

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

up.ac.za

Verdict



65
OUT OF 100

MODERATE TRUST

up.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 2026-08-17 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

What this site appears to be

Official University of Pretoria site pages for study, research, news, events and contact information. Contains admission guidance, programme listings, campus services and fundraising information.

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 HARICA DV TLS RSA	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.

Full analysis

Overview

The website presents itself as the University of Pretoria's official public-facing platform, providing information about academic programmes, admissions, research, campus life, student services, news, events, institutional governance, and fundraising. Its apparent business model is that of an educational institution facilitating applications, tuition-related information, university services, and donations rather than offering investment or trading products.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No contradictions were observed between the site's stated institutional purpose and its page content. The homepage identifies the University of Pretoria and provides coherent sections for study, research, governance, campus services, news, and contact; the available analysis found no brand-impersonation indicators, phishing signals, or malicious content. A login form is present for the university's stated "My UP Login" function, but the form analysis found no hidden forms, external password destinations, or untrusted form targets. The site's published social links and institutional navigation further support an apparently genuine university presence, although the real-world operator identity remains likely rather than independently proven. Evidence:

- The homepage identifies the University of Pretoria and links to admissions, research, governance, student services, contact, and fundraising pages.
- The homepage analysis recorded no red flags and no suspected brand impersonation.
- The login, search, and contact forms were observed without hidden forms or untrusted destinations.
- External reputation checks recorded 0 malicious and 0 suspicious detections, with no blacklist or malicious-site finding.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The site contains substantive institutional material, including management and governance, policies, programmes, fees and funding, applications, and contact information. The available evidence does not independently establish a licensing or registration authority for the institution, and the on-page disclosure position is therefore unclear; this is a transparency item for verification rather than evidence of deception. The site's educational purpose and apparent institutional identity are consistent across the reviewed pages, while the identity connection should remain qualified because independent operator verification is not complete. Transport security is present through a valid domain-validated certificate issued by HARICA, but domain validation confirms control of the website connection rather than legal-entity identity. Evidence:

- The homepage navigation includes "Management and Governance," "UP Policies," "Application," "Fees and Funding," and "Contact Us."
- The site's TLS certificate is issued by HARICA DV TLS RSA, uses DV validation, and is valid to 2027-02-18.

- The page content describes an educational institution with programmes, research, student services, and fundraising, not a financial-investment service.

What to Verify Next

Before high-value payments, donations, or submission of sensitive information, the institution's official identity and the relevant education-sector authorisation should be confirmed through an independently sourced university contact route and the applicable public registry. Application, fee, and donation instructions should be reached through the institution's principal website navigation rather than unsolicited messages, and account access should use the institution's established login route with multifactor authentication where available.

Evidence:

- The site provides dedicated application, fees, funding, contact, and "How to Give" functions that can be cross-checked through an independent contact channel.
- The homepage presents a university-specific login function alongside ordinary search and contact forms.
- The site links to institutional governance and policy material that can be used to validate the responsible department or official process.

Summary Verdict

The website has a **moderate-trust posture** and is consistent with an established university information service, with no observed scam or impersonation contradictions. Its institutional legitimacy appears credible and evidence-consistent, but the available evidence does not amount to definitive independent verification of the real-world operator or all relevant authorisations.

Infrastructure Integrity

The website is protected by Cloudflare CDN/WAF infrastructure, which provides a mitigating layer against routine network exposure and abuse but is not, by itself, proof of legitimacy. The observed edge address was 104.16.171.89, while infrastructure analysis also identified a potential origin candidate; this distinction does not establish malicious activity.

EVIDENCE

- Network service observed on AS13335, CLOUDFLARENET – Cloudflare, Inc., US.
- Hosting infrastructure also identifies AS2018, TENET (The UNINET Project), ZA.
- The transport certificate is HARICA DV TLS RSA, DV validation, valid to 2027-02-18.

Closing Assessment

Read-only browsing and ordinary university-information use are proportionate on the available evidence; independent confirmation should precede high-value payments, donations, or other sensitive actions.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-17 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	LIKELY
Identity score	76/100
Identity verification confidence	76%

- Identity verified on page
- Trusted social count=2

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 up.ac.za.

- The request stayed on up.ac.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- It is hosted on CLOUDFLARENET, from a server in US. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Not available
Hosting	CLOUDFLARENET - Cloudflare, Inc., US
Country	US
Server IP	2606:4700::6810:ab59
Name servers	Not available
SSL issuer	HARICA DV TLS RSA
SSL expiry	2027-02-18
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 up.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/up.ac.za> · assessed 2026-08-17