

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE STUDENT EXCHANGE DATA SHEET 2024-2025

University information

Name of university	University of the Free State		
Erasmus code	989106091		
Address	205 Nelson Mandela Drive Park West Bloemfontein 9300		
Coordinators	Inbound student mobility	Bhekumusa Zikhali	+27 51 401 3055 Zikhalibn@ufs.ac.za
	Agreements and outbound student mobility	Kagiso Ngake	+27 51 401 2104 ngakekm@ufs.ac.za
	Scholarship management	Mbali Moiketsi	+27 51 401 3403 moiketsimv@ufs.ac.za
University website	University of the Free State		
OIA website	International Affairs		
OIA email	internationalenquiries@ufs.ac.za		
Facebook	Office of International Affairs - UFS		
Instagram	UFSOIA		
X (Twitter)	@UFSOIA		

Academic calendar and application procedure

Academic year	<p>Our academic year is divided into two semesters, from January to June (semester 1) and July to December (semester 2). Expected arrival dates are at the start of the semester in order to take part in orientation. The exact examination dates will be communicated directly to the students closer to the time.</p> <p>2025 academic calendar Semester 1: 12 February-17 June Semester 2: 08 July-13 December</p>
Nomination deadline	<p>All nominations should be sent to Zikhalibn@ufs.ac.za. Only nominations received from coordinators will be accepted. The nomination should include the student's first name(s); surname; email address; exchange semester (1/2); field and level of study (see attached nomination form).</p> <p>Nomination deadlines: Semester 1: 30 September 2024 Semester 2: 29 March 2025</p> <p>A nomination confirmation email will be sent to the coordinator once the nomination has been accepted by the faculty. An email will be sent to the student regarding the application procedure.</p>

Application procedure	<p>The home university nominates its students. We advise our partners to make sure that the nominated students have passports. We will send instructions to each student to fill in the PDF application form. Students are advised not to apply online, as our system is not yet able to send passwords to international numbers.</p> <p>Students will be asked to submit a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copy of valid passport (should be valid for at least eight months after the planned departure date); • recent passport-size photo; • copy of an official and recent academic transcript in English; • copy of the learning agreement (accepted modules to be taken at the UFS). <p>Students should finalise and return their applications by</p> <p>31 October 2024 (for Semester 1) 30 April 2025 (for Semester 2)</p> <p>Students are advised to adhere to these deadlines to ensure that they can start their visa application process on time.</p>
Other information	<p>If there are more students interested in studying at the UFS than those who can be nominated in the framework of the exchange agreement, they can come as free movers (fee-paying non-degree students). These students will also be charged a R7 000.00 mobility levy.</p>

Course and relevant information

Courses	<p>The University of the Free State does not offer courses and/or modules strictly for exchange students. All our exchange students will join the standing full-degree courses. Registration for all modules will be subject to prerequisites and availability. Information about available courses can be found in the Prospectus 2025.</p>
Faculty information booklets	<p>Economic and Management Sciences Education Health Sciences The Humanities Law Natural and Agricultural Sciences Theology and Religion</p>
Module selection process	<p>Students will be sent a link to the specific department's webpage to browse the rulebook and to identify modules they would like to participate in during their exchange period. The number of modules and/or credits that the student requires during their exchange is determined as per the agreement between the two universities and/or by the home institution. As students will be enrolling as non-degree-seeking students at the UFS, they are permitted to take as many or as few modules as they choose.</p> <p>The current course curriculum can be used as a reference as there will be no major changes. We would like to ask you to kindly advise your students to start the course approval process as soon as possible and not to wait until the last moment.</p>

