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UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN AT A GLANCE



UCT INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

1st in Africa

191st
IN THE WORLD

QS 2018

148th
IN THE WORLD

THE 2016-17

112th
IN THE WORLD

US NEWS 2017 BEST
GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

BRICS RANKINGS

THE 2017 BRICS and
emerging economies 4th

14th QS 2016
BRICS

KEY TERMS **THE** Times Higher Education **QS** Quacquarelli Symonds **CWUR** Center for World University Rankings
BRICS Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa **GRAS** Shanghai Rankings



“Postgraduates are the engine room of research at UCT and are pivotal to our future success. UCT is committed to creating a research environment that enables young researchers from diverse backgrounds to develop their skills and make a meaningful contribution in whatever discipline they choose.”

PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation (@FabAcademic)

SUBJECT RANKINGS

TOP 100

Clinical, pre-clinical
and health

1st IN
AFRICA

61st IN THE
WORLD

THE 2016-17

TOP 10

Development studies

10th IN THE
WORLD

QS 2017

8th IN THE
WORLD Mining
and mineral
engineering

GRAS 2017

TOP 50

Geography

47th IN THE
WORLD

QS 2017

40th IN THE
WORLD Public
health

GRAS 2017

TOP 100

- Immunology
- Microbiology
- Social science
and public health

US NEWS 2017
BEST GLOBAL
UNIVERSITIES

TOP 5

Ornithology

3rd IN THE
WORLD

Area studies

4th IN THE
WORLD

CWUR 2017



29 232
Students



6 334
International
students



10 440
Postgraduates



3 032
International
postgraduates



5 187
Master's
students



1 971
Doctoral
students



357
Postdoctoral
research fellows



3 413
Peer-reviewed
research publications



A third of South Africa's
NRF A-rated researchers
(international leaders in
their field) are at UCT





"The postgraduate experience at UCT is a time of growth and an invigorating opportunity. Growth occurs through the thinking, reading, researching and learning at the progressively advanced levels required of the postgraduate, while the development of new creative ideas and focus invigorates young researchers. Postgraduates have the opportunity to develop and examine concepts, theory and practice from the diverse angles that true scholarