

Advancing English Language Partnerships to Enhance Global Competencies at UFS



On the 1st of December 2025, the Office for International Affairs hosted a productive engagement with our colleague from the US Embassy in Pretoria, Ms Gena Rhoades, the new Regional English Language officer, during her visit to the University of the Free State. The discussion opened avenues for collaboration that align directly with Vision 130.

The conversation explored opportunities to strengthen English language development for lecturers, students, and surrounding communities through US Embassy resources, including the American English platform, live webinars, and educator-focused digital communities. These programmes provide practical pathways to enhance global competencies that support the institution's goal of broadening international exposure and strengthening the university's academic and societal footprint.

The discussion also focused on future collaboration with the American Corner in Bloemfontein, recognising it as a strategic space for joint programming, community learning, youth development, and English-language support. Prof Rhoda, DVC: Academic, highlighted the significant potential for the Faculty of Education to leverage these partnerships to advance teacher development and extend the university's reach into local communities.

This engagement reaffirmed the value of deepening relationships with the US Embassy.