



# Highlights

## Division for Internationalisation



### Message from the Senior Director

The primary focus for the first quarter was the 2021 International student registrations. In anticipation of several challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we introduced mechanisms and processes to assist and support international students. Such efforts have centred on virtual engagements including a series of webinars, panel discussions and student focused engagements from the second quarter onwards. We anticipate that a hybrid model for events will become a reality from the third quarter. This will also include our recruitment which will primarily be done virtually while supported by continuous discussions with international partners and networks, with bi-lateral partners and strategic organisations to advertise university programmes. This also included the creation and marketing of mutually beneficial Short Learning Programmes (SLP'S), virtual and in-person. Two important developments include the roll out of a comprehensive Study Abroad Outbound online system and the start of the 2nd phase of the UJ 3D Virtual Tours which will include the DFC, Bunting Road and Soweto Campuses.

The 2020 Academic year forced us to change the way we work and engage. The importance of the virtual environment cannot be understated and will become ever more important. It is thus imperative that we continuously seek to better understand the virtual space and how to optimise the platforms and tools we use.

### Study Abroad programmes


The focus was on Welfare services to students and assisting the Admissions team towards achieving registration quotas and included the immigration compliance area of registration, which consists of verification of visas with the Department of Home Affairs and VFS, student support for the acquisition of visas, medical aid and other documents as required. Following the registration period, preparation for registration reporting to the Department of Home Affairs has begun with examination of HEDA error lists to create an accurate picture of immigration compliance.

The Immigration and compliance portfolio included the support to Distinguished Visiting Professors (DVPs) and international Post-Doctoral Research Fellows (PDRFs), providing immigration advice, referrals to other sources to attain visa requirements and preparing visa support letters. In conjunction with the Postgraduate School, registration of 279 new and returning PDRFs and advice and visa support letters to 43 new and returning PDRFS was achieved. We worked with HR to provide immigration advice and visa support letters to 4 new DVPs.

Several support mechanisms were either created or enhanced for both Study Abroad and degree-seeking students:

- The outbound online study abroad application system will be completed in the second quarter of 2021,
- Recording of virtual tours for the Bunting Road, Doornfontein and Soweto campuses was started to augment the Kingsway Campus virtual tour completed in 2020,
- Instructional (how-to) videos for new international students and PDRFs focusing on immigration compliance and a study abroad video were recorded



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- We initiated a process to develop a virtual orientation programme for all students at UJ.
  - The virtual tours and the instructional videos will also form part of the virtual orientation programme to be completed and deployed by the end of the third quarter of 2021.

There has been some limited physical and virtual mobility taking place in the first quarter of 2021 with 8 inbound and 52 outbound mobilities. An abridged orientation programme was conducted for inbound students in February. These numbers are significantly lower than usual due to the ongoing mobility restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While virtual programmes have been well received by the UJ community, students are experiencing their own set of challenges such as:

- Completing the full academic load as well as participating in virtual programmes.
- Students do not have a reliable data source which impacts on the ability to complete virtual programmes.

## Academic Services

The Unit has primarily engaged in the virtual finalisation of Agreements and discussions on potential collaborations with prospective global partners. The Unit is facilitating various virtual meetings and discussions between University of Illinois (a strategic existing partner) and individual UJ Faculties to identify specific areas for collaboration. Champions have been identified to lead various projects/collaborations and discussions are progressing.

Erasmus Plus agreements signed:

- University of Ljubljana
- University of Gdansk, Poland
- Palacky University
- Universitaet Klagenfurt

The following Pan African Academic Partnerships were renewed and are presently active:

- MoU – South Eastern Kenya University
- MoU – National University of Science and Technology (NUST)
- MoU – National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenya
- MoU – Evelyn Horn College of Applied Arts and Commerce
- MoU – Daystar University
- MoU – University of Lagos
- MoU – University of Ghana
- MoA – Makerere University
- MoA – Never Again Rwanda

The University of Johannesburg hosted two virtual meetings with international partners. The first meeting took place with Senior colleagues from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA on the 26th January. The meeting focused on mapping out the areas for collaboration between specific faculties at both universities, regarding previously identified goals.

The second meeting took place with colleagues from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Nigeria on the 18th February and discussions focused on specific identified areas for collaboration. Both universities agreed to finalise champions to take discussions forward.





## International Student Registration and UJELP

The 2021 registration process was slower compared to previous years due to challenges which emanated from the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges included:

- Lockdowns in different countries remained a cause for concern,
- Securing police clearance from South Africa for visa application purposes,
- Meeting outstanding debt and the required minimum registration fee. The Division for Internationalisation and Student Finance discussed concessions for different categories of students who were affected.
- Funding challenges in the wake of COVID 19.
- Achieving target for New Undergraduate students was adversely affected when international spaces were removed (loaded L Status, Space Constraint) without any notice to the Division for Internationalisation.

### Registrations (as of 6 April 2021)

Undergraduate - 2420 and Postgraduate – 1473, **Total 3893**

**As of the 31st March 2021**, UJELP has **24** registered students across all level (i.e. elementary to advanced level).

## Fundraising and Administration

- Funding proposals were submitted to:
    - The Pepsico Development Fund for an amount of R100 million over 5 years. This is a consortium led by the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in partnership with the University of the Free State (UFS), University of South Africa (UNISA) and Walter Sisulu University (WSU). The overall objective of the program is to create sustainable food systems to support marginalised emerging black farming communities in different provinces of SA, creating viable enterprises which enable sustainable livelihood options.
    - The British Council Innovative African Universities Call, a collaboration between University of Johannesburg and Glasgow University in establishing the Centre of Excellence. The aim is to collaborate, co-create and co-deliver the project strands by developing institutional partnerships, convening and managing the peer learning networks and delivering capacity building activities that foster University engagement in entrepreneurship ecosystems.
  - The Chinese Consulate General in South Africa generously donated R110 000 towards bursaries which will support 11 top performing international students in paying their tuition fee.
  - The Division facilitated a collaboration between the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at UJ, and the University of Munster School of Business, to promote student and staff mobility and joint research opportunities.
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## Communications and Marketing

- Distinguished Visiting Professor Jarkko Saarinen awarded The Order of the White Rose of Finland  
<https://www.uj.ac.za/newandevents/Pages/Distinguished-Visiting-Professor-Jarkko-Saarinen-awarded-The-Order-of-the-White-Rose-of-Finland.aspx>
  - UJ's student advances to finals of World Tourism Forum in Switzerland  
<https://www.uj.ac.za/newandevents/Pages/UJs-student-advances-to-finals-of-World-Tourism-Forum-in-Switzerland.aspx>
  - UJ's geochemist, Professor Jan Kramers honoured with international Fellowship  
<https://www.uj.ac.za/newandevents/Pages/UJs-geochemist-Professor-Jan-Kramers-honoured-with-international-Fellowship.aspx>
  - Ten UJ subjects rated amongst the best in the world  
<https://www.uj.ac.za/newandevents/Pages/Ten-UJ-subjects-rated-amongst-the-best-in-the-world.aspx>
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