



Highlights

Division for Global Engagement



Message from the Senior Director

In July, Prof. Letlhokwa Mpedi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal together with Prof. Ylva Rodny-Gumede, Senior Director, Division for Global Engagement travelled to Antigua, West Indies in July to attend the UWIFIC SIR + Artificial Intelligence Annual Research Conference. The conference was hosted by the University of the West Indies and Prof. Mpedi was a distinguished speaker on a panel discussion titled "Navigating Legal Frontiers in the Age of Generative AI."

Prof. Letlhokwa Mpedi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal lead a UJ delegation to visit Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC) in July. The visit aimed to strengthen existing ties between both U21 network partners, share knowledge and to foster new collaboration. Prof. Mpedi and team also met with the South African Ambassador in Chile, HE Mr George Monyemangene.

Following the visit to Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (UC), Prof. Mpedi and Prof. Ylva Rodny-Gumede attended the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) meeting hosted by Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Discussion focused on the pivotal role university leaders play in decision making amidst global challenges.

Prof. Ylva Rodny-Gumede and Ms Anisa Khan both attended the IEASA conference in Johannesburg and presented on internationalisation and collaborative partnerships. Prof. Rodny-Gumede also chaired the plenary on shifting geopolitics and academic collaborations and partnerships. In addition Mr Tshidiso Konese, Mr Lebethe, Ms Ziyanda Sam and Ms Shantelle Sass conducted a very well received workshop on immigration processes and the enrolment of international students in higher education.

Prof. Rodny-Gumede, Ms Anisa Khan and Ms Ziyanda Sam also attended the EIEA conference in Toulouse where we also had the pleasure of showcasing the University through our Study South Africa and UJ booth.

From July to the end of September, we hosted several delegations, including the Furtwangen University, Germany; Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University; National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA, Romania; McMaster University, Canada; University College Dublin, United Kingdom; University of Iowa, USA and University of Sussex, UK.

Study Abroad and International Student Services

- UJISS Team Building and Introduction of Student Buddies, 26 July 2024.
- Delivered the Global Leadership Student Exchange Programme in collaboration with the Division for Student Affairs to the University of Cincinnati from 07 - 13 July 2024. The group had the opportunity to engage with staff and students from UC, meet with the mayor of Cincinnati and enjoy some of the city's cultural activities.
- Assisted with the coordination of the Faculty of Health Sciences Africa by Bus Programme to Mozambique which took place from 06 to 12 July 2024.
- The NICE (Entrepreneurship and Intercultural Competence Skills) virtual programme, which started in June, concluded on 06 July 2024.



- The cohort of second-semester exchange and study-abroad students started their studies following the second semester orientation programme.
- UJISS women's conference, "Empowered women, empower women", hosted on the 30th of August 2024.
- Hosted students and a staff member on the second-semester IES Abroad programme from 31 August – 3 September 2024.
- UJISS Volunteer work at Children's group home: Save a Life Foundation, 03 August 2024.
- Hosted the 19th International Festival, hosted on the 13th of September 2024.
- EAIE Conference in Toulouse, France 16 - 20 September 2024.
- Hosted the Global Leadership Student Exchange Programme at UJ and at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia. The Department of Higher Education and Training funded the programme, which involved five universities: UJ, Cape Peninsular University of Science and Technology, Central University of Technology, University of Zululand, and University of South Africa.
- Assisted in the coordination of the Johannesburg Business School MBA International Immersion Programme at the University of San Francisco, USA from 23 to 27 September 2024
- Assisted with the coordination and delivery of the College of Business and Economics Africa by Bus programme to Mozambique from 01 to 06 September 2024.


Academic Services

The Canadian High Commission invited UJ to present at its annual SA- Canada Universities Network meeting. Ms Khan presented at the event hosted by the NRF and participated in the follow up webinar held on the 5th of September to announce the upcoming SACUN network seed funding instrument. The notice of the webinar, hosted by Universities South Africa (USAF), was distributed to UJ researchers with whom our office has been supporting with their Canadian partnerships and invited to the session. The "groundwork" for the funding call that opens early in 2025 has begun by contacting researchers with potential to work together on the call. Our Canadian partner universities have also been alerted.

The Director Academic Services was also invited to the NRF to present to a Tanzanian ministerial and higher education delegation hosted by the Department of Science and Innovation and the National Research Foundation. This forms part of the ongoing efforts to build positive working relationships between the DSI and NRF bilateral and multilateral partnerships team and the UJ Global Engagement Division. We have since received a request from the Nelson Mandela Institute to partner with them and have held follow up discussions with the DSI/ NRF teams regarding support for African partnerships. The VC of the NMI has written to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Mpedi to request that our universities enter into a formal partner agreement.

