

Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support

The Centre was established in 2001, which has since grown and expanded significantly, and today forms part of Student Affairs as an independent entity, with offices at the Bloemfontein, South and QwaQwa campuses. Supplementary to the academic support offered to students with disabilities, CUADS increasingly plays a vital role in the development of awareness and advocacy for persons with disabilities across all three campuses of the UFS firmly believing in our motto “nothing about us without us”. The Centre aims to ensure that the UFS increasingly becomes a universally accessible higher education institution which embraces and is welcoming to all students, including students with disabilities.

- **Disability Support Programme**, which entails the provision of specialist and a holistic coordinated approach in student support while also availing information for data collection and reporting purposes. The aim of the programme is to create enabling environments to empower students with disabilities to participate equally.
- **Accessible Transport Programme**, which includes the provision of accessible transport to students with disabilities between Bfn and South Campuses.
- **Liaison, Awareness and Advocacy Programme** for the development of awareness and advocacy for persons with disabilities across all three campuses. Partnerships here are the Center for Teaching and Learning, Student Life and Communities.
- **Staff with Disabilities Programme** to advance optimal support for staff members with disabilities together with Human Resources.
- **Staff Development and Training Programme** in partnership with Human Resources to develop an institutional knowledge-based culture of mindfulness regarding the diverse student population of the UFS.
- **Accessibility Programme** to ensure access to all building and facilities for all users, according to the principles of Universal Access and Universal Design together with University Estates.
- **Accessible Study Material Production Programme** for the provision of academic support through the coordination and production of accessible learning material and lectures with Academic Departments and lecturers.
- **Communication Access Programme** for the provision of academic support through the facilitation and coordination of communication access together with Interpreter Services.

- **Alternative Assessment Programme** by facilitating and coordinating alternative assessments options together with the Exam Division and Student Counselling and Development.
- **Student Academic Support Programme** to move away from all academic support services to persons with disabilities predominantly be the responsibility of CUADS in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching and Learning – WriteSite, A_Step Programme

CUADS provides support services to the following categories of students with disabilities:



Specific learning difficulties

(e.g. Dyslexia, ADD/ADHD, Hyperactivity).



Mobility impaired (e.g. wheelchair users, amputees, Cerebral Palsy, Muscle Dystrophy, Spina Bifida, Multiple Sclerosis).



Visually impaired

(e.g. blind, partially sighted). Students receive all their study material and textbooks according to the format of their choice, which includes Braille, Audio (material is read on a digital recorder), enlarged material and E-text.



Hearing impaired

(Deaf, hard of hearing and deafened).



Debilitating **psychological** and other **chronic** conditions (e.g. Schizophrenia, Epilepsy, Panic Disorder).



Temporary impairments (e.g. a broken hand).

CUADS CONTACT INFORMATION



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