

## NEWS RELEASE

### **#ChooseUP: Why joining UP is one of the best decisions prospective students can make for their personal and professional growth**



*Crowd selfie: Christo Golden (UP alumnus), Nicole van der Walt (Culture officer of UP's Temporary Student Committee), Prof Flavia Senkubuge (Acting Vice-Principal: Student Life), Bosele Teke (UP alumnus) and Prof Themba Mosia (Interim Vice-Chancellor and Principal) with thousands of prospective UP students and parents in the background.*

PRETORIA - Thousands of local and international provisionally accepted students and their families were hosted at the University of Pretoria during the highly festive and successful Choose UP Day. The students, who are considering one of South Africa's and the continent's leading universities as the institution of choice for their education, well-being, development and empowerment, were reminded why choosing UP was the best decision for their future.

UP's world-class facilities were showcased across the various campuses, including Hatfield, Prinshof, Onderstepoort and Groenkloof. Current students, academic and support staff members provided valuable insights into the University's academic excellence, student support and student life offerings.

"UP is one of South Africa's largest contact and residential universities, spanning seven campuses and hosting nine faculties, including the globally renowned Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS)," said Interim Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Themba Mosia. "UP ranks first in South Africa for Accounting, Finance, Veterinary Science, and Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering. Globally, we are in the top 1% in 13 fields of study, and recently climbed to 42nd in the 2024 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

"Our research is not just cutting-edge; it is transformative, addressing global challenges and improving lives across Africa and beyond. At UP, we are committed to fostering excellence. Our faculties are home to top researchers, including 17 A-rated scholars, and our researchers lead pioneering initiatives such as the Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure (NuMeRI) and the Inter-University Institute for Data-Intensive Astronomy (IDIA), driving advancements in medical and astronomical sciences.

"As a UP student, you will experience our dedication to quality education first-hand. With over 1,100 study programs and a 93% undergraduate pass rate, our emphasis on integrating technology with traditional learning ensures you are well-prepared for the future," Prof Mosia said.

Academics, including lecturers and Deans of faculties, along with support staff in security, psychosocial services and fundraising, presented the comprehensive support services available at UP, which are designed to ensure student success and holistic growth. These services equip students with the skills they need to thrive in the workforce.

Prospective students were also introduced to UP's wide range of sports, societies, as well as arts and cultural activities. TuksSport representatives highlighted the access to world-class sporting infrastructure and opportunities, which have produced many UP students who have set sports records and competed in the Olympics.

The University of Pretoria also presented the Giving Matters Campaign, which is now in its third year. This initiative provides financial aid to students in the missing middle category, who do not qualify for National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) funding yet cannot afford university fees. This is the University's way of ensuring that no student is left behind. This year the campaign includes a raffle of the iconic 'one-of-a-kind' 1967 VW Beetle with a proud UP history.

"I believe UP is the best University for me and their Bsc programme has a lot to offer to young and aspiring scientists," said Mia Ludik, who applied to study for a Bsc Genetics degree. "You can look forward to seeing me on campus next year!"

Favour Kaerele, who also applied to study towards a BSc Genetics degree, said: "I Chose UP because, besides its academic excellence and good reputation, it is closer to home and it's known for its good student life environment. Choose UP day has been insightful and you don't get this type of information on the application form and website. And as someone who has never been to UP, this is was a great experience."

"Our daughter wants to study and Law and UP's Faculty of Law is the best in South Africa," said Tharien Joubert, parent of Lizeri Joubert.

"I also studied here and it is the best University. Tuks of Niks!"

>> **Watch this video of the crowd re-affirming their choice to #ChooseUP**

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## **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only university in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked the best in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The 2024 Times Higher Education subject rankings placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Law, Veterinary Science, Accounting and Finance; Agriculture and Forestry and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their 2024 World University Rankings (WUR). UP was the only South African university featured in the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

For more information, please go to [www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za)