



## UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE Main Campus

Report on assessment of accessibility of  
the campus and various buildings for  
people with  
disabilities.



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other  
amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

**TPOLOGY**ARCHITECTS

The Main campus of the University of the Free State includes many wonderful historic buildings that were not designed nor built with the needs of students with disabilities in mind. Many changes have been made to address the challenges that persons with disabilities face on Main Campus but it remains an ongoing process that should be constantly reviewed. The accessibility of classroom buildings is not limited to ramps, elevators and platform lifts but the absence of accessible bathrooms in buildings as well as the accessibility within the classroom needs urgent attention as well.

The Unit for Students with Disabilities (USD) offers support to all students with disabilities and special needs. At present (February 2012) the Unit supports more than 150 students with disabilities. Within the total group of students is included: 12 students in wheelchairs, 4 students that are permanently unable to walk without using crutches, 13 blind students, 27 partially sighted students, 8 hearing impaired students.

| Current situation   | Gap   | Ideal situation  | Actions taken already   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Many of the buildings where lecture halls and offices of academic staff are located is inaccessible for persons with disabilities | Lecture halls and the offices of academic staff should be accessible to <u>all</u> students, staff and visitors   | All buildings on campus should be fully accessible for all persons with disabilities   | Upgrading of buildings are taking place according to a prioritised strategic plan in cooperation with Physical planning. (see list below) |
| Many buildings that are accessible do not have bathroom facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities               | Limited number of accessible bathrooms available on campus  | All bathrooms on campus should have a designated facility for persons with a disability or be fully accessible   | A list is being compiled of all the bathrooms that need to be upgraded and the "bathroom project" has been identified as a priority.      |
| There are several places on campus where access is limited or restricted as a result of uneven surfaces or steps                  | Access is restricted and limited in certain areas and alternative routes have to be followed or alternative plans are made that are not always safe                           | Ramps should be strategically placed all over campus to ensure maximal accessibility   | Specific locations for ramps have been identified and allocated and a dedicated "ramp project" was launched in 2010/2011.                 |
| There are very few designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities on campus available                                    | The limited parking spaces result in students having to park far from their classes and walk with effort, push themselves or be pushed long distances and be late for classes | Dedicated parking spaces for persons with disabilities were allocated in key areas on campus close to the lecture halls and these parking spaces have been properly marked and allocated. Many vehicles without the necessary identification continue to park on the designated spaces everywhere on campus. | Completed 2010  |

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



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TYPOLOGYARCHITECTS

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| The lift in the FGG building in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is accessed with a key and a security card for the door entrance            | The lift is not always in working order and some students have difficulty working with the key.   | Improvement of the current lift.  |   |
| Uneven surfaces and steps are not clearly marked and indicated  | Persons with visual impairments finds it difficult to identify uneven surfaces  | Uneven surfaces and steps to be clearly marked and indicated with reflective paint.   | Some uneven surfaces have been marked.  |
| Ongoing construction on the Main campus create hazardous situations for students that are visually impaired   | Students with visual impairments encounter difficulty on routes that they navigate and know   | All construction contractors should be aware of the fact that their operations can impact on students with disabilities.<br>Areas should be clearly marked and safely closed off.   | In some cases the USD was notified to inform students of work in progress on campus.  |
| Classrooms campus wide is inaccessible to students when attending a class – suggested classrooms to start with:<br>Stabilis<br>CR Swart<br>Lectorium<br>FGG | Students in wheelchairs have to work on their laps and visually impaired students have difficulty hearing the lecturer or making a recording of the class | A designated space in the front of the class, for all students with disabilities, with adjustable tables and space for the sign language interpreter to sit as well as sound amplification systems for the hearing impaired | Temporary tables have been put in the front of classes, but they are moved around between classes and many times not there anymore when the student returns to the class. |

The following projects have been completed.

