



Highlights Division for Global Engagement



Message from the Senior Director

In April the Division in collaboration with the Confucius Institute coordinated a VC-led delegation to China which included a visit to our Confucius Institute co-host Nanjing Tech University. The delegation also visited China Media group (CMG), Chinese International Education Foundation, Jiangsu Provincial Government and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT) among many other organisations and universities. In April we also launched our very first China by Train programme and took six students working on start-ups together with the UJ TTO to China to visit a range of different entrepreneurship programmes. In May Senior Director Prof. Ylva Rodny-Gumede attended the U21 AGM at UC Davis in the U.S. together with the VC and Principal Prof. Lethokwa Mpedi and deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Refilwe Phaswana-Mafuya. In June we hosted the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) Bi-Annual meeting in Johannesburg.

Study Abroad and International Student Services

General Office Administration

- Follow up on visa applications
- Communicate with prospective students regarding immigration enquiries
- Assist students with residence applications
- Preparing a report on Asylum Seekers to send to the DHA
- Working on medical aid report for the Department of Home Affairs
- Attend to enquiries.

Study Abroad

Short Learning Programmes

- Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen, Outbound from 21 June – 19 July 2025
- University of Cincinnati, Inbound from 6 – 18 May 2025 (Faculty-Led programmes)
- Caucasus University, Outbound from 28 June – 6 July 2025
- NICE 2025 (Edinburgh), Virtual & Outbound from 29 June – 4 July 2025

Africa by Bus

- Faculty of Health Sciences – Mozambique
- Faculty of Humanities – Zambia

Arrival and Departure Orientation (5 sessions)
Study Abroad portal Phase 5 Development
ISEP Training



Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen, Germany

Academic Services

USA- University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (UIUC)

Seven future professors and eight academic staff members from the accelerated academic mentorship programme benefitted from an international immersion and tailored mentoring and support programme delivered by the Global Education and Training team at UIUC. This programme was made possible through strategic partnering with other business units at UJ to leverage off the benefits of our global network. In this way, we launched two new joint initiatives, one with the Community Engagement team and the other with the Division for Teaching Excellence. The CE partnership provided two staff members from UIUC with a tailored programme and exposure to UJ's community engagement programmes and social impact activities. This has led to a partially-funded mobility opportunity for 1-2 faculty or staff from UJ to present in person at the Beyond Borders: Global Collaborations for Mental Health Research and Services Conference at UIUC. Both the Centre for Social Development in Africa and the Community Engagement team at UJ have been invited to submit abstract and to participate in the conference taking place in October 2025.

Below are some extracts regarding the impact that this programme has had on staff members from UJ who attended the UIUC Future Professors International Mentoring programme.

"I visited several laboratories at UIUC and participated in a lecture focused on environmental data modelling, which directly contributed to my ongoing research on spatial mapping of radon-prone zones in Southern Africa. These interactions deepened my understanding of how sophisticated modelling tools such as GIS-integrated exposure analytics and community-level health risk mapping are being applied in global environmental health contexts. I have since started drafting a concept note for a collaborative proposal that includes both UIUC and UJ researchers, aimed at developing a transdisciplinary exposure surveillance model."

Prof. Phoka Rathebe.

"Although I have travelled for my own research on several occasions, I have not participated in any such group visit before, so for me this was a novel experience. I have also not visited the US before (except to have passed through customs en route to somewhere else), so visiting the USA was new as well." **Prof. Desiree Smal.**



University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign • Global Education & Training
Researcher Exchange Training • UJ FPP & AAMP
April 12-23, 2025

QATAR- South Africa Centre for Peace and Intercultural Understanding

Support for the Faculty of Humanities' Qatar- South Africa Centre for Peace and Intercultural Understanding forms part of global engagement's joint projects and implementation of activities jointly developed with Embassies. This project flows from meetings that were held between the former Ambassador of Qatar and UJ's former DVC for Research and Innovation, supported by the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and the Division for Global Engagement. In April 2025, Ms. Khan and the Acting Director of the Centre for Peace and Intercultural Understanding travelled to Qatar and met with senior representatives of the Qatari Foreign Ministry (MOFA), the MOFA Diplomatic School, several universities, the Head of Education City (Qatar Foundation) and with the Education Above All Foundation. The meetings were an outstanding success, leading to an invitation to submit a funding proposal for a scholarship programme to support Scholars at Risk in Palestine, Sudan, Congo and other parts of Africa. A funding proposal has been submitted with the value of 10 million US dollars, and we await the outcome of the submission. The proposal has also led to strategic relationship building with EAA, the MOFA Qatar, the SA Embassy in Qatar, DHET, the NRF and the UNHCR. Another positive outcome of the engagement was the signing of a MoU with the Doha Graduate Institute and a proposed graduate exchange programme. We have also been invited to co-host a conference with the DOHA Institute's Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS) The 2026 conference, titled "Conflict, Humanitarianism, and Geopolitical Transformations after Gaza: Critical Perspectives on War, Aid, and Global Order", will be held in Doha from 4 to 6 April 2026. An MoU is also in process with the Diplomatic Institute, Qatar and with Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

