



Highlights

Division for Global Engagement



Message from the Senior Director

The first quarter of 2024 was primarily focused on registration for the 2024 academic year. The challenges experienced included the timeous issuing of visas for new and returning students and student funding. Challenges related to the aforementioned are dealt with on an annual basis, registration proceeded smoothly. The period in question also saw UJ host a number of international delegations. Up to the end of March, UJ hosted delegations from 6 universities across the globe including from Japan, Ireland, China, Ghana and the USA.

The Division hosted Canada Day on the Soweto Campus in partnership with the High Commission of Canada to South Africa and hosted Prof Mino Takashi, Deputy Director and Project Professor at Tokyo College, University of Tokyo. Prof. Takashi delivered a Special Lecture focusing on "Sustainability and Interdisciplinary Research" and an "Introduction to Postdoctoral Fellowships" at Tokyo College, University of Tokyo.

Prof. Ylva Rodny-Gumede attended the launch of the Association of African Universities (AAU) European Regional Office at the University of Nottingham in the UK. The University of Johannesburg is a member of the AAU and have a close partnership with the University of Nottingham through the Universitas 21 network. The event also provided an opportunity to talk to some of our joint programs, including our student exchange program with University of Nottingham Malaysia campus.

Study Abroad and International Student Welfare

The Study Abroad office in collaboration with the Faculty of Law ran a successful Short Learning Programme with Cornell University from 3rd to 21st January 2024.

First semester Exchange Students arrived on the 5th February 2024. This was a record intake since Covid-19 of over 20 students registering for the first semester.


As part of the onboarding programme, the Exchange Students took part in a week-long orientation programme led by the Study Abroad Office. The programme ran from 5 February to 10 February 2024.

Four students participated in the Tübingen SA programme in Germany in January. As part of this agreement, students from all over South Africa participate in this 3-week programme annually. The collaboration with the University of Tübingen has proven to be very successful and meaningful for participants.

The 1st Year Welcome function took place on the 4th April 2024. Only undergraduate first year students were invited to attend. The Senior Director as well as presentations from Strategic Communications, PsyCAD, the Library and Student Affairs assisted in welcoming the students and introducing divisional staff members.

From the 23rd to 29th March 2024 the Study Abroad Office ran the IES Abroad Joburg section where six students participated in the programme. Guest lectures were conducted by Dr Stephan Sparks and Dr Leticia Smuts.





We continue to support recruitment efforts for U21 programmes, Erasmus+ mobilities and nominations to other programmes.

The Student Support Services office assisted undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral research fellows with compliance clearance for registration. This office continues to assist students and staff with visa applications and follow ups for compliance with the immigration regulations. We assisted students with accommodation provision at the start of 2024.

Numbers – 2024

Inbound Exchange - 20

Inbound Short Learning programme - 15

Outbound Exchange - 1

Outbound Short Learning programme - 4

Academic Services

1. PARTNER ENGAGEMENTS

1.1 North America and Canada

Academic Services hosted a visiting delegation from Cincinnati University on the 26th-28th of February. Cincinnati University lists UJ as one of its strategic partners and is an excellent model for an institution-wide collaboration across multiple faculties and with various activities underway, including faculty and student exchanges. The delegation, led by the Vice Provost International, Prof Raj Mehta, were here on a fact-finding mission and to plan for the first incoming Study Abroad cohort that is expected to visit UJ in May 2024.

Other US partnerships that we worked on this quarter are with Illinois Urbana Champagne- working together on the Future Professors program and with the University of Iowa on the Social Determinants of Health and a second joint World Café. Also working with Boston College partnership (Social Work and Geography) and with UNC Charlotte on a COIL partnership with the Faculty of Science.

We were approached by the Canadian High-Commission to host a student- engagement event on the Soweto campus to commemorate 30 years of Democracy and to provide UJ students with information and support regarding career and study opportunities in Canada. The High Commission, the Trade Commission and their guests share presentations and exhibitions. The amalgamation of the two interactive sessions, “Education masterclass” and “global skills” really did provide great insights that boosted the confidence of the students who are on their last leg of their studies and getting ready for the job market. The event was held on the 29th of February and also formed part of events taking place across the globe as a lead up to Canada Day.


1.2 France

We partnered with UJ Sports to host the « Relay around the world » event of the French Embassy held at UJ's Sports stadium at the Soweto campus. The events was to promote, sports, para-sports, and the Olympics and Paralympics 2024 Paris Games, as well as celebrating thirty years of democracy in South Africa.

We also held a follow-up meeting with the National School of Government and INSP France with the Faculty of Humanities regarding online training on Digital Transformation in the public sector (training for civil servants/ government officials)

1.3 United Kingdom

Online discussions held between Civil Engineering and the University of Birmingham on a potential joint degree.



1.4 Brazil

We welcomed Prof Vanubia Moncayo of the University of Amazonas, who was a guest of Prof Leila Patel. Prof Patel and Prof Moncayo are working together on Literacy, racism and human rights. We discussed other areas for expanded collaboration, including providing training for staff at Amazonas through the UJELP programme.

1.5 Germany

Online meeting with Dr Julika Montecinos, Professor at HFU (Furtwangen) Business School to discuss intercultural competencies and her forthcoming visit to UJ in July. Colleagues from the College of Business and Economics and the Johannesburg Business School also joined the meeting and contributed to the discussion.

1.6 Brussels/ European Union

As a follow-up to the session presented by Ms Anisa Khan at the EU Regional Focal points meeting held at UJ in 2023, Ms Khan was invited to present another session (online) to all the EU National Agencies. This session was to help build an understanding of some of the challenges faced by 3rd countries associated to the Erasmus programme and to encourage the NA's to find solutions. The title of the presentation was "Erasmus+ ICM Experiences from a Third Country Perspective: South Africa". Ahead of the session, Ms Khan coordinated a survey sent to all SA universities to share what their experiences are. This was then shared with the NA's. The following recommendations were made:

- Develop country fact sheets that provide relevant contextual and historical information
- Expand the geographical spread of universities that work with South African universities on ICM projects
- Incorporate JEDI/EDI principles and interrogate inclusivity of EU Charter- provide training on the charter
- Administrative burden- consider implementing standard operating procedures (communication is key, templates should be readily available, degree of flexibility)
- Uniform processes between countries regarding financial reimbursement (reduce time delays and consider upfront part payments)
- Immigration support- direct line to in-country teams/ aid and support communication

1.7 Sweden

Academic Services proposed a strategic collaboration with Business Sweden that could support two global engagement objectives. The first was in support of the Masters in Sustainability Management Students in CBE who required an international immersion as part of their formal program. The second link was to strengthen university- business partnerships and to plan ahead for the next phase of SAUF that would have a stronger emphasis on business- university linkages. Ms Khan approached Business Sweden and the concept was well received. The proposed programme for the week in Sweden was for students to collaborate with students from Malmo University (a partner university) on sustainability-related business problems. The Swedish businesses would provide a challenge or problem that is sustainability / ESG related, and the students then work in groups to visit the organizations and other institutions in Sweden and through the SASUF programme to work in teams on ESG solutions. At the end of the week the students present the solutions to the organizations. The programme has the potential to develop into a long-term partnership with regular exchanges. Discussions with Business Sweden are ongoing and thus far Sandvik has started working with the School of Management Sciences on a mutually-beneficial project.

1.8 Australia

Two online meetings were held with the OGC and the new coordinator of postgraduate programmes at Western Sydney University regarding the joint degree with the Faculty of Humanities. This is still being developed as there have been several staff and procedural changes from WSU.

1.9 Palestine and Occupied Territories

We held an online meeting to discuss the collaboration between the Department of Social Work and Bethlehem University (co-publications). Identified future areas of collaboration include “A Gendered Analysis of living in violent contexts - an international comparative study”.

1.10 Hong Kong

Following the visit of President Freddy Booy in 2023, we hosted a delegation from the City University of Hong Kong across three faculties (Humanities, Sciences, Law) and the Postgraduate School. CityU is awarding two fully funded PhD scholarships in Hong Kong for UJ students in each of the schools! This is a wonderful contribution to the partnership. The Executive Deans at UJ and the Heads of Schools at CityU spent the morning exchanging information on their respective domains and brainstorming areas for future collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed in Hong Kong in April 2024 to formalize the partnership.

