

Is ufs.ac.za safe? TrustSniffer's moderate-trust assessment: 65/100

ufs.ac.za

Verdict

65

OUT OF 100

MODERATE TRUST

ufs.ac.za is moderately trusted.

Most signals looked ordinary, and some evidence was missing. Read the checks below before you pay or hand over personal details.

Safe for Read-Only

Assessed 2026-08-12 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

What this site appears to be

Official university homepage for the University of the Free State with navigation to study programs, news, contact details, campuses, and application information. Contains contact numbers, cookie notice, and links to institutional resources.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	Not available No registration record was returned	NOTED
Web archive	Never archived No public history of this site	WATCH
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by Sectigo Public Server Authentication CA OV R36	NOTED

The page as captured

No screenshot is retained for this report.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Safe for Read-Only.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.
- The operator behind the site could not be independently connected to a real-world brand or person.

Full analysis

Overview

The website presents itself as the University of the Free State's institutional homepage, providing information about study programmes, admissions, research, news, campuses, student services, contact channels, and institutional activities. Its apparent purpose is public higher-education communication and information delivery rather than direct financial or commercial services.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No contradictions were observed. The content is internally consistent with an institutional university website: it provides academic navigation, research and news items, campus information, contact details, and application pathways, while showing no phishing indicators, financial solicitation, sensitive forms, wallet activity, or brand-impersonation signals. External reputation checks were clean, and the site's observed traffic footprint is consistent with a genuine public-information service. The institutional presentation supports apparent legitimacy, although it does not independently verify the real-world operator.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage identifies an institutional university environment with "Study@UFS," student and academic sections, research, alumni, staff, calendar, and contact navigation.
- The homepage contained no login form, hidden sensitive form, external password form, wallet connection, or financial solicitation.
- External reputation assessment recorded 0 malicious detections, 0 suspicious detections, and a traffic rank of 66727, within the top 1 million.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The reviewed content describes a public university whose apparent operating model is based on education, research, funding, donations, and related services, not regulated financial activity. No financial licence is claimed, and no formal registration or licensing disclosure was identified in the reviewed content; for this business model, that is a transparency and verification point rather than evidence of deception. The site's institutional identity is apparent from its content and academic namespace, but independent linkage to a real-world operator remains unverified. A contextual third-party broker-dataset check found no matching broker record and should not be interpreted as a licensing determination.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage presents the University of the Free State as an academic institution and links to study, research, student, alumni, and campus resources.
- The site uses the academic `ac.za` namespace.
- Hosting is identified as AS37501, University of the Free State - University of the Free State, ZA.
- The transport certificate is issued by Sectigo Public Server Authentication CA OV R36 with OV validation and is valid to 2027-01-07T23:59:59+00:00.

What to Verify Next

Before sensitive account activity, formal applications, payments, or other high-value actions, independently confirm the institution and the relevant destination through contact details obtained from a separate authoritative source. Application and donation pathways should be checked for correct institutional ownership, and any account or payment page reached from the site should be validated before credentials or payment information are submitted.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage provides a “Contact Us” pathway that can be compared with independently obtained institutional contact details.
- The homepage provides “Apply” and “Donate” pathways that warrant destination and ownership checks before sensitive interaction.
- The reviewed page presents institutional resources and contact information rather than a direct financial-service interface.

Summary Verdict

The website supports a **moderate-trust, apparently legitimate institutional posture** with no observed scam, phishing, impersonation, or other active threat indicators. The available evidence is consistent with a genuine university information service, while independent operator verification remains incomplete and warrants a measured approach to sensitive activity.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site resolves to a single likely origin address with no CDN or WAF vendor detected. This means the deployment has limited edge-layer protection compared with a CDN-fronted service, but the hosting arrangement itself is not evidence of maliciousness.

EVIDENCE

- Infrastructure resolution identified 1 unique IP address and 1 likely origin IP address.
- No CDN was detected and no trusted CDN provider was identified.
- The resolved infrastructure is associated with the University of the Free State in South Africa.

Closing Assessment

Routine informational browsing is proportionate; sensitive or high-value actions should proceed only after independent confirmation of the relevant institutional destination and transaction details.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-12 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	55/100
Identity verification confidence	60%

- Identity verified on page

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of ufs.ac.za.

- The request stayed on ufs.ac.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- It is hosted on University of the Free State, from a server in ZA. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Not available
Hosting	University of the Free State - University of the Free State, ZA
Country	ZA
Server IP	196.255.246.106
Name servers	Not available
SSL issuer	Sectigo Public Server Authentication CA 0V R36
SSL expiry	2027-01-07
Domain age	Not available (no registration date was returned)
Domain expiry	Not available
Archive first seen	Not available
Archive snapshots	0
Reputation	VirusTotal: 0 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about ufs.ac.za at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/ufs.ac.za> · assessed 2026-08-12