

INSTITUTIONAL DETAILS

Name: University of the Free State (UFS)

City, country: Bloemfontein, South Africa

Website: <http://www.ufs.ac.za>

About University:

The **University of the Free State** (UFS) is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in South Africa. It opened its doors in 1904 on the Bloemfontein Campus with a mere six students in the Humanities faculty. Since then, the institution has grown to more than 33000 students, spread across seven faculties: Education, Economic and Management Sciences, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Theology.

The UFS boasts three campuses in the Free State – one of the nine provinces of South Africa. The university has been established in Bloemfontein, and was expanded with the addition of the Qwaqwa Campus (in the Eastern Free State) in **2003**, and the South Campus – in Bloemfontein – in **2004**. The South Campus provides alternative access to higher education for promising students who have not obtained the required marks in their final school examinations. Our vibrant Qwaqwa Campus serves a rapidly-growing number of rural students from the immediate area and surrounding provinces.

OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

About the office: The University of the Free State is home to more than 1800 international students emanating from across the globe, as well as the African continent and neighbouring countries such as Lesotho and Botswana. The University's Office for International Affairs (OIA) ensures a hassle-free study experience for students from abroad. Staff assists students, visitors and faculty members to obtain the maximum benefit from their stay at the UFS.

Website: <https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/international-affairs-home>

Director: Cornelius Hagenmeier;
hagenmeiercca@ufs.ac.za
+2751 401 9058

Staff responsible for incoming and outgoing international students:

Bulelwa Moikwatlhai;
malob@ufs.ac.za
+2751 401 3397

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

- Postgraduate School:** <https://www.ufs.ac.za/postgraduate>
- Academic Calendar:** In South Africa, the academic year coincides with the calendar year. An academic year consists of two semesters. The first semester commencing early in February, and the second semester by the end of July. In between, there is a holiday of approximately three weeks. The second semester ends at the end of November. Undergraduate students write examinations at the end of each semester. For dates, please refer to:
<https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/international-affairs-home/for-students/academic-calendar>
- Course offer for Bachelor, Master and PhD Students:** <https://www.ufs.ac.za/templates/yearbooks>
- Grading system:** The University makes use of a direct percentage system. 50% is a pass; 60% and above is a first class pass and 75% and above is a pass with distinction.
- Registration Deadline:** For the first semester, the deadline for registration is 17 February 2018. The second semester registration deadline is 27 July 2018. Master and PhD students can register anytime during the academic calendar.
- Recommended language skills:** Appropriate language skills for academic study in English are required.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Visa: Comprehensive visa information is available on the website of the South African Department of Home Affairs

<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/types-of-visas>

Cost of living (estimates):

Accommodation (off-campus)	R 4500.00 (depends on type of accommodation and location)
Food	R 3000.00
Entertainment	R 1000.00
Local transport	R 1000.00
Telephone	R 500
<u>Total</u>	<u>R 10000.00</u>

Housing: Accommodation on campus is limited and must be reserved well in advance. Rooms in residences are furnished with a bed, desk, chair, curtains and linen. All residences have access control. The cost of accommodation in a campus residence for undergraduate students varies between R2 000 and R3 620 per month (excluding meals). Postgraduate on campus accommodation fee varies between R3 600 and R4 800 per month (including breakfast). Visit <http://residences.ufs.ac.za> for more information.

Students with disabilities: The Unit for Students with Disabilities (USD) provides comprehensive assistance, information is available at [https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/student-affairs-home/bloemfontein-campus/center-for-universal-access-and-disability-support-\(cuads\)/overview-home/services/administration](https://www.ufs.ac.za/supportservices/departments/student-affairs-home/bloemfontein-campus/center-for-universal-access-and-disability-support-(cuads)/overview-home/services/administration)

FACT SHEET 2018 - 2019

Integration activities:

The Office for International Affairs together with the Student Affairs division has designed a comprehensive and informative orientation programme that will introduce new students to their campus and its surrounds; the campus and most importantly assist adjustment into the UFS academic culture. The Office for International Affairs also structures various social integration activities.