|     | Building                                      | Actions taken  | Comments                                | Timeframe      |
|-----|---|--|---|----------------|
| 1.  | Education (Winkie Direko) OG                  | Ramps at both entrances  | .                                       | Completed 2010 |
| 2.  | Theology building                             | Ramp at entrance   |   | Completed 2011 |
| 3.  | School of Medicine (Francois Retief Building) | Platform lifts installed   |   | Completed 2010 |
| 4.  | North block (N)                               | Permission for access to the North block through the Main building has been granted. A practical solution must be found for access to the door on the Northern side of the Main building as it is kept locked. | Door opened by Security at MainBuilding | Completed 2010 |
| 5.  | Kovsie Health                                 | A ramp added to give access to main entrance   |   | Completed 2010 |
| 6.  | Landbou building (South)                      | Accessibility at the South entrance – construct ramps  |   | Completed 2010 |
| 9.  | South block (S)                               | A ramp to be added to the Western side of the walkway. Great structural changes will have to take place to make the upper levels of the building accessible.   |   | Completed 2010 |
| 10. | Biology lecture halls (BL)                    | Accessible bathrooms added.  |   | Completed 2010 |
| 11. | Geography building (GEO)                      | Entrance to be made accessible.  |   | Completed 2011 |
| 12. | Geology building (GG)                         | Entrance to be made accessible.  |   | Completed 2011 |
| 13. | Walkway to Thakaneng Bridge                   | Ramps has been improved and obstructions removed   |   | Completed 2011 |
| 14. | DF Malherbe House                             | Ramp provided at entrance  |   | 2013           |
| 15. | Callie Human                                  | Ramp to steep and not at the main entrance. The ramp at the western entrance to the Callie Human Hall is not sufficient and on standard. A new ramp was constructed.   | .                                       | 2013           |



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TYPOLOGYARCHITECTS

|     |                                       |  |   |                               |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 16. | EPOG/Sielkunde Building               | Elevator installed   |   | Completed 2010                |
| 17. | West block (W)                        | Elevator constructed   |   | Elevator completed early 2011 |
| 18. | Winkie Direko Building                | New lift installed to make first and second floors accessible.<br>New bathroom for the disabled on ground floor level  |   | 2012                          |
| 19. | Kovsie Health and Counseling Services | Elevator for accessibility to the first floor.<br>There is a small step by the ramp by the front door that makes it very difficult for a person in a motorized wheelchair to enter. A new ramps was constructed.<br>The ramp across the road at the Wellness office and HIV/Aids office also has a similar step that is difficult for persons in motorized chairs to navigate. A new ramp was constructed. | One of the staff members of the Counseling Services is a person with a physical disability. She uses crutches for mobility and many of the students with disabilities consult with the staff of counseling services on a regular basis. | 2013                          |

| Priority | Building                             | Actions to be taken  | Comments  | Suggested estimated timeframe |
|----------|--------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 1.       | Genmin Lectorium (LCT)               | Accessible bathrooms to be added.  |   | 2012                          |
| 2.       | CR Swart Auditorium                  | Permanent inside the building to the Auditorium and the Senate Hall. At present there is a back entrance that can be used for wheelchair users to access the Auditorium as well as a temporary moveable ramp that can be used in the foyer entrance to the Auditorium. | There was an indication of the possibility of constructing a ramp inside – unsure about progress. | 2012                          |
| 3.       | Mathematical Sciences building (WWG) | Current elevator to be upgraded.   |   | 2013                          |
| 4.       | Physics building (FG)                | Current elevator to be upgraded.   |   | 2013                          |
| 5.       | CR de Wet Building                   | The different disciplines in the School for Allied Health work with different persons with disabilities and should be fully accessible.  | Full access to all offices and lecture areas using platform lifts or building an elevator.        | 2014                          |
| 6.       | Mabaleng Building (BOK OUD)          | Accessible bathrooms to be added.  |   | 2014                          |
| 7.       | Odeion                               | The auditorium, reception area and stage are accessible but an elevator or platform lift will have to be installed to give access to the classrooms and library.   | To be prioritized   | 2014                          |
| 8.       | Biology building                     | Elevator/Platform lift   |   | 2014                          |
| 9.       | Landbou Building (North)             | North entrance and accessibility within the building on the multiple levels  | Not Priority  | 2014                          |
| 10.      | WAY FINDING PROJET                   |  | Proposal drafted and submitted with 2013 disability reports                                       | 2014                          |



## COMPLETED

1. Education (Winkie Direko) OG
2. Theology building
3. School of Medicine (Francois Retief Building)
4. North block (N)
5. Kovsie Health
6. Landbou building (South)
7. South block (S)
8. Biology lecture halls (BL)
9. Geography building (GEO)
10. Geology building (GG)
11. Walkway to Thakaneng Bridge
12. DF Malherbe House
13. Callie Human
14. EPOG/Sielkunde Building
15. West block (W)
16. Winkie Direko Building
17. Kovsie Health and Counseling Services