1.11 Italy

Ms Anisa Khan is the coordinator of the Food Sciences working group of the Reggio Emilia Municipality- Gauteng Regional partnership of universities. A follow-up online meeting of the steering committee was held so that groups can report back on progress and work towards the launch of the programme once the multi-party MoU is fully signed. There are working groups established with UJ academic staff across multiple faculties.

1.12 Finland and Norway

We have had two online meetings with Laurea University of Applied Sciences ahead of a planned delegation visit to UJ. Connections were made with CBE with a view to co-developing a funding proposal under the Team Knowledge Finland applications that closed in May.

As part of our SANORD network engagements we were encouraged to apply for the funding through the Higher Education Ministry of Norway to support international collaboration. We reached out to Nordic partners and arrange meetings between Western Norway University and colleagues in engineering to take forward.

2. FACULTY ENGAGEMENTS/ ACADEMIC SERVICES SUPPORT (this excludes the day-to day queries and support services provided)

- 2.1 College of Business and Economics- we held two major engagements with CBE: one was a consultation with Heads of Departments from across the College, convened to share the latest developments across Study Abroad, Fundraising and partnerships. This provided a platform for engagement and to share the support services our unit provides. The second project is ongoing and follows on from the visit of Prof Adam Habib in 2023, which gave rise to several follow-up meetings with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) regarding areas of collaboration. We are now working together with the SARCHI Chair in Industrial Development on a joint degree programme. Two working groups have been formed and teams meet every two weeks to ensure that the approval process is completed and so that we can begin implementation in 2026.
- 2.2 Faculty of Humanities- Academic Services regularly attends and contributes to the Faculty of Humanities Internationalisation Committee meetings. In the first quarter we presented on upcoming delegations, introduced the online partnerships management system, provided a refresher on contracts and agreements processes, shared the revised templates, explained how to access these via our SharePoint site and reported on the faculties targets on collaborative Programmes and Pan-African Partnerships. We also shared the excellent news that Prof Kamilla Naidoo has won the U21 Internationalisation Award.
- 2.3 Faculty of Sciences- A similar faculty engagement was held with the Faculty of Science, including exploring ways to link with upcoming delegation visits.

For the remaining faculties, consultations were done with the Vice-Deans responsible for Internationalisation. In depth consultations are planned for next semester. We continued to provide support to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment on the revised project submission and contracting process for the Schneider Electric project.

3. NETWORKS and FUNDED PROJECTS

3.1 Africa/ UCDP Project Meeting

Academic Services is a lead partner on a successful funding proposal under the UCDP in support of Pan-African partnerships. The project implementation starts in 2024 and in Q1 we participated in the project kick-off meeting held in Durban. The outcome of the workshop/ meeting was to identify projects and project leads. UJ will be leading on a Partnering Fair and it is suggested that this takes place in Ghana as part of the ANIE conference. Planning for this is underway.

3.2 IEASA

Submitted two IEASA session proposals- both have been accepted. One of those submitted is a joint submission with the University of Birmingham (U21 partner). Ms Khan also is part of the IEASA conference proposals evaluation committee and assisted the conference organisers with reviewing 30 submitted proposals out of a batch of over 100 proposals received. We are also working with the committee to support planning of the conference.

3.3 Erasmus ICM+

Academic Services submitted 6 Erasmus ICM proposals for the 2025 academic year of funding and five new agreements. We also coordinated the hosting of staff incoming to UJ and distributed calls for staff to attend Erasmus mobilities abroad later this year.

4. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Academic Services processed fourteen agreements to completion, five of which are international credit mobility agreements. in the College of Business and Economics on a Joint Degree.

