

University of Venda

Creating Future Leaders

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) is committed to delivering high quality academic programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The University has invested significant resources ranging from highly qualified academics and NRF- rated researchers, new buildings including student residences, staff offices, state of the art laboratory equipment and a modern ICT infrastructure to ensure that it produces graduates with skills relevant to our regional and national socio-economic development strategies. A new institutional culture of excellence and quality, characterised by peace and stability on campus, has emerged. The University feels truly proud of the calibre of graduates that it produces and is confident that it is creating great future leaders.

UNIVEN's student population is constituted by approximately 16 300 students and more than 800 academic staff members who hail from the entire African region as well as from other continents.

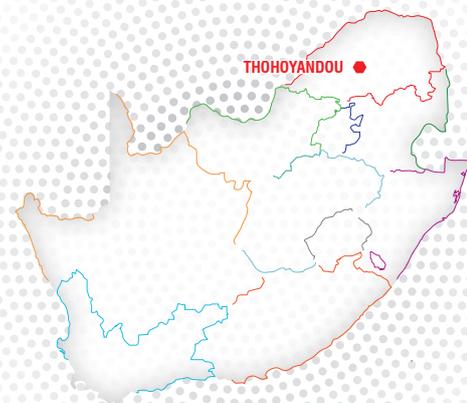
The strengths and qualities of UNIVEN

UNIVEN's student population is constituted by approximately 16,300 students and more than 800 academic staff members who hail from the entire African region as well as from other continents. Its institutional culture is based on the core values of quality and excellence, accountability, transparency, integrity, respect, diversity and social responsibility.

UNIVEN provides academic leadership in various fields such as Biotechnology, Ecology, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, African Linguistics, Law. It plays an active and leading role in the field of Community Engagement. The Vuwani Science Resource Centre brings science, mathematics and technology closer to rural communities. UNIVEN is proud of the community-based research of the institute for Rural Development. International partnership in community engagement is a specific strength of the University, for example, a ceramic water filter factory has been established in a rural pottery by students from UNIVEN and the University of Virginia, under the guidance of academics from both Universities.

UNIVEN is geographically well situated to conduct research in the fields of rural development, indigenous knowledge systems and indigenous law. It is located in an area where traditional governance structures dominate the daily lives of many people. Simultaneously, it is the closest institution of higher learning to three of the most significant archeological sites in southern Africa: Mapungubwe, Thulamela and Great Zimbabwe. Consequently, UNIVEN provides an ideal destination for international researchers who want to engage with the rural African context.

UNIVEN has a unique Buddy system launched every year for social integration of foreign and local students. The programme is jointly coordinated by the Directorate of International Relations,



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UNIVEN International Students Union (UNISU), and the Student Representative Council (SRC). The buddy programme is aimed at developing our University Community whose members are willing to exchange ideas and facts in the spirit of 'ubuntu'.

Research and Community Engagement

UNIVEN's research output continues to grow exponentially. The per capita research output rose from 0.71 units per capital in 2014 to 0.94 units per capital in 2015. The University has about 30 NRF rated researchers.

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Internationalisation at UNIVEN

UNIVEN understands internationalisation as the process of integrating an international and intercultural dimension into the teaching, learning, research, community engagement and service functions of the University. The Directorate of International Relations which drives internationalisation at UNIVEN was established in July 2011. There are about 100 national and international partnerships formed with UNIVEN which are found in Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America. The focus was on expanding the University's flagship international collaboration such as the University of Virginia in USA which started in 2002; the Warwick in Africa collaboration with the University of Warwick, UK; and many others. Also new strategic partnerships were formed with reputable institutions.

UNIVEN participates in several capacity building programmes for both staff and students. A recent one is EU Erasmus+ (IMPALA) partnership for capacity development for academics, leaders and administrators. The project has funded a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) laboratory for the University. UNIVEN is also part of UCDP, STINT, Vlirous, DAAD, and many others research collaborations. UNIVEN is a member of The Regional Universities Forum (RUForum) for Capacity Building in Agriculture; African Association of Universities (AAU); The Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA); South African Universities Vice-Chancellors Association (SAUVCA); BRICS Universities Network (BRICSUN); International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA).



Infrastructure Development

As part of the on-going academic re-engineering and transformation process UNIVEN has achieved significant milestones of an aggressive infrastructure redevelopment exercise in support of its core business of teaching, learning; research and community engagement. Presently a new phase of infrastructure development is underway; which includes the construction of, a new School of Human and Social Sciences, a new School of Health Sciences, a new recreation centre for students and many others.

Student Life

UNIVEN's students engage in a variety of extramural, sporting, cultural and social activities. The University provides for the needs of its physically challenged students through its dedicated disability student unit. The location in a vibrant African town, Thohoyandou, allows students access to urban life. Its scenic setting, the proximity of Kruger National Park (65 km from UNIVEN's gate) and the proximity of heritage sites and nature reserves provide unique and diverse recreational opportunities.

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