ITALY- PISA/ UNITAFRICA/ACHIEVE-IT/AFYA MOJA

Italian partnerships have also received a boost through the announcement that UJ is partner on two projects funded through the Italian Ministry, the UNITAFRICA project that launched on the 14th February and the ACHIEVE-IT project. In addition, through the Erasmus partnership with the University of Pisa, we were invited to join a third project focused on health- Afya Moja. As part of the UNITAFRICA project, Ms. Khan was invited to the project kick-off meeting in Addis Ababa. Ms. Khan did a presentation on UJ's Italian partnerships. This was well received and as a result, was invited to do the presentation again to an Italian audience at the University of Brescia (online). Both the ACHIEVE-IT and UNITAFRICA projects include funded mobilities for staff and students. Colleagues from the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Education have also participated in online webinars with the UNITAFRICA teams. Prof. Benjamin Smart is also working with the University of Bologna. UB is a partner to both these projects, and this then strengthens our bilateral cooperation under the Una Europa Africa alliance to which the University of Bologna is a partner.

These engagements have led to a strengthened relationship also with the Italian Embassy in PTA as Ms. Khan has reached out to the Embassy and provided the science attaché with updates on our various Italian partnerships and support for their Italian Erasmus support. The launch event also enabled UJ to make other contacts and a partnership is being explored with the University of Addis Ababa. This led to further engagement with the Addis team in Pisa, where a meeting was held between the colleagues at PISA, UJ and Addis Ababa to work on a trilateral project together in zoology. Ms Khan also met with the Biomedical Engineering research team, and we have been invited to submit nominations from staff on a rolling basis to work with on the Afya Moja project. One staff member and one student have also been nominated under ACHIEVE-IT to undertake mobilities to UNIMORE University. Ms Khan also met with colleagues from the University of Padua (with whom we have a joint degree) to discuss the partnership.

SA- SWEDEN Universities Forum

Following the successful outcome of our bid to co-host work package four "WP 4: Science and Education Policy – From Policy to Action", planning meetings are underway, together with our co-host Stockholm University. We are also pleased to report that the funding proposal submitted by the SASUF consortium was successful and that the next phase of SASUF is underway.

General

During this period, Academic Services has provided support to various visiting delegations and meetings, including with the Ambassador of Zimbabwe, Carleton University, done presentations for the Joaquim Chissano delegation, attended signing ceremonies, supported the SPMGPP online Africa seminar, met online with Colombian Universities as part of the online B2B sessions for the GloSouth network, supported U21 coordination (officer meetings), including regular meetings with the planning committee for the GSRL conference taking place at UJ in November, coordinated Erasmus mobilities and coordinated monthly inputs for GFP4 reporting.

Ms Khan was also invited by USAF to present on System to System collaborations, an overview of which can be found <https://usaf.ac.za/universities-south-africas-guide-to-strengthening-system-to-system-partnerships/>

GFP4 Targets- end JUNE

On track- exceeded

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT AND PARTNERSHIPS	Increase active partnerships that focus on societal impact and sustainability	GF&P4	Number of active pan-African and other global south partnerships, as evidenced in collaboration agreements and actual activities, that focus on societal impact and sustainability (cumulative from 2025) (N)	68
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UJELP

For the 2nd quarter of the year, for the period April to June the results are as follows:

Placement Test 1	Total registrations	Placement Test 2	Total registrations
Elementary level (A1 and A2)	1	Elementary level (A1 and A2)	8
Intermediary level (B1 and B2)	5	Intermediary level (B1 and B2)	3
Advanced level (C1 and C2)	1	Advanced level (C1 and C2)	0

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Academic Services processed 9 agreements to completion as per below.

Q2: APRIL TO JUNE 2025

Region	Country	Name	Faculty	Type
Europe	Slovakia	Matej Bel University	Science	Erasmus +
Europe	Estonia	Tartu University	IO	Erasmus +
Europe	Italy	University of Pisa (amendment)	IO	Erasmus +
Europe	Poland	AGH Krakow University	IO	Erasmus +
Europe	Amsterdam	Vrije University	IO	Erasmus +
Europe	Poland	Krakow University of Economics	CBE	MOU
Europe	Italy	University of Pisa	IO	Collaboration Agreement
US	North Carolina	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Science	MOU
Europe	Switzerland	Shamba Centre for Food and Climate	FADA	Memorandum of Agreement
Europe	Germany	Furtwangen University	CBE	MOU

International Student Recruitment, Admissions and Marketing

Wren Southern Africa Tour on the 2 - 12 of April 2025 in South Africa (Johannesburg), Botswana, eSwatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Namibia.