Region	Country	Name	Type
Europe	Turkiye	Altinbas	Erasmus + ICM
Europe	Italy	University of Basilicata	Erasmus + ICM
Europe	Germany	Dortmund University	Erasmus + ICM
Europe	Sweden	Lund University	Erasmus + ICM
Europe	Czechia	Palacky Universiy	Erasmus + ICM
South America	Brazil	Universidade Federal Da Bahia	MOU
East Africa	Mozambique	Eduardo Mondlane	MOU
Europe	Northern Ireland	Ulster University	MOU
Europe	Italy	Reggio Emilia	MOU
East Africa	Mauritius	University of Mauritius	MOU
Africa	Nigeria	Nigerian British University	MOU
Europe	Italy	Roma Tre	Cultural Co-operation Framework Agreement
East Africa	Somalia	Jamhuriya University of Science and technology	Framework Agreement
Europe	Hungary	Hungarian University of Fine Arts	Non- Binding Collaboration Agreement

5. SPECIAL PROJECTS:

UJELP

The start of the academic calendar coincides with the UJELP registration cycle, with an uptick of UJELP registrations linked with undergraduate degree registrations.

International Student Registration and UJELP

In this quarter under review, the International Admission and Recruitment Unit, began preparations for compliance clearance and registrations for the current academic year on the 2nd of February 2024. The extra week granted at the beginning of the year was necessary given the complexity of the process. The Division for Global Engagement used this opportunity to communicate with prospective students in preparation for registration. The registration process went well without major challenges.

In preparation for the 2025 application cycle, the team finalised all letters for admission and circulated the PG letters to all stakeholders. We received grade 11 learners and teachers from Sisekelo High School, Eswatini at the beginning of April and worked with faculties to share information about programs on offer, rankings, student life and residence, application process, and deadlines for the prospective students. Below is a summary of our vigorous International Recruitment efforts in various markets:

Month	Country	Activities
March	Botswana	HRDC Fair
		School Visit
April	Eswatini	Schools Fairs
	Botswana	Wren Southern Africa Tour/ School Visits
	Mozambique	
	Namibia	
	Zambia	
	Zimbabwe	
	Nigeria	South Africa Week Celebrations hosted by South African Missions in Nigeria

UJELP Numbers:

Elementary – 11, Intermediate – 23, Advanced – 4





Fundraising and Administration

The Division coordinated and supported the faculties with the EU funding applications and the following submissions were made under the Erasmus Capacity Building in Higher Education (5) and UnaEuropa Seed Funding (2).


Supported FEBE with a proposal to Schneider Electric SA for the project "Improving Access to Skills and Employability in the Energy Sector.

Submitted the implementation phase proposal to Co-Impact Gender Fund with the Faculty of Law to support the project "Developing a New Generation of Women Legal Leaders in Africa"

Coordinated two stakeholder kick-off meetings for PomiSA and ProTelde projects both funded under the Erasmus + and UJ is the lead applicant.

Attended a stakeholder kick-off meeting in Brussels under the EU Intra Africa Mobility Scheme funding for the TESIECS projects.

Communications and Marketing

- UJ Law's Prof Fredericks represents Africa at UNIDROIT
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-laws-prof-fredericks-represents-africa-at-unidroit/>
 - UJ climbs globally in University Ranking by Academic Excellence (URAP)
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-climbs-globally-in-university-ranking-by-academic-excellence-urap/>
 - Hospitality Management student wins big at 2024 MEA Future Leaders Challenge in Dubai
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/hospitality-management-student-wins-big-at-2024-mea-future-leaders-challenge-in-dubai/>
 - Yane to fly UJ flag at Dubai 2024 World Para Athletics Grand Prix
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/yane-to-fly-uj-flag-at-dubai-2024-world-para-athletics-grand-prix/>
 - UJ secures EU Grant for digital education in South African TVET Colleges
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-secures-eu-grant-for-digital-education-in-south-african-tvet-colleges/>
 - UJ and Canadian High Commission celebrate 30 years of democracy, forge partnership for youth
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-and-canadian-high-commission-celebrate-30-years-of-democracy-forge-partnership-for-youth/>
 - UJ, French Embassy celebrate democracy, sportsmanship with inclusive Sports Day
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-french-embassy-celebrate-democracy-sportsmanship-with-inclusive-sports-day/>
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City University of Hong Kong visit



University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences



University of Professional Studies, Accra



University of Cincinnati visit



Tohoku University, Japan visit