## TO BE COMPLETED

1. Genmin Lectorium
2. CR Swart
3. Mathematical sciences
4. Physics
5. CR de Wet
6. Mabaleng
7. Odeion
8. Biology
9. Landbou Building (North)
10. WAY FINDING PROJECT

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



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TPOLOGYARCHITECTS



1. Education (Winkie Direko) OG



2. Theology building



3. Francois Retief



4. North block



5. Kowsie Health



6. Agriculture



7. South block

## RAMPS AND TOILETS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: COMPLETED

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



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TYPOLOGYARCHITECTS



8. Biology lecture halls



10. Geography



11. Geology



12. DF Malherbe House



13. Callie Human

## RAMPS AND TOILETS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: COMPLETED

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

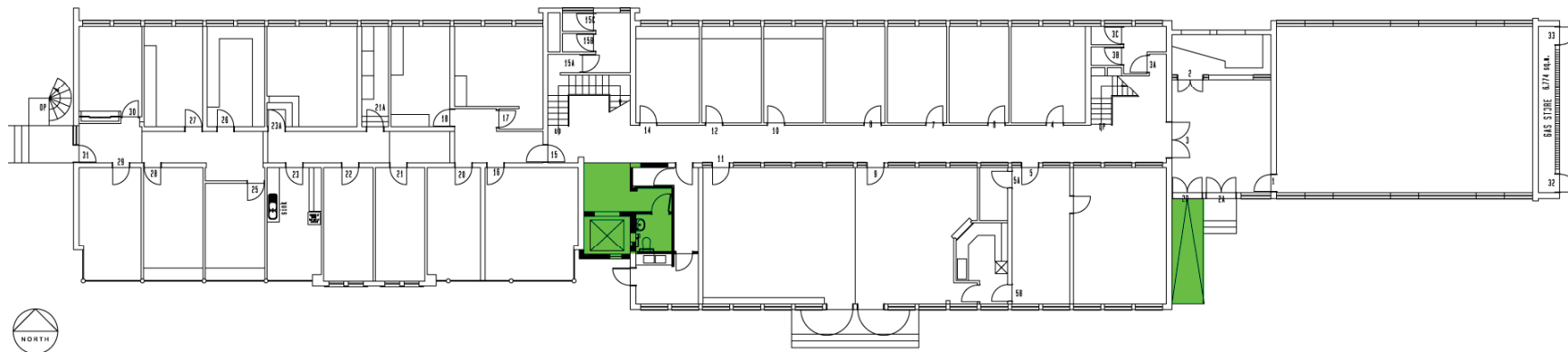


UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TPOLOGYARCHITECTS



# **14. COMPLETED 2010:** New lift shaft, ramp and toilet for the disabled for Epog / Psychology building

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

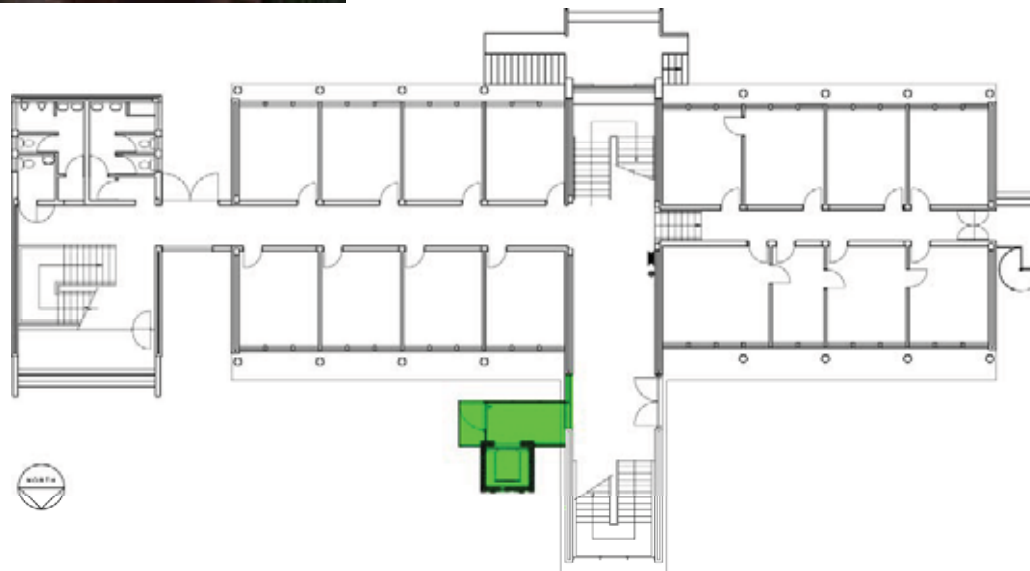


UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other  
amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

