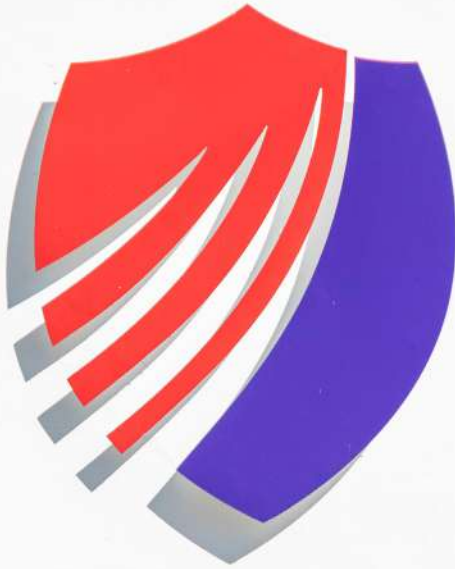




UFS International

Pre-Primary, Primary and High School





UFS International



Welcome to UFS International

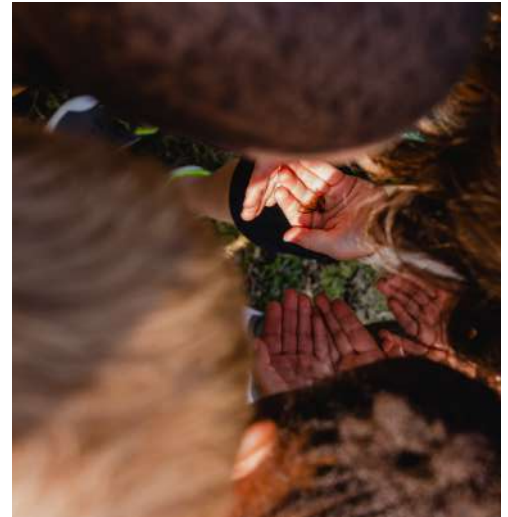
We are the only Cambridge Assessment International Education school in Eswatini, providing an exceptional education from Pre-Primary through to Sixth Form.

UFS International (UFSI) has been in existence since 1963. With outstanding facilities, dedicated staff, an idyllic setting, and a rich academic and extracurricular programme, **UFSI** prides itself on the excellent, well-rounded education it provides.

The Governing Council, Principals and Staff extend a warm welcome to all new parents and students. We trust that your child will find their school experience both enriching and rewarding and that as parents you will become involved in the life of the School.

The success of any school is dependent on the quality of its teachers. Teachers at **UFSI** are experts in their fields. They are dedicated, committed, empathetic and have the best interest of each student at heart. It is our firm ambition to ensure students who complete their education with us are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of their education with a sound set of values and the strength of character to match.

You are invited to come and visit our beautiful campus. We will be extremely pleased to welcome you and to share more about our programmes and ethos. We know that you will sense the warm, friendly and stimulating atmosphere here and will want your child to become a part of our school community.





UFS International History

Usutu Forest Primary School first opened its doors in January 1963, and was primarily aimed at educating the children of the Kraft Mill. It was then owned and operated by the global paper company, namely SAPPI.

However, at the beginning of 2002, control of the School was handed to the parents who formulated a Governing Council. The School became a Section 21 Company and continues to prosper, providing a balanced, caring and effective education with high academic standards and individual expectations.

Over the past years Usutu Forest Primary School had extended its service-offering to include Grade 00 and Grade 000 classes. In 2014 there was once again a query raised by parents to start a High School, for those parents who did not wish to send their children across the border. A survey was sent out to parents to gauge interest, and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of the High School being established.

In 2014 the Usutu Forest Primary School Governing Council set up a High School Committee whose mandate was to investigate the feasibility and viability of the establishment of an Usutu Forest High School. At the first meeting of this Committee it was decided that the notion of a family of Usutu School be established. The reasoning behind this idea was that the Committee felt that the success of the Primary School, with its ethos and values that are entrenched in the School's philosophy be carried forward into the High School sector. We saw this as the School's unique selling point and has over many years been the foundation of its success.



In November 2015 the official launch was held, and we were well on the road to meeting our dreams and targets of opening the High School doors in January 2017 to the first intake of Form 1 students.

