

## UFS Office for International Affairs contributes to global dialogue at IEASA 2025



Several colleagues from the University of the Free State (UFS) Office for International Affairs (OIA) attended the **27th annual International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) conference**, which was held in Stellenbosch from 26 to 29 August 2025. Themed *Bridging Borders, Inspiring Solutions: Internationalisation for a Resilient and Inclusive Future*, the event brought together higher education professionals, policy makers, and stakeholders to share insights and best practices in internationalisation.

**Prof Lynette Jacobs**, acting Director of the OIA, presented on *COIL as a Postdigital Connected, Embodied, Relational and (Socio)material Third Space*, focusing on collaborative online international learning (COIL) within a postdigital context. She also co-presented *SANEDcommunity, a Way to Connect Local Knowledge to an International Perspective* with Berto Bosscha from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, emphasising the importance of linking community-based knowledge with global networks.

Another presentation, titled *Harnessing Data to Overcome the Complexities of Internationalisation in Higher Education*, was prepared by **Nelia Oosthuysen**, Portfolio Leader for Research and Systems Support. The topic showcased a global perspective on how data can drive evidence-based strategies for internationalisation.

In addition, **Kagiso Ngake, Matladi Tsoeu, and Bongani Vilakazi** attended various workshops, further enhancing the office's engagement with new trends and practices in international higher education.

Through these contributions, the UFS reaffirmed its commitment to fostering **resilient, inclusive, and globally connected internationalisation practices** that align with institutional priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.