

UNIVERSITY OF
THE FREE STATE

REACH OUT • GET CONNECTED • TOUCH GREATNESS



STUDY VISAS AND SA MEDICAL AID

20 22

T: +27 51 401 3000 | E: ufsmarketing@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za

[f UFSUV](#) | [t UFSweb](#) | [v UFSweb](#) | [i ufsuv](#)

Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.

**Kovsie
2B**

UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS



STUDY VISAS

If you are a foreign student and wish to study in South Africa, you can apply for a study visa by completing South African Home Affairs Form BI-1738. Study visas must be applied for at VFS Global Centres (<https://www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica/>) at various locations in South Africa or at the nearest South African embassy, mission or consulate abroad; prospective students are responsible for the payment of the relevant fees. Study visas for studies at a learning institution must be valid for the duration of the study.

The following documents must be submitted with the **BI-1738 application form**:

- a passport valid for no less than 30 days after intended studies
- payment of the prescribed administrative fee
- confirmation and proof of payment for a South African medical aid through a medical scheme registered with the SA Council for Medical Schemes; the cover must remain valid for the duration of the calendar year
- letter of offer from the university, stating the duration of the degree
- letter of undertaking from the university – this letter is issued by the Office for International Affairs
- medical and radiological reports (less than six months old)
- yellow fever vaccination certificate, if relevant
- relevant certificates if married, widowed, divorced, or separated
- details regarding arranged accommodation while in South Africa
- proof of sufficient funds to cover tuition fees and maintenance
- a police clearance certificate for the past 12 months or longer since the age of 18.

You are advised to submit the documentation as soon as possible. DO NOT send the documentation to the university. You should keep a copy of your submission and all receipts safe. Please note that it can take longer than one month to obtain a study visa.

Please note that the holder of a study visa may conduct part-time work for a period not exceeding 20 hours per week.

OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Office for International Affairs (OIA) serves as the first port of call for all international students at the UFS, providing assistance and specialised administrative support. The principal purpose of the OIA is to enable internationalisation at the UFS. It renders strategic advice on internationalisation and supports the international activities of internal UFS stakeholders. It furthermore supports international partnerships, research internationalisation, internationalisation-at-home activities, and student exchanges.



The services include, but are not limited to

- specialised services for international students, and ensuring their compliance with relevant legislation;
- facilitating international partnerships and advice to internal stakeholders on partnership processes;
- providing practical and emotional support for international students;
- structuring co-curricular internationalisation-at-home activities, such as cultural diversity celebrations;
- supporting co-curricular internationalisation-at-home activities and the social integration of international students; and
- liaison with various external stakeholders, i.e. government, embassies in South Africa, science councils, and funding agencies.



SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL AID

In terms of the Immigration Act 13 of 2002 as amended and its regulations, any international prospective student in the Republic of South Africa has to provide proof of medical cover with a medical scheme registered in terms of the Medical Schemes Act 131 of 1998. Although you might be able to secure a study visa with other types of medical products, whether South African or otherwise, the University of the Free State only accepts South African medical-aid products. To comply with the regulations, the university requires a membership certificate as proof of full medical-aid cover with a South African-registered medical-aid scheme for the full calendar year, until 31 December of that year. (<https://www.medicalschemes.com/medicalschemes.aspx>)

To avoid unnecessary complications, please make the necessary financial arrangements with the medical-aid provider prior to your entry into South Africa. Should you rely on a sponsorship, please make sure that you advise your sponsor of this requirement as soon as you get sponsorship or acceptance. The required medical-aid cover fee must be paid directly to the medical-aid company, separate from the tuition fees. Students will not be allowed to register unless they can show a membership certificate as proof of a valid and comprehensive medical-aid cover for the duration of the academic year (until 31 December); without a clearance certificate, students cannot register at the institution. Students who are members or dependents of a South African-based parent/guardian/spousal/work medical aid, are required to present a recent membership certificate for the annual registration. The membership certificate must reflect active membership for the current year.



IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE RELEVANT PERSON:

Immigration, Accreditation, Medical Aid, Finances, and Student Administration:

Jeanne Niemann: +27 51 401 3219 | niemannaja@ufs.ac.za

Incoming exchange students, internationalisation@home coordinator:

Bulelwa Malo: +27 51 401 9436 | malob@ufs.ac.za

International Office, Qwaqwa Campus:

Kanego Mokgosi: +27 58 718 5115 | mokgosike@ufs.ac.za

View the UFS Prospectus 2022 at

<https://ufs.ac.za/prospective>