- Applications, admission, and registration of prospective students with International credentials.
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Visit from Keystone Education Group on 03rd April 2025 to discuss and enhance our digital marketing data and success rate.

Visit from American International School of Johannesburg counsellors on the 04th April 2025 which included:

- Campus tour
- Applications, admission, and registration of prospective students with International Baccalaureate and the American High School Diploma credentials.

- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Visit from Enjabulweni High School, Eswatini to UJ on the 09th April 2025

- 67 Learners and 5 Teachers
- Campus, Library, Engineering and Science tour
- Applications, admission and registration of prospective students with International Secondary Certificate credentials.
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Visit from Sisekelo High School, Eswatini to UJ on 09th April 2025

- 36 Learners and 5 Teachers
- Campus, Library, Engineering, and Science tour
- Applications, admission and registration of prospective students with International Secondary Certificate credentials
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Attended the Third Edition of South Africa Week Celebrations hosted by the South African Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria, from the 22nd April to 03rd May 2025

- Public lecture at the University of Lagos
- Meetings with Recruitment and Funding Agencies

Receive a visit from the Lesotho-China fellowship collegiate, Lesotho to UJ on the 24th April 2025

- 120 Learners and 6 Teachers
- Campus, Library, Engineering and Science tour
- Applications, admission, and registration of prospective students with International credentials.
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Visit to UJ from Ms Preeti Rajendran from International Education Guidance, Czech Republic on the 24th April 2025

- Possible collaboration on a session at CIS and IC3 regional or annual conference.
- Campus tour
- Applications, admission, and registration of prospective students.
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Travelled in Lesotho for school visits from the 01st to 10th May 2025

- Applications, admission, and registration of prospective students.
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

School Names

- Letlotlo International School, on 2 May 2025, with 58 learners
- Machabeng College, on 2 May 2025, with 98 learners
- Information Session, 3 May 2025, with 24 learners
- 10 applications submitted for postgraduate studies.
- Lesotho High School, on 5 May 2025, with 16 learners

- Lesotho-China Fellowship Collegiate, on 7 May 2025, with 120 learners
- Counselors, Principals, and National Manpower Development Secretariat (NMDS) Networking Dinner, in Maseru on 7 May 2025, with 12 teachers, counselors, and NMDS team
- Soofia International School, on 9 May 2025, with 81 learners
- Likileng School, on 9 May 2025, with 140 learners
- Counselors and Principals Networking Dinner, in Butha Buthe, on 9 May 2025, with 9 teachers and counselors

Faculty Engagement Meetings

- Johannesburg Business School on the 13th May 2025
- Faculty of Education on the 13th May 2025
- Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment on the 14th May 2025

Visit from Zimbabwean Presidential Delegation including Zimbabwean Ambassador to South Africa on the 14th May 2025, to discuss the following:

- Collaboration
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Prospective students, applications, admissions, and registrations
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student finance matters
- Recruitment of undergraduate and postgraduate prospective students

Meeting with the staff from the University of Tartu on the 26th May 2025

- Discussions related to Recruitment, Applications, Admission, and Registration of prospective students

A visit from counsellors from the African Leadership Academy, South Africa to UJ on the 29th May 2025

- Campus tour
- Applications, admission, and registration of prospective students.
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student sponsorship/Bursaries

Faculty Engagement Meetings

- Faculty of Health Sciences on the 10th June 2025
- College of Business and Economics on the 11th June 2025
- Faculty of Humanities on the 18th June 2025
- Faculty of Science on the 23rd June 2025

Hosted a SAQA and USAF workshop on the 12th June 2025

- Faculty representatives attended
- Topics covered by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)
 - Overview of SAQA Evaluation – Current procedures, requirements, and timelines.
 - Evaluation Application Procedures – Step-by-step guide on submitting evaluation applications.
- Topics covered by Universities South Africa (USAF)
 - Overview of USAF Exemption Evaluation Processes – Current procedures, requirements, and timelines.
 - Exemption Evaluation Application Procedures – Step-by-step guide on submitting evaluation applications

Visit from The Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Scholarship Unit on the 13th June 2025 to discuss the following:

- Collaboration
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Prospective students, applications, admissions, and registrations
- Student welfare and Study Abroad opportunities
- Student finance matters
- Recruitment of undergraduate and postgraduate prospective students

We hosted an Online Out of out-of-seat information session with supervisors for PG Masters and PhD students from different departments.

Online webinars

- Matriculation Exemption Webinar on the 18th June 2025
 - Requirements for applying for matriculation exemption.
- Immigration Webinar on the 19th June 2025
 - Requirements for applying for visas, and a compliance clearance document required in preparation for 2026 registration.