**TPOLOGYARCHITECTS**



**15.COMPLETED 2011:** New lift shaft for WESBLOK building

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



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

**TPOLOGY**ARCHITECTS



**16. COMPLETED 2012:** New lift shaft and toilet for the disabled for WINKIE DIREKO building

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

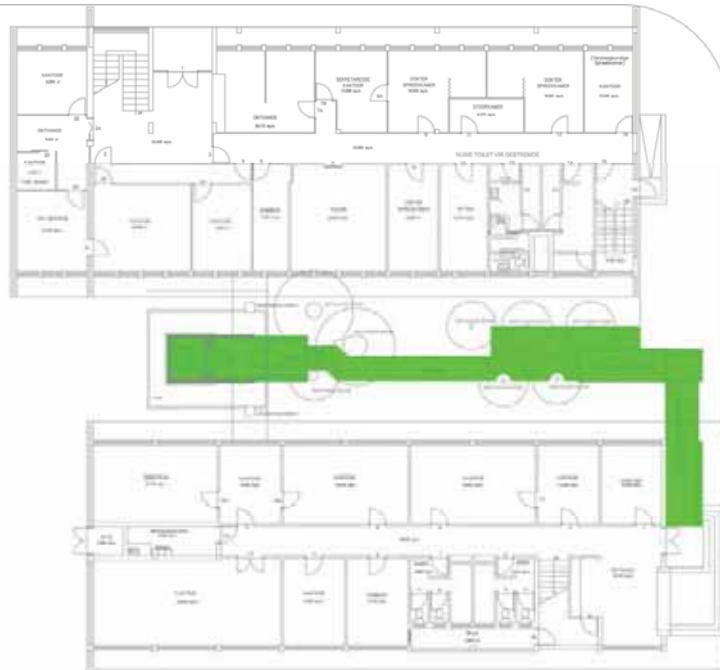


UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

**TPOLOGY**ARCHITECTS



## 17. COMPLETED 2013:

New lift shaft, ramp and toilets

KOVISIE STUDENT COUNSELING AND HEALTH

