



**SIYAKWAMUKELA  
ENYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI**

**WELCOME  
TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL**



To be the Premier  
University of African Scholarship.

# MISSION

**A truly South African university that is academically excellent, innovative in research, critically engaged with society and demographically representative; and is redressing the disadvantages, inequities and imbalances of the past.**



# EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

**The University of KwaZulu-Natal Executive Management is led by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, who is supported by the:**

- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College:** Humanities
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College:** Law and Management Studies
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College:** Health Sciences
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of College:** Agriculture, Engineering and Science
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor:** Research and Innovation
- **Deputy Vice-Chancellor:** Teaching and Learning
- **Registrar**
- **Executive Director:** Human Resources
- **Executive Director:** Corporate Relations
- **Pro Vice-Chancellor:** Student Services
- **Pro Vice-Chancellor:** Strategic Services
- **Executive Director:** Institutional Planning and Governance
- **Chief Finance Officer**

# SNAPSHOT

The University of KwaZulu-Natal is recognised as one of South Africa's leading research-focused universities, with five campuses located across Durban and Pietermaritzburg and a strong commitment to teaching excellence, impactful research and societal engagement.



UKZN @ A GLANCE

**EDGEWOOD**  
CAMPUS

**HOWARD COLLEGE**  
CAMPUS

**NELSON R. MANDELA**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**PIETERMARITZBURG**  
CAMPUS

**WESTVILLE**  
CAMPUS

## COLLEGES

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES

COLLEGE OF LAW AND  
MANAGEMENT STUDIES

7

INSPIRING GREATNESS

a glance

a glance



# FACT FILE

**UKZN has more than a century of historical academic advancements.**

**It was formed in 2004 through the merger of the University of Durban-Westville and the University of Natal.**

**UKZN is the only university in South Africa to offer a degree in Agricultural Engineering that is fully accredited by the Engineering Council of South Africa.**

## Howard College

Opened in 1931 on the Berea overlooking the Durban Harbour, this campus sits within an environmental conservancy with lush gardens featuring indigenous flora and fauna. Nearby highlights include Durban's vibrant beaches, major port, and Maputaland's northern game reserves

## Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine

Founded in 1950 and renamed after Nelson Mandela in 2000, the School played a key role in the struggle for equality. It houses the Doris Duke Medical Research Institute and world-class HIV/TB research centres, including the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI). Both are premier, KwaZulu-Natal-based scientific research organisations dedicated to combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and related global health challenges.

## Pietermaritzburg

Established in 1910 in the Natal Midlands, this historic campus offers programmes that respond to local needs in Science, Education, Law, Humanities, and Management. It uniquely features Agriculture, Theology, and Fine Art, surrounded by rich Victorian and Edwardian architecture.

## Westville

Located 8km from Durban, this multicultural conservancy campus serves as UKZN's administrative headquarters and houses the Commerce, Management, and Health Sciences faculties.

# OUR TEN-YEAR ROADMAP

The University aims to be “a truly South African university of choice that is academically excellent, innovative in research, entrepreneurial, and critically engaged with society”.

Through its ten-year 2023–2032 Strategic Plan, UKZN aims to become a world-class, research-intensive African University. It addresses digital disruptions and financial hurdles by focusing on strategic pillars to ensure long-term sustainability and impactful global development. The Strategic Plan presents five strategic goals that UKZN aspires to deliver upon:

01

## Excellent Teaching and Learning

Attract high-potential students and develop them to their full potential to become globally aware professionals, leaders, and citizens.

02

## Excellent Student Experience

Produce graduates with knowledge, skills, and networks to build meaningful and agile careers that can be sustained and adapted over the course of their lifetime.

03

## Excellent and High Impact Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship

A globally – ranked research-intensive university responding to major societal, economic, and environmental challenges.

04

## High Impact Societal and Stakeholder Community Engagement

Achieve meaningful interactions for mutual benefit.

05

## Targeted Internationalisation

Achieve an international outlook that is integral to the University's aspiration to be a world-class African university.



**EDGEWOOD  
CAMPUS**

**HOWARD COLLEGE  
CAMPUS**

**NELSON R MANDELA  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

**PIETERMARITZBURG  
CAMPUS**

**WESTVILLE  
CAMPUS**

NELSON R. MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

WILLIAMS FRANKLIN  
CAMPUS

# GLOBAL RANKINGS

The University of KwaZulu-Natal ranks among South Africa's top five universities and within the top 620 globally, according to the latest EduRank assessment. UKZN also ranks among the world's top 100 universities in 11 research fields, including hydrology and water resources management, optometry, gender studies, agricultural science, and bioethics, reflecting UKZN's strength in environmental, health, and socially engaged research. EduRank's methodology combines research output (UKZN produced about 66 500 academic publications and more than 1.45 million citations); citation impact; non-academic visibility; and the influence of 27 notable alumni, reflecting the University's growing research footprint and international reach.

In the most recent edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings, the University of KwaZulu-Natal remained among the leading young institutions globally and within the top tier nationally. UKZN was ranked 84th worldwide among universities under 50 years old, placing it among the top-performing young universities in South Africa. The THE Young University Rankings apply the same 13 performance indicators used in the flagship World University Rankings — covering teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook — but with recalibrated weightings that place greater emphasis on measurable institutional performance than reputation.

In the 2025 THE Impact Rankings, UKZN is recognised globally for its contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Unlike traditional rankings focusing primarily on academic metrics, the THE Impact Rankings assess universities on real-world reach of their research, teaching, partnerships and community engagement, highlighting UKZN's role in advancing sustainable development and addressing societal challenges in Africa and beyond.



# RESEARCH



UKZN is consistently rated amongst the top 500 universities in the world and amongst the most productive universities in South Africa in terms of research output. The University's Strategic Plan emphasises enhancing UKZN's position as a leading international, research-intensive institution dedicated to advancing knowledge and delivering practical solutions to the complex global challenges facing humanity at all levels.

These focus areas support the University's mission to generate knowledge that contributes to sustainable development and societal advancement:



**Health and Wellbeing**



**Water**



**Energy**



**Agriculture and Food Security**



**Climate change**



**Social Cohesion**



**Town Planning**



**Data Science and Quantum Computing**



## RESEARCH CENTRES



## COLLEGE OF LAW AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES:



**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE**

- Centre for Water Resources Research (CWRR)
- Centre for Quantum Computing and Technology (CQctec)
- Water Sanitation & Hygiene Research & Development (WASH R&D) Centre
- Centre for Transformative Agriculture and Food Systems (CTAFS)
- African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI)
- Aerospace Systems Research Institute (ASRI)
- Astrophysics Research Centre (ARC)
- Centre for Power and Energy Systems (CEPS) (encompasses Eskom Power Plant Engineering Institute (EPPEI) Specialisation Centre, High Voltage Direct Current Centre and Vibration Research and Testing Centre)





# HUM

## COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

- Maurice Webb Race Relations Unit
- Centre for African Ethics



# HS

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

- Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI)
- HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP)
- Centre for Research in Health systems (CRH - formerly the Centre for Rural Health)
- Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)

# STUDENTS

UKZN ENROLLS  
APPROXIMATELY

46 000

STUDENTS ACROSS  
ITS COLLEGES

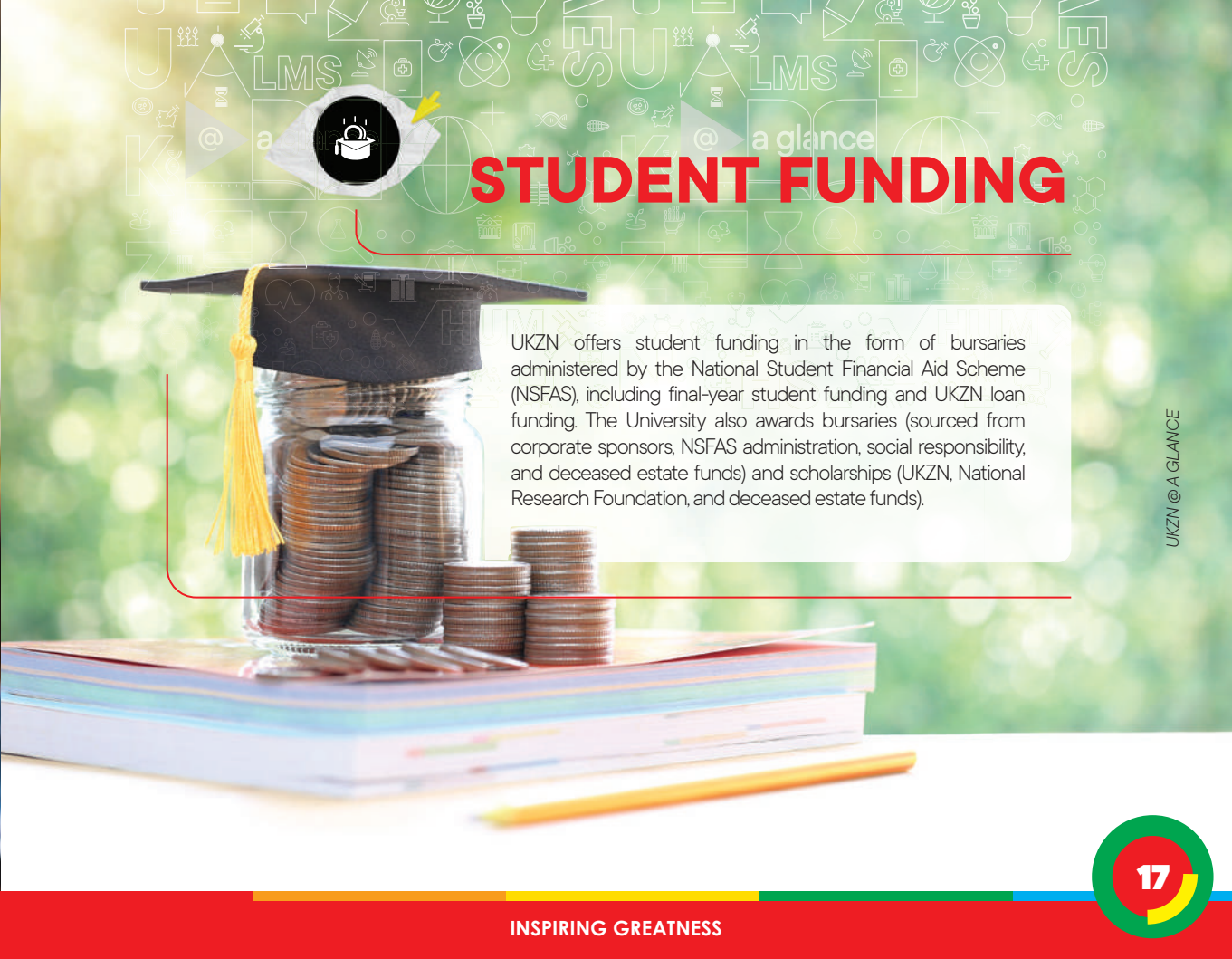


WITH WOMEN  
COMPRISING ABOUT



OF THE STUDENT  
POPULATION.

The University is committed to providing an enabling environment that supports academic success, personal development and future leadership.



# STUDENT FUNDING



UKZN offers student funding in the form of bursaries administered by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), including final-year student funding and UKZN loan funding. The University also awards bursaries (sourced from corporate sponsors, NSFAS administration, social responsibility, and deceased estate funds) and scholarships (UKZN, National Research Foundation, and deceased estate funds).



## STAFF

UKZN is committed to providing a working environment in which all staff members have the opportunity to perform at their best and reach their full potential. In this way, the University is well-positioned to nurture a culture of commitment and high performance.



## LANGUAGE POLICY

UKZN aligns with South Africa's multilingual language policy and seeks to be a key player in its successful implementation. There is a need to develop and promote proficiency in the official languages, particularly English and isiZulu. The benefits for students becoming proficient in English – the dominant medium of academic communication and trade and industry internationally, and the *lingua franca* in government and institutions in South Africa – are clear. Proficiency in isiZulu will contribute to nation-building and assist the student in effective communication with the majority of the population of KwaZulu-Natal.

The University will continue to use English as its primary academic language, but will activate the development and use of isiZulu as an additional medium of instruction, together with the resources (academic and social) that make the use of the language a real possibility for interaction by all constituencies at the University.

# INTERNATIONALISATION

With more than 200 international partnerships, UKZN promotes global academic collaboration and student mobility, enriching scholarship while strengthening its international profile. Its international student body enhances its multicultural environment, with a large cohort of full-time students from the Southern African Development Community region and the rest of Africa, as well as from China, India, Europe, the United States of America, and elsewhere.

## UKZN'S MAJOR EXCHANGE PARTNERS ARE:



**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
(SN6.1)

University of Hradec Králové



**FRANCE**  
(SN7.1)

University of Tours



**AUSTRIA**  
(SN8.1)

Medical University of Graz





## INSPIRING GREATNESS

**CORPORATE RELATIONS DIVISION  
PUBLICATIONS UNIT**

Tel: +27 (0)31 260 7958 | Private Bag X54001, Durban, 4001, South Africa

**DISCLAIMER:**

Information was collected at different times during the compilation of this UKZN @ a Glance publication.