In September 2021 the Usutu Forest School became a member of the Association of International Schools in Africa, (AISA), thereby consolidating their position as a true international school. This international status, and the nature of our school, together with our ambition to become the leading international school in the Southern African Sub-Region, provided a window of opportunity to embrace a few valuable changes. Accordingly, Usutu Forest School adopted a new school name, **UFS International** and badge, one that truly reflects our international status, curriculum, offering and vision.



In the coming years we see the **UFS International** catering for children from Grades 00 to Form 6, providing the foundation in the Pre-primary and Primary school phases and extending into the High School phase where students will be provided with all the requisite academic and life skills to enable them to pursue their goals and follow their chosen career paths with confidence, in order for them to make a difference in the communities in which they will live and work.



Our Education Programme and Philosophy

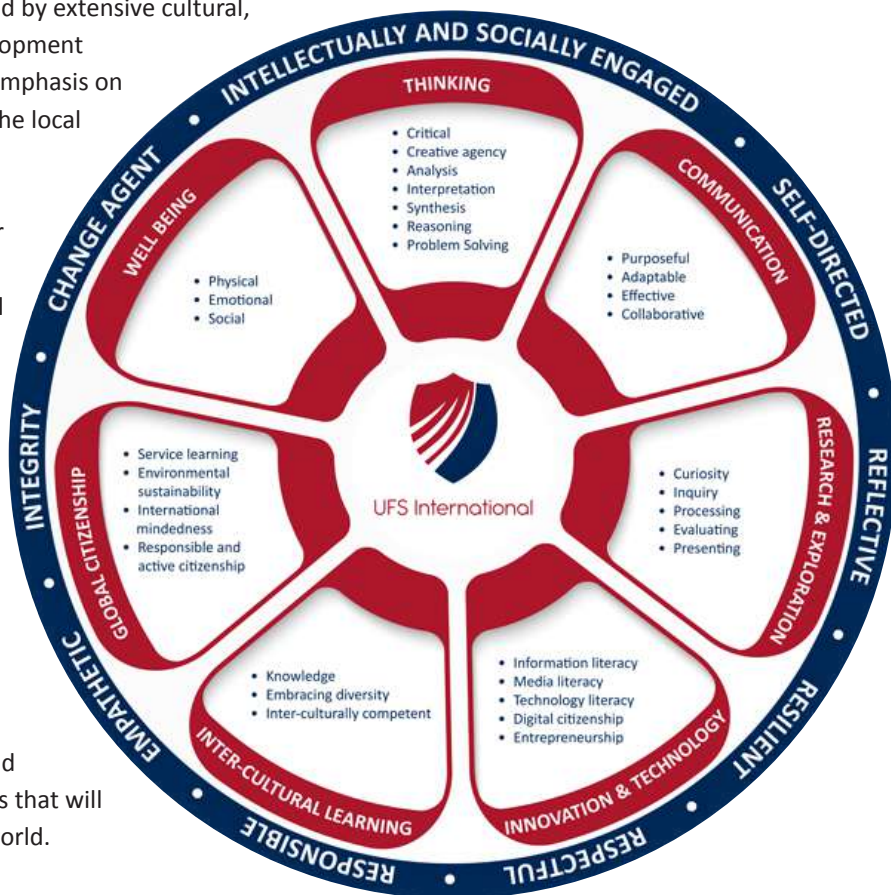
At **UFSI**, we proudly follow the Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) programme in the Pre-Primary, Primary and High School.

The holistic education offering is complemented by extensive cultural, sporting, service learning and leadership development programmes, and is underpinned by a strong emphasis on pastoral care. Opportunities for immersion in the local context are provided through subject choice.

Our comprehensive curriculum encourages our students to become self-aware, locally aware, globally aware, and to maximise their potential for success in a rapidly changing world.

Our Vision

UFSI intends to offer an education which caters for the total development of the child. The School believes in the acceptance and appreciation of individuals of every culture, creed, sex and race and values the right to education for all. We believe that change is a constant factor of life and that education should develop personal values and thinking processes that will enable intelligent participation in a changing world.





Our Mission

- To deliver a holistic education which includes the mastery of specific and general skills and the development of personal discipline.
- To instill in our students the view that learning is an unbroken activity continuing throughout life and that formal education must provide the training and skill for independence of thought, the faculty of critical inquiry, the courage to explore and an understanding of difference.
- To develop a learner who is responsible, caring, self-motivated and who is capable of contributing to our global community.