On the 20th of August, the Division hosted a Partner Day for delegates attending the IEASA conference. This was a pilot and was well received although with fewer participants than was projected. This will be factored into future planning.

The Scholarship of Internationalisation of Higher Education also provides opportunities for cross-departmental collaboration, expanded activities with university partners and for strategic alignment with U21 partners. Ms Khan facilitated two sessions at the annual IEASA conference and was the main speaker at a session examining University responses to the call to Boycott (through ending ties) with Israeli Universities. Ms Khan presented a synopsis of International and South African university responses through a comparative analysis and used a decolonial and anti-Apartheid framework to examine "soft" (power) vs. decolonial Internationalisation approaches. The session concluded that historically black, disadvantaged institutions took stronger stances to support the International Court of Justice Ruling, citing Genocide and Apartheid forms of oppression, and to end all ties with institutions supported by the State of Israel. Historically white universities have adopted



stances that prioritize individual academic freedoms over collective freedoms. Interestingly Belgian Higher Education Institutions have taken stronger stances, with Ghent University adopting a full boycott, disinvestment and sanctions-based approach.

As second session was presented together with Birzeit University, Palestine (UJ partner). This session featured inputs from the Head of the Islamic University of Gaza's International Office and the Ministry of Higher Education in Gaza. It should be noted that all universities, including the Islamic University have been destroyed. The focus of the presentation was on understanding the devastating impact that this has had on students and staff of higher education institutions in Gaza and what efforts were underway to assist with rebuilding projects.

The Division for Global Engagement and the Transformation unit also co-presented together with the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and the University of Birmingham. Both UB and UIUC are U21 partners and through this cooperation we were able to link our units responsible for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. EDI is a key focus of U21 and through this collaboration we presented models from our universities for staff and student engagement in EDI through communities of practice, forums and other approaches.

Following on from the IEASA conference, Ms Khan attended the SA-Japan Universities conference from the 26th of August to the 1st of September. Japan is an area where UJ has few partnerships (two formal partnerships) and there are several funding calls that have had poor uptake from UJ academics and researchers. The region holds promise in terms of deepening and widening opportunities. Several linkages were made, particularly in the area of COIL and these are being followed up on.


The Global Engagement Division also attended the European Association for International Education conference in Toulouse France. As a pre-event, Ms Anisa Khan was invited by the Secretariat of the European University Alliances (a closed session for EU Universities only) as speaker on a panel on "Partnerships with Africa: how to unlock mutual benefits". This event was combined with partner visits in Italy to accompany Dr Hema Kesa of the School of Tourism and Hospitality to the Gastronomical University in Pollenzo. The discussions focused on a joint degree proposal and formalising the partnership through an MoU. The visit also included meetings with the E35 Foundation at the Reggio-Emilia municipality and a visit to Polito De Technico where we have an Erasmus Exchange. Academic Services coordinated and co-wrote a joint funding proposal under the CSO funding call of the EU, together with the Reggio colleagues to support the ongoing partnership. The funding proposal focuses on Green Energy and skills development for Women Entrepreneurs.

The Division for Global Engagement also co-hosted with the Faculty of Humanities, a visiting delegation from IOWA University- Iowa Uni is fast becoming a strategic partner to UJ, working closely to develop programmes under the theme of the Social Determinants of Health. The Public Affairs Division of the American Embassy in SA joined the meetings to discuss SA-USA funding mechanisms and we also engaged the Centre for Entrepreneurship at JBS in a comparative session on models for supporting entrepreneurs as well as the Faculty of Health Sciences colleagues in public health.

Another exciting visiting delegation was also received from McMaster University, Canada. The McLeads programme was hosted by the School of Communication and we joined to discuss the programme and opportunities for deepening our U21 bilateral agreement and future funding opportunities under SACUN.

The Division and the Faculty of Humanities also hosted a visiting Academic from Babes Bolyai University. Other activities ongoing during this quarter included the planning and development of two joint degrees with SOAS, London and planning for the Future Professors cohort visit to Illinois in 2025.

The quarter ended on a positive note, with Ms Khan leading an application for strategic funds under the GES 4.) call. The application is in support of Collaborative Online International Learning



and links well with UJ's collaborative programmes policy and targets for innovative teaching and learning programmes that includes global footprints and partnerships.