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

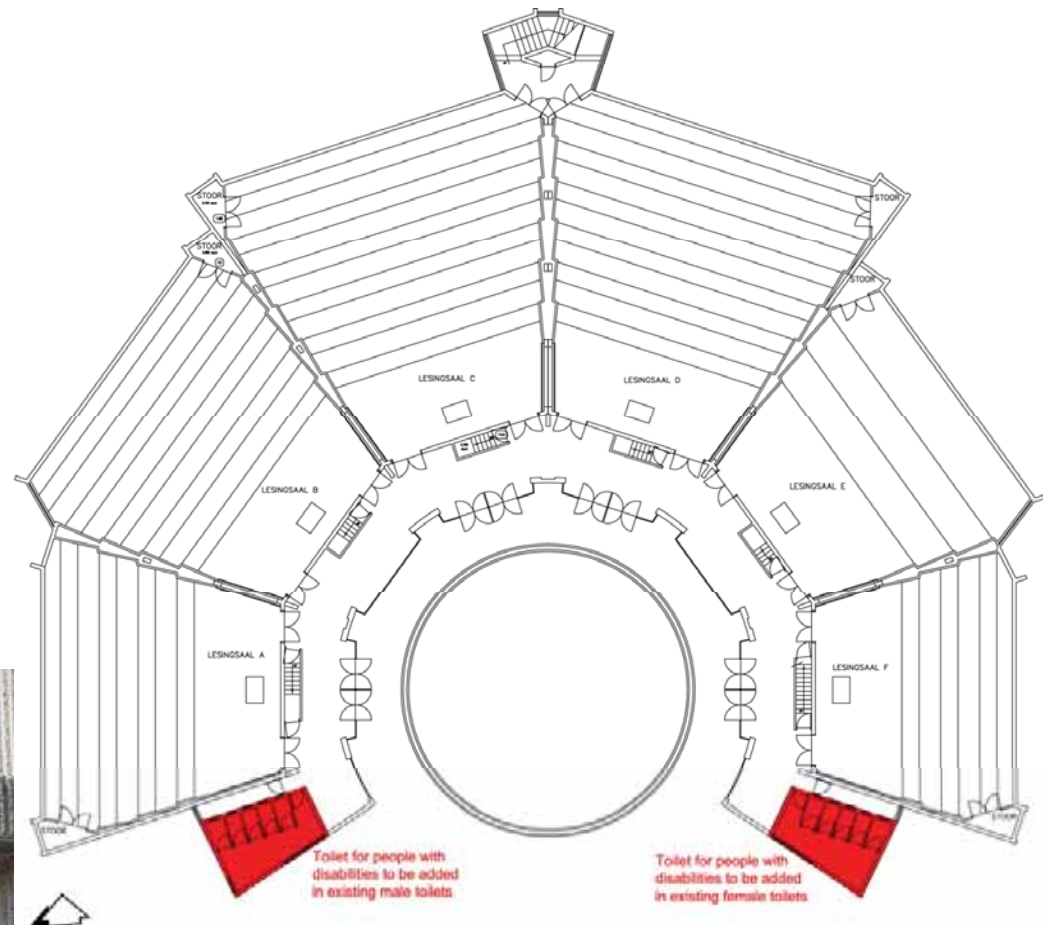


UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TYPOLGYARCHITECTS



**1. TO BE COMPLETED:**  
New ramp and toilets for disabled  
GENMIN LECTORIUM

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

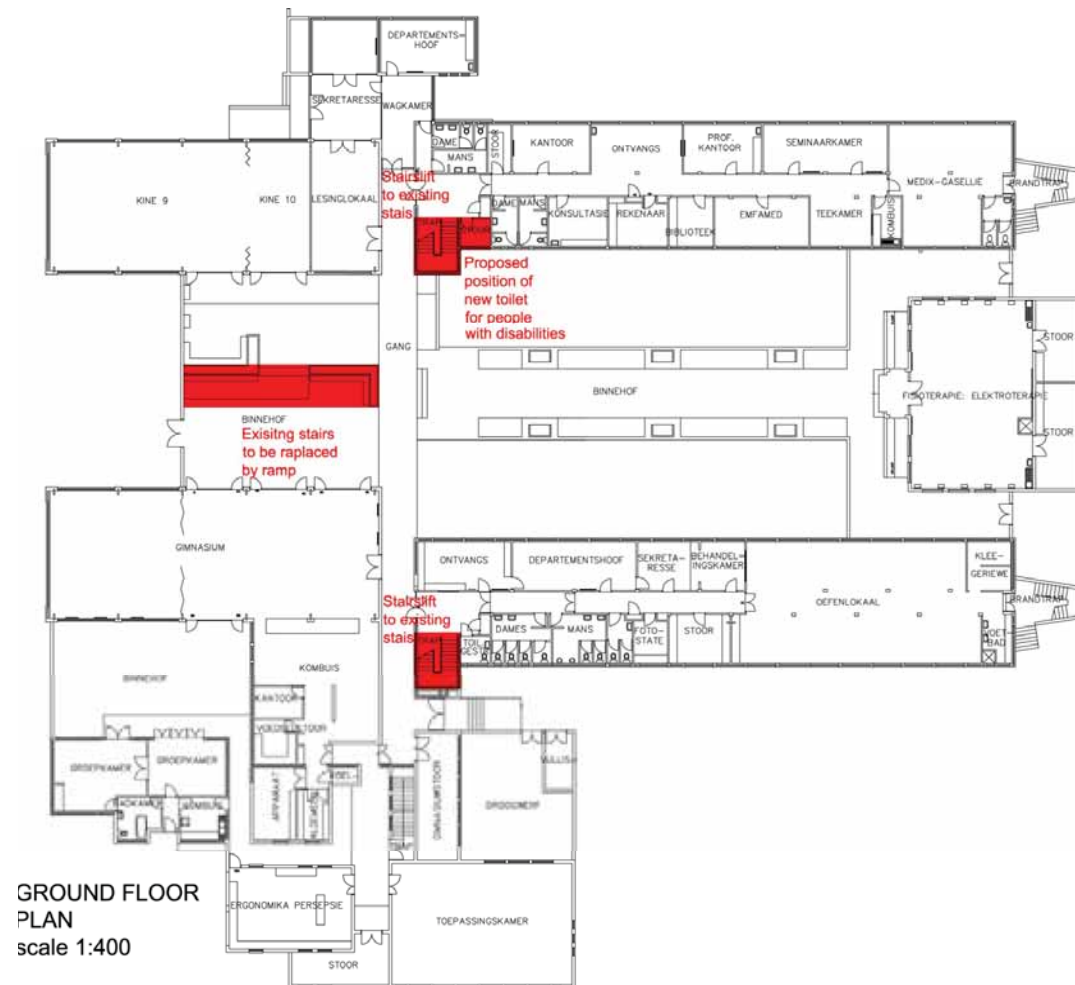


UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other  
amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TYPOLGYARCHITECTS



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

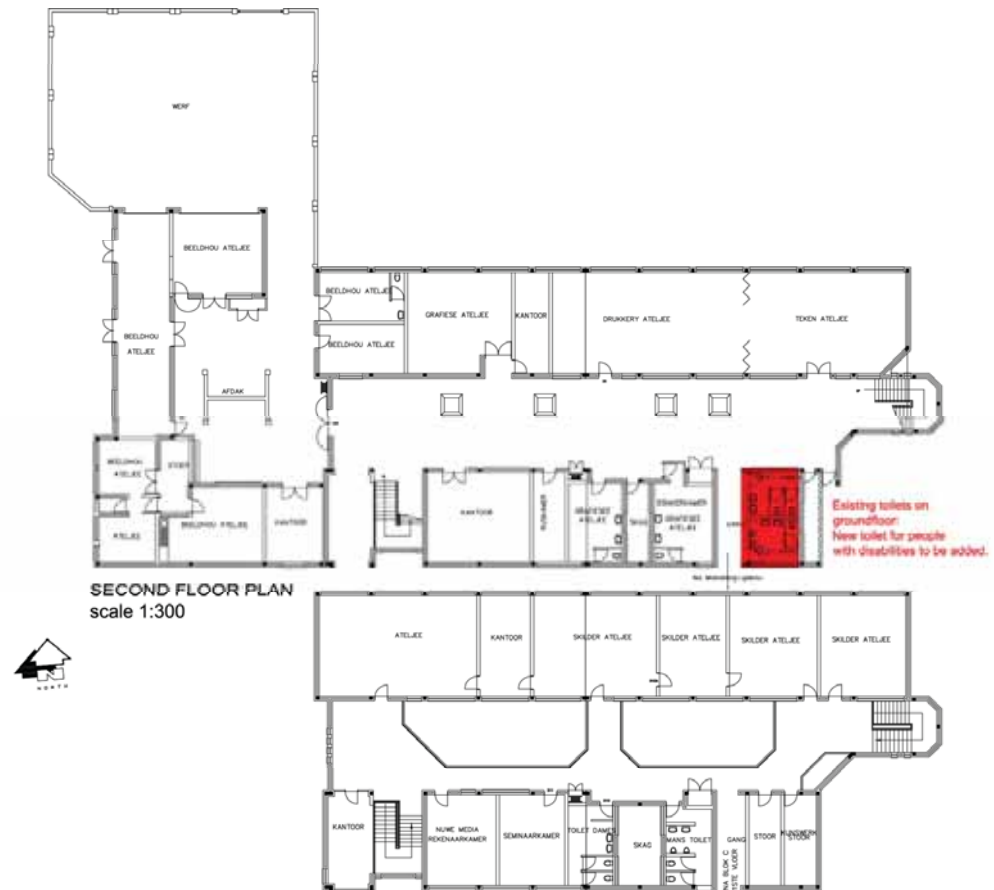


UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TPOLOGYARCHITECTS



## 6. TO BE COMPLETED: New ramp and toilets for disabled MABALENG BUILDING

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



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

TYPOLOGYARCHITECTS



**8. TO BE COMPLETED:**  
New ramp and lift  
**BIOLOGY BUILDING**

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



UFS Main Campus plan: **completed** and **to be completed**

**MAIN CAMPUS:** Accessibility of certain buildings and other amenities for disabled students and staff.

10/15/2013

**TPOLOGY**ARCHITECTS