Academic transcripts	After the examinations, lecturers have four weeks to publish the results in the grade book. Once all the results are out on the official UFS academic transcript page, the OIA will issue a digital copy of the academic transcript to the student's home institution. If a hard copy is required, this will be sent at the cost of the home institution and/or that of the student.
Financial obligation	<p><u>Prepayment = registration fee + international levy + part of tuition fees + part of accommodation (on-campus)</u></p> <p>Residential R54 395</p> <p>Non-residential R35 255</p> <p><i>*Please take note that this is not a fixed amount owed by the student to the University of the Free State; this is an estimated prepayment amount requested from all our international students to ensure that the student's registration goes smoothly. Should the expenses incurred by the student be less than the above amount, our office will assist the student in claiming back the difference. After paying this amount, students will not be requested to make any further payments to the university.</i></p>

Services

Umoja Buddy Programme	<p>The Umoja Buddy Programme seeks to ensure the smooth transition and integration of international students into student life at the UFS by helping them integrate into the campus and local communities. Moreover, the programme aims to connect international and local students through meaningful lifelong friendships and to foster their academic, social, and cultural integration at the UFS. In essence, the programme adopts the UFS vision whereby every student will in future have an international experience during their UFS studies through internationalisation at home.</p> <p>Students can join the find-a-friend programme coordinated by the OIA through the Internationalisation at Home division.</p>
Orientation	Two weeks before the start of classes, all first-years have the unique opportunity to enter the GATEWAY to succeed in their study career and university life. The annual GATEWAY First- years' College is a programme of student life and learning events that introduces you to campus and faculty life to help you adjust to the university environment and to teach you the skills to achieve well in your studies and prepare you as a well-rounded graduate.
Immigration regulation compliance	<p>According to the amended South African Immigration Regulations, and to ensure strict compliance and adherence thereto, the following should be noted:</p> <p>Valid study visa – No international student may commence studies at the university until they have a valid study visa. The process to obtain such a visa will commence only after successful admission to our university for the chosen programme has been confirmed.</p> <p>Medical aid – The student will need to secure medical cover from a South African registered medical aid; the cover should be valid for the duration of the exchange. Application to such a medical aid scheme must be processed and the membership should be paid in advance of the student's study visit. As with the study visa process, the process to secure medical cover will only commence after successful admission to the university. Comprehensive information regarding medical aid applications will also be sent from our office.</p>

Accommodation details	<p>On-campus accommodation will be organised by our office in accordance with the student's arrival details and following the stipulations of the agreement. The <i>estimated</i> accommodation rates for exchange student residences are R25 000 (depending on the residence allocated, excluding meals).</p> <p>Kovsie Inn ranges from R5 373,50 to R5 819 per month (including breakfast).</p> <p><i>*Exchange students are allocated to specific on-campus residences, depending on the number of exchange students and availability.</i></p> <p><i>*Should you wish not to make use of the on-campus accommodation, please indicate this on your application form.</i></p> <p><i>*All accommodation fees are paid in advance for the entire duration of the exchange period and not monthly.</i></p>
Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support (CUADS)	<p>The Centre for Universal Access and Disability Support (CUADS) aims to ensure that the University of the Free State increasingly becomes a universally accessible higher- education institution that embraces and is welcoming to all students, including students with disabilities. During the time of nomination, please make our office aware should you have a student who would need the services of this division (cuads-department).</p>
Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French	<p>Students can take part in the credit-bearing language courses Afrikaans-and-Dutch-German-and-French offered by our Department of Sesotho, and IsiZulu.</p>
KovsieSport	<p>With 22 sporting codes to choose from, the UFS is an important incubator for participants in team and individual sports. We have produced more than 84 national athletes, of which 15 were world champions and/or participated in the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We produced the current 300 m and 400 m world record holder, Wayde van Niekerk. Did you know that Van Niekerk was the first man to run the 100 m in sub-10 s, the 200 m in sub-20 s, the 300 m in sub- 31 s, and the 400 m in sub-44 s?</p> <p>A total of 100 Springbok and SA sevens rugby players studied with us, and UFS Netball has delivered three national captains in the past 15 years with a total of 23 Proteas. The world cup winning head coach of the Springboks, Jacques Nienaber, studied at the UFS. We were also the national university tennis champions for 12 years running.</p> <p>For more details on how to become part of this excellence, please visit Kovsie Sport.</p>