
Semester	A study period extending to half of the academic year.
Academic year	A specified period given for the academic activities of a specific year, consisting of two semesters.
Distinction	A final mark of 75% or more achieved in a module/course.
Exemption	Students do not have to take examinations in a module, e.g. promoting a module.
International student	A student who is not a South African citizen.
Syllabus	The content of the module/course.
Predicate	Total semester mark that determines whether or not a student can take an exam (as per faculty requirement).
Prerequisites	The requirements for admission to a module, as stated in the general rules of the faculty.
Plagiarism	When you use someone's words without acknowledging them.
Graduation	The receiving or conferring of an academic degree or diploma.
Academic	A teacher or scholar in a university or other institute of higher education.
Professor	A university academic of the highest rank.
Lecturer	A person that educates at an institution of higher learning.
Dean	The head of a faculty.
Vice-Chancellor	A person who is the principal of the university.
Deputy Vice-Chancellor	Person who is second in charge under the Vice-Chancellor. You will hear people say 'DVC'.
HOD	Head of Department.
MBA	Master of Business Administration.
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning.
Registrar	Responsible for student administration and institutional governance.
Senate	The body that governs academic policies and procedures in respect of teaching, learning, research and academic functions.
SRC	Student Representative Council.
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme, a bursary scheme enabling students to fund their studies.
Faculty	A collection of departments focusing on similar divisions of knowledge.
Faculty Manager	A manager of the faculty. The person you contact when you need to make any enquiries with regard to your studies.
Undergraduate	When you are doing your diploma or degree. A university student who has not obtained any degree or diploma.
Postgraduate	What you become after you complete your degree. Postgraduate is also used to refer to an honours, master's, PhD, or postdoctoral degree studied after obtaining an undergraduate degree, i.e. postgraduate degree.
Degree	A qualification awarded to a student for successful completion of a course.
Academia	The environment or community concerned with the pursuit of research, education, and scholarship, such as a university. Other words with the same meaning include 'educational, intellectual, scholarly, and scholastic'.
BA	Bachelor of Arts degree.
BComm	Bachelor of Commerce degree.
BSc	Bachelor of Science degree.
Hons	Honours degree. A degree that follows an undergraduate degree.
MB ChB	Medical degree.
MA	A degree that follows an honours degree.
PhD	A PhD is a degree awarded to people who have done advanced research into a particular subject. PhD is an abbreviation for 'Doctor of Philosophy'.
Postdoc	A postdoctoral or postdoc is a person professionally conducting research after the completion of their doctoral studies.

Gateway Programme 2020

GATEWAY (ORIENTATION) PROGRAMME UFS QWAQWA CAMPUS 2020

Week 1 (Registration Week)

Registration runs from 8 to 17 January 2020

FACULTIES

- EMS: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences
- EDU: Faculty of Education
- HUM: Faculty of the Humanities
- NAS: Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

GATEWAY (ORIENTATION) PROGRAMME UFS QWAQWA CAMPUS 2020

Week 2 (Gateway Orientation Week)

Date	Sunday 26 January 2020 Venue: L5	Monday 27 January 2020 Venue: L5	Tuesday 28 January 2020 Venue: L5	Wednesday 29 January 2020 Venue: L5	Thursday 30 January 2020 Venue: L5	Friday 31 January 2020 Venue: L5	Saturday 1 February 2020 Venue: L5	Monday 3 February 2020 Venue: L5		
Time										
08:00 – 08:20	NO ACTIVITIES	Overview of Support Services (Mr V Nthakheni: Acting Director: Student Affairs)	Library Services presentation	CUADS presentation	Residence Life presentation	Blackboard	Start of the Amazing Race for all units (Venue: entire campus) UFS 101 activity	NO ACTIVITIES Classes start		
08:20 – 08:40		Housing and Residence Affairs -Deputy Director (Mr Z Mdluli)	Student Counselling and Development presentation	Campus Clinic presentation	Off-campus Liaison (Off-campus accommodation) presentation					
08:40 – 09:00		Introduction of SRC members and Gateway mentors (Mrs DP Malimabe)	Career Development Unit presentation	HIV/AIDS Unit presentation	Campus Protection Services presentation (Safety and Security session)					
09:00 – 09:20		First Generation (First-year experience)	Gender Equality and Anti- discrimination presentation	Social Support Unit presentation	Student Development presentation					
09:20 – 09:40		Centre for Teaching and Learning presentation	ICT presentation	Sports Unit presentation	Community Engagement ABCD presentation					
09:40 – 10:00		Campus tour	Campus tour	Campus tour	Computer Lab tour					
10:00 – 10:30	BREAK									
10:30 – 11:10	Arrival and allocation of rooms to residence students	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 activity			
11:10 – 11:50										
11:50 – 12:30										
12:30 – 13:00										
13:00 – 14:00	BREAK									
14:00 – 15:30		UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	UFS 101 module	Sports activities (Venue: Sports ground) Braai for first-years ORIENTATION ENDS			
14:30 – 15:00										
15:00 – 15:30										
16:00 – 17:00	Residence administration and residence rules	FREE TIME	SRC activities	Residence Life programme	Step-Up for Success	Step-Up for Success finals				
17:00 – 17:30										
17:30 – 18:00										
18:00 – 18:30										
18:30 – 20:00		Step-Up for Success and video								

NB: Official welcoming of first-entering first-year students by the Rector, 8 February 2020 at 10:00, Geography Auditorium

8 February 2020
12:00 – 15:00 # Know my City (tour around Qwaqwa)