During this period our office also supported various academic enquiries for support of international partnerships and tracked, traced, and supported 15 international agreements to completion, three of which are for Erasmus Credit mobilities (funded grants) and processed 16 UJELP registrations. See table which follows:

1. UJELP

For the third quarter of the year, for the period July to September the registration results are as follows:

Placement Test 1	Total registrations	Placement Test 2	Total registrations
Elementary level (A1 and A2)	4	Elementary level (A1 and A2)	3
Intermediary level (B1 and B2)	6	Intermediary level (B1 and B2)	3
Advanced level (C1 and C2)	0	Advanced level (C1 and C2)	0

2. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Academic Services processed fifteen agreements to completion as per below.

Region	Country	Name	Type
Europe	Germany	University of Hohenheim	Erasmus + ICM
Europe	Slovenia	University of Nova Gorica	Erasmus + ICM
Europe	Finland	University of Helsinki	Erasmus + ICM
South America	Brazil	Universidade Federal da Bahia	Collaboration Agreement: Data processing agreement
South America	Brazil	Universidade Federal da Bahia	Collaboration Agreement: Agreement for Academic, Cultural and Scientific Cooperation
Europe	Germany	Constructor University	MOU
Europe	Sweden	Malmo University	MOU
North America	Canada	Carleton University	MOU
United States of America	California	University of San Francisco	Collaboration Agreement
Africa	Mauritius	University of Mauritius	MOU
South America	Chile	Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile	MOU
Europe	Germany	University of Cologne, Faculty of Human Sciences	Collaborative Agreement: Non-binding
South Asia	India	Vaidyaratnam P S Varier's Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal Centre for Medicinal Plants Research	Non-binding Collaboration Agreement
Africa	Malawi	Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS)	Framework Agreement
Asia	Thailand	Thammasat University	Framework Agreement



Partner Day@UJ



EAIE Conference and Exhibition, Toulouse - France

International Student Registration and UJELP

Webinars

Matriculation Exemption Webinar	2 July 2024	25 Attendees
	1 October 2024	31 Attendees

Recruitment and Conference Trips

Month	Countries	Travel Purpose
July	Canada	ACAC Conference
June-July	Rwanda	ICEF Africa Fair and Meetings
July	Eswatini	Information Session, School visits and fairs Presentations and information sessions done in 10 Schools Received 350 leads
September	Tanzania	School visits Presentations and information sessions done in 5 Schools
September	Thailand	University Fairs and CIS-Earcos Institute on International Admission & Guidance in Thailand
September	Uganda	School Visits Presentations and information sessions done in 6 Schools
October	Italy	Erasmus+ Mobility for Training
October	Ghana and Nigeria	Wren Tour west Africa 1065 leads
October	South Africa (Bloemfontein)	CEIA Conference
October	Canada	TAICEP conference

Keystone:

The leads from 1 July – 31 October 2024 report are attached.

Meto:

Meto is a tech-based non-profit with the intent of making access to quality higher education a reality for all students. We received 50 leads.





Fundraising and Administration

Hosted information sessions with DHET, Campus France, Chevening Scholarship to promote Scholarship opportunities to Students.

DHET funded R7,8m towards Africa by Bus student mobility exchange programme. This is a pilot collaboration with 4 other universities (UNISA, CPUT, CUT and Unizulu) UJ will lead and coordinate the mobilities to Ethiopia and China.

Received R18m from Co-Impact to support the Faculty of Law, Ikamva Initiative focusing on developing the next generation of Black Female Lawyers.

Communications and Marketing

- Africa by Bus tour to Namibia strengthens ties between UJ and NUST
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/africa-by-bus-tour-to-namibia-strengthens-ties-between-uj-and-nust/>
- UJ Law shines at prestigious San Remo International Humanitarian Law course in Italy
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-law-shines-at-prestigious-san-remo-international-humanitarian-law-course-in-italy/>
- UJ the only university in South Africa to improve its standing in the latest global ranking
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-the-only-university-in-south-africa-to-improve-its-standing-in-the-latest-global-ranking/>
- BRICS Summer School opens with a call to harness youth potential for global impact
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/brics-summer-school-opens-with-a-call-to-harness-youth-potential-for-global-impact/>
- UJ and the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China empowering women
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-and-the-consulate-general-of-the-peoples-republic-of-china-empowering-women/>
- UJ's Prof Hassina Mouri becomes the first female and the first geoscientist from Africa to lead global scientific body, championing geosciences
<https://news.uj.ac.za/news/uj-prof-hassina-mouri-becomes-the-first-female-and-the-first-geoscientist-from-africa-to-lead-global-scientific-body-championing-geosciences/>





Visit of Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University



Visit of Furtwangen University, Germany



Visit of University College Dublin



Visit of University of Iowa, USA



Visit of University of Sussex, UK