Lesotho School visit



Lesotho School visit

Fundraising and Administration

Discussions between the Zimbabwe Presidential Scholarship Office and the Vice Chancellor were held in May. The focus was around scholarship opportunities. The Scholarship Office committed to resuscitate the Programme and in addition to supporting Undergraduate students, the support will include Postgraduate Students and short mobility exchange programmes for PhD students. A new MoU has been negotiated. The scholarship will commence in January 2026.

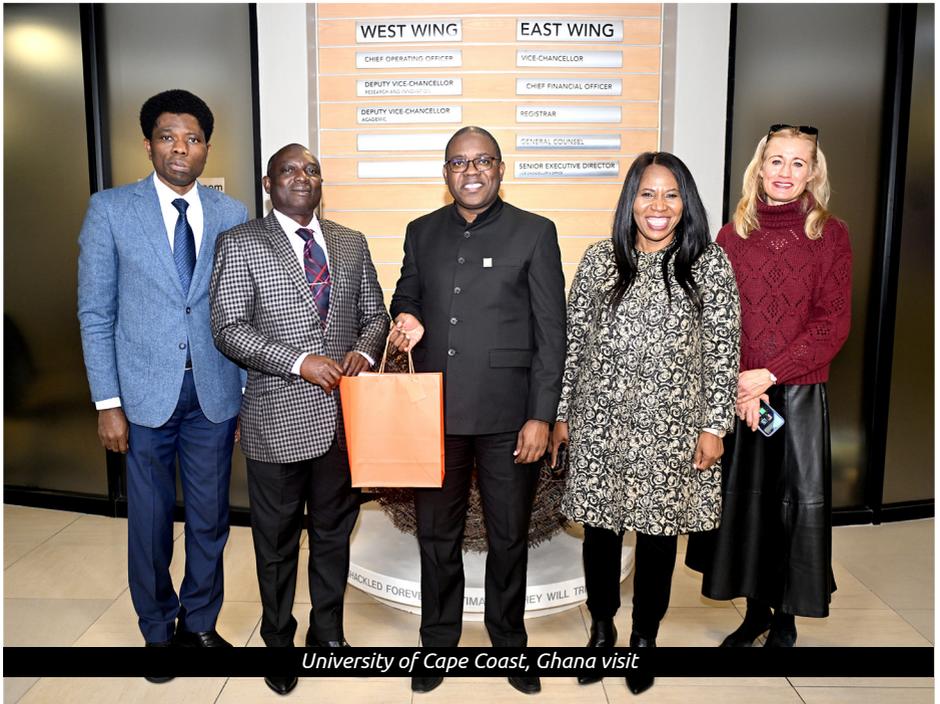
Discussions between Ministry of Labour in the Kingdom of eSwatini were held in June focusing on renewal of the MoU. The Ministry committed to support a new cohort in 2026 and this will include Postgraduate students. There was a request that all the funds be deposited directly to UJ for disbursements into students accounts.

Attended the Erasmus+ Cluster Meeting in Addis Ababba, Ethiopia from 19th May to 22 May 2025. The cluster meeting aimed to provide support, engage and serves as a network opportunity for Erasmus partners in the Sub-Saharan Region. Through this meeting we were able to engage and collaborate with Euraxess Africa. This is a network platform that aims to support researchers with funding and research collaboration opportunities. We jointly hosted an information session on the 23 July focusing on Marie Slowsdoskie Currie Action and the Erasmus Calls.

Attended the UnaVex partner meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from the 16 June to 19 June 2025. This is an Erasmus funded project and the aim of the meeting was to discuss with partners project implementation, milestones and reporting.

Communications and Marketing

- UJ to lead UNESCO Global South sustainability initiative
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-to-lead-unesco-global-south-sustainability-initiative/>
- UJ Law showcases excellence at the 55th Advanced Course in International Humanitarian Law
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-law-showcases-excellence-at-the-55th-advanced-course-in-international-humanitarian-law/>
- University of Houston Engineering students explore UJ's innovations during visit
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/university-of-houston-engineering-students-explore-ujs-innovations-during-visit/>
- UJ's PARC welcomes Nigerian scholar for academic exchange and research collaboration
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/ujs-parc-welcomes-nigerian-scholar-for-academic-exchange-and-research-collaboration/>
- UJ hosts global higher education leaders at IAUP semi-meeting
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-hosts-global-higher-education-leaders-at-iaup-semi-meeting/>
- UJ ranked number #1 in South Africa and Africa in 2025 THE Impact Rankings
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-soars-to-23-globally-and-claims-1-spot-in-south-africa-in-2025-the-impact-rankings/>
- Africa by Bus 2025: UJ students explore Pan-Africanism and regional integration
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/africa-by-bus-2025-uj-students-explore-pan-africanism-and-regional-integration/>





University of Warwick visit



Carleton University, Canada visit