Our Values

At **UFSI** we believe our Vision and Mission Statement can be achieved by:

- Developing a positive self-value in each child.
- Encourage and recognizing each child's special gifts and attributes.
- Developing self-discipline, independence and responsibility.
- Respecting the individuality and diversity of all.
- Cultivating family involvement in school activities.
- Attracting, developing and retaining staff of the highest quality.
- Inculcating caring attitudes and actions towards all.



SCHOOL MOTTO: Aim High / Semper Sursum

A - Acceptance
I - Integrity
M - Manners

H - Happiness
I - Independence
G - Generosity
H - Honesty





School Phases - Pre-Primary

Introduction

UFSI Pre-primary Phase is a special place that embraces and nurtures all children between the ages of 4 and 6. (Grades 00 and 0). Small classes of between 10 and 18 students enable us to celebrate the early years' stages where children learn through play and are developing a spirit of inquiry. We believe that fostering this spirit will lead them positively in their later phases of learning.

The Cambridge curriculum is at the core of our learning and development and we include extra-curricular activities to complement our timetable. We offer the core sporting codes which include Soccer, Hockey, Swimming, Athletics, Judo, Ballet, Gymnastics and Step-Sync. We make use of a multi-sensory Phonics programme, hands-on Mathematics lessons, as well as Art and STEAM activities to build childrens' awareness of both themselves and the World around them. Our Conversational siSwati lessons, Story times, Themes, and Music and Drama lessons form part of our cultural appreciation, and P.E. lessons are included



two to three times a week to round off our programme.

We strive to make our Pre-Primary family a safe, supportive haven for our “cubs”. When they graduate and move on to their next phase of learning we are confident that they will thrive and continue to flourish in all areas.

School hours: Our school day begins at 8:00 and ends at 13:00, with 2 breaks interspersed throughout the day. Lessons take place both inside and outside the classroom, and we make use of our surrounding forest to instil a love for the environment.





School Phases - Junior Primary

Introduction

The Junior Primary (Grades 1 - 3) follows the Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) Curriculum. The curriculum comprises three main learning areas: English, Mathematics and Science.

The Cambridge English programme is taught alongside the Jolly Phonics/Jolly Grammar programme and the use of the Oxford Reading Tree series, to ensure we foster proficient reading and spelling skills in our young students, as this is an important skill necessary for future independent learning in Intermediate and Senior Phase.

Students also attend ICT, Music, Art, Physical Education and Communicative Siswati. In Grade 2, students are given the option of Siswati, Afrikaans or French as a second language. They continue their choice into Intermediate and Senior Phase.



We base our classroom experiences on the constructivist approach; allowing learning to be child-centred and providing students with experiences that allow them to hypothesize, predict, manipulate objects, pose questions, research, investigate, imagine, and invent.

In Grades 1-3 we focus on the holistic development of the child and focus on the social-emotional development of each child to help them build friendships, independence and belief in their own abilities. Learning support is provided for students who find the academic programme challenging and each grade is assisted by a full time assistant, so our teacher-learner ratio ensures each child receives individual attention in the classroom.

Our students have the option of participating in a variety of co-curricular activities once their academic day has concluded. We offer the core sporting codes which include Cricket, Netball, Soccer, Hockey, Swimming, Athletics, Judo, Ballet, Gymnastics and Step-Sync. Child safe-guarding is of importance to us, so we ensure students are monitored at recess and co-curricular activities and all concerns are treated with privacy and importance.

School hours: School starts at 07h40 and students are expected to be at school by 07h30. The formal academic day ends at 13h40, Monday to Thursday. School closes at 13h00 on Fridays. The extramural programme begins at 13h50 and ends at 14h45, Monday to Thursday.





School Phases - Intermediate & Senior

Introduction

We continue to follow the CAIE Curriculum in the Intermediate & Senior Phase catering for children in Grade 4 - Grade 7. Our Intermediate and Senior phases are specifically designed to help students grow into reflective, responsible, and independent individuals. We believe that every student has the potential to become a leader, and that's why we offer an intensive leadership program that prepares them for future success.

Our experienced teachers incorporate the 4Cs of 21st-century skills - Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, and Collaboration - into every lesson, ensuring that our students are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in an ever-changing world. Our students develop strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills through our Cambridge curriculum. We cultivate creativity, communication, and collaboration skills through project-based learning.



We offer the core sporting codes which include Soccer, Hockey, Swimming, Athletics, Netball, Basketball, Cricket, Golf, Rugby, Judo, Ballet, Gymnastics and Step-Sync and in return provides opportunities for students to participate in team sports and individual activities. We recognise the importance of sports in building confidence, teamwork, and physical fitness. It is here where they make lifelong friends and connections through our interschool tour and sports programs.

Our Intermediate and Senior phases offer a unique blend of academic rigor and extracurricular activities that will challenge and inspire your child.

School hours: School starts at 07h40 and students are expected to be at school by 07h30. The formal academic day ends at 13h40, Monday to Friday. School closes at 13h00 on Fridays. The extramural programme begins at 13h50 and ends at 14h45, Monday to Thursday.



A photograph of four students in a computer lab. In the foreground, a young woman with dark hair in a ponytail and glasses, wearing a dark blue school blazer over a red shirt, is looking at a computer monitor. Next to her, a young woman with dark hair in a bun, also in a school blazer, is smiling and looking towards the camera. Behind them, two young men are visible, one in a school blazer and the other in a red shirt, both looking at their computer monitors. The background shows more computer monitors and a whiteboard.

School Phases - Secondary

Introduction

The CAIE curriculum lays an emphasis on building a foundation of academic excellence from Form 1 - Form 6. We ensure that our academic programme is challenging and imaginative, designed to foster intellectual curiosity and a lifelong love of learning, and equipped to take on the challenges of change and progress. The High School phase is typically a five year programme starting in Form 1 and ending in Form 6, whereby learners graduate with their IGCSE and AS/A Level qualifications.

In Form 1 and Form 2 learners take all subjects on offer, namely English First Language, Mathematics, one Second Language (French, SiSwati or Afrikaans), Natural Science, Geography, History, Economic Management Sciences, Information and Communications Technology, Art, Life Orientation, Design and Technology and Travel and Tourism.

In Form 3 and Form 4 learners follow the IGCSE programme where English, a Second Language and Mathematics are compulsory subjects. Learners also select a minimum of five more subjects, one from each faculty. They write their IGCSE in Form 4 after which they start their AS-Level ("Advanced Subsidiary level") programme in Form 5. The jump from IGCSE to



AS is significant and therefore there can be no assumption of an automatic progression from Form 4 to Form 5.

In Form 5, students are required to take four subjects for their AS-level examination which is equivalent to SA Matric. The AS-Level examinations are written at the end of the Form 5 year. You need to complete subjects on AS-level before you can move on to A-level.

In Form 6, students are required to take three subjects at A-level “(Advanced level)” which will allow entry into International Universities. **UFSI** offers the following three faculties on A-level: Maths, Sciences (Biology/Physics/Chemistry) and Commercials (Accounts/Business/Economics). A-Level examinations are written at the end of Form 6.

These subjects are seen as the simple, strong core subjects that creates capacity to focus and develop important competencies for the 21st century. The student can focus on deep mastery for a few important subjects that will be most critical for your child’s tertiary career. These include, among others, creative intelligence, critical thinking, and entrepreneurship.

For more information on Cambridge A-levels and how it compares to CAPS and IEB, please visit our website for more information.

School hours: The academic day starts at 07h40 and ends at 14h40. School closes at 13h00 on Fridays. The extramural programme begins at 14h45 and ends at 15h45, Monday to Thursday.





Sport Facilities and Extramural Activities

UFS International is very active in all sporting codes and we take part in numerous inter-school sporting fixtures and festivals both within Eswatini and in South Africa.

UFS International offers a wide variety of sports during the year. Students are expected to spend at least two afternoons practising their chosen sports.

Summer: Swimming, Cricket, Golf

Winter: Hockey, Soccer, Netball, Athletics, Cross-country, Rugby, Basketball

All students from Grades 2 onwards take part in the annual inter-house swimming gala and athletics. Grade 1 onwards students take part in the Interhouse cross-country.

The following activities, but not limited to: Hockey; Soccer; Swimming; Athletics; Basketball; Rugby; Netball; Mountain Biking and Adventure sport/running.

UFS International has two large sports fields, 25m swimming pool, netball courts, a basketball court and has the full use of the adjoining golf course.



Transport

A fleet of 12 immaculately maintained modern Mercedes Benz buses services our students. The buses have competent and professional drivers. Rates differ depending on the area from which the child is being picked up and dropped off.





