

Gift through a Will or Living Trust: Bequest

What is a Bequest?

A charitable bequest is a gift to a charity, made upon your death, through a will or trust. You can make a bequest to Unisa for a certain amount or for a percentage of your estate, and you can designate that the gift support a purpose or programme at the Unisa that has personal importance to you or leave its use to the University's discretion.

Bequests are a vital source of support for the University, and represent a significant percentage of all gifts received annually from philanthropic individuals. In addition to supporting bright and highly motivated students, bequests have also supported outstanding programmes and provided funding for infrastructure and equipment for teaching and research.

Giving by bequest incurs no cost now, and yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your bequest is a gift to the future, a legacy that will live on after you to the lasting benefit of your University and those it serves.

You have several options when making gifts by bequest. Here are a few for your consideration:

Unrestricted Bequests

An unrestricted bequest leaves the use to which your gift is put to the discretion of Unisa. Such bequests are extremely valuable, as they allow the University to flexibly and imaginatively meet future needs and to use your gift where the need is greatest.

Restricted Bequests

Restricted bequests support specific ongoing University needs such as undergraduate scholarships, college programmes, research or the maintenance of facilities. Owing to the unique character of each restricted bequest, Unisa encourages donors considering this type of gift to speak with a member of the Institutional Advancement staff.

Types of bequests:

Cash Bequest

Unisa receives a specified amount from your estate.

Bequest of Property

Unisa receives specified assets, such as securities, land, or tangible personal property (for example, works of art or antiques).

Residuary Bequest

Unisa receives all or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after the payment of any specific bequests and expenses.

How does Unisa use bequests?

The University uses gifts from estates as the donor directs. Often bequests are made to establish a named endowment in honour of the donor or others. Endowments are permanent funds designed to provide a perpetual source of financial support on an annual basis for a designated purpose, such as library resources, research, and student scholarships.

If you are considering a legacy gift to Unisa, we strongly encourage you to seek professional financial and legal advice that takes into account your unique circumstances. We also urge you to discuss your gift with a Unisa representative prior to finalizing the details of your gift arrangement

How to Make a Bequest

Below is a Sample Template for a Bequest to the University of South Africa:

“I bequeath (R _____ or _____ per cent of the residue of my estate) to the University of South Africa (for its general purposes) or (for the benefit of <name of College or programme, e.g. Library>).”