

UNIVERSITY OF THE
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The Office for International Affairs (OIA) welcomed 12 exchange students for the 2023 second semester. The cohort of students comes from the UFS' many international partners, including the Fachhochschule Kufstein Tirol in Austria, Sciences PO Bordeaux in France, the University of Bremen in Germany, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Radboud University, and the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the Netherlands.

This is the largest number of incoming exchange students received post-COVID-19. The UFS faculties of The Humanities, Natural, Agricultural Sciences, and Economic and Management Sciences, respectively, hosted these groups of students. The new exchange students were paired with ambassadors who are local UFS students as part of the OIA integration initiative – known as the Umoja Buddy Programme (UBP) – to ensure a smooth transition into the UFS community, Bloemfontein, and South Africa as a whole.

The OIA's Internationalisation at Home portfolio hosted a Meet and Greet event for the exchange students on 20 July 2023. The event aimed to welcome the students to the university and inform them about the different services they can get on campus.

This was a collaborative event with some of the stakeholders, namely Protection Services, ICT, CTL, Medical Services, the SRC: International Student Council, Umoja Buddy Programme, and the Department of Housing and Residence Affairs. The students also had the opportunity to meet with their local buddies physically.