At UFSI, our Community Service commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goal #1 is to end poverty by 2030. Through partnering with our parents and community at large we provide food and clothing items to children in need. Our Primary School supports the Community Service project by spending fun-filled mornings with children from a Mhlambanyatsi Pre-School, these children share a picnic lunch together after some playground fun and end the morning with a handover of toys, stationery and clothes. Our students have their own garden on campus where they plant and share their harvest with the auxiliary staff over the course of the year.

Our High School Community Service group source and distribute sanitary wear to girls in the local areas as well as visit and support womens prisons and hospitals maternity wards. We partner with visting international schools to uplift and support rural schools in the lowveld.

Proudly UFSI - when kindness meets a need.





Why Cambridge?

The Cambridge international curriculum sets a global standard for education, and is recognised by universities and employers worldwide. Our curriculum is flexible, challenging and inspiring, culturally sensitive yet international in approach.

Cambridge students develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. They also gain the essential skills they need for success at university and in their future careers. We offer Cambridge international curriculum from Grade 1 up until Form 6. Over 10,000 schools in over 160 countries follow the Cambridge international curriculum. Cambridge students moving between Cambridge schools can continue their studies following the same curriculum.

Globally valued qualifications

Students know their Cambridge qualifications are globally recognised, accepted by universities and employers at home and around the world. A Cambridge qualification comes with an impressive reputation, and will retain its value for a lifetime of education and employment.



University and employer recognition

Over 2,200 universities and colleges worldwide recognise Cambridge qualifications. They are accepted by every UK university, by more than 850 universities in the US (including all the Ivy League universities) and in many other major student destinations, such as Canada, Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Germany and the Netherlands. Universities and employers recognise our qualifications as evidence of academic achievement. They understand that the demand of our curricula and the rigour of our assessments give students what they need to flourish in higher education.



Cambridge Exam Paths

The Cambridge pathway is relatively straightforward, with a natural flow and progression from one phase into the next.

In Form 1 and Form 2, all subjects are compulsory. We assess internally throughout the year and at the end of Form 2 students choose their IGCSE package.

In Form 3 and Form 4 we offer the IGCSE curriculum which requires all students to take English Language, Mathematics and a second language. Students then choose five other subjects and the final external IGCSE examinations are written in October/November of Form 4. With an IGCSE certificate you can be accepted* into some colleges and technikons, this certificate is equivalent to completing Grade 11 in the South African curriculum.



In Form 5 we offer the AS-level curriculum which requires all students to take English Language and three other subjects. The three subjects must have been passed at IGCSE with a minimum of a B symbol. Final external examinations are written in October/November of Form 5. With an AS-level certificate you can be accepted* into various Universities, this is equivalent to completing Grade 12 in the South African curriculum. In Form 6 we offer the A-level curriculum which requires all students to take



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*Dependent on grades obtained and university/college/technikon requirements of course applying for.



Admissions Procedure

Apply online following the “Apply Online” link on our website, www.usutuschool.com. All prospective students wishing to enter into **UFS International** will be required to sit for an assessment.

In Pre-Primary an assessment test is completed. In Primary and High School an assessment needs to be written in Mathematics and English to ascertain their level of functioning in these learning areas and to ensure that they meet the minimum criteria for the Grade/Form applied for. In addition to the above, the following documentation will be required:

- Copy of child’s latest school report
- Two recent passport photographs
- Copy of child’s birth certificate
- Copy of both parents’ identity document or passport



- The School may request a reference letter or transfer card from the child's previous school
- Financial clearance form from the child's previous school
- A completed and signed application form and contract of enrolment
- E200 Assessment fee

Safeguarding Our Children

UFS International recognises its duty and responsibilities to promote the protection, welfare and safeguarding interests of all students and expects all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. The school recognises that effective student protection requires sound procedures, and a workforce that is competent and confident in responding to student protection situations. **UFSI** is a listening school where to the child's voice is heard and all students are encouraged to be open about their concerns and doubts.

Our safeguarding policy provides the basis for good practice within the school for safeguarding students to enable every student to be healthy and stay safe.

Affiliation & Accreditation

UFS International is a full member of ISASA (Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa) which has its origins in the Conference of Headmasters and Headmistresses formed in 1929, to represent the interests of independent schools in Southern Africa.

A full member of SABISA (Southern African Bursars' of Independent Schools Association), SAISHRA (Southern African Independent Schools Human Resources Association), SAHISA (Southern African Heads' of Independent Schools Association) and AISA (Association of International Schools). The School has full accreditation from Cambridge International Examination (CIE).





UFS International

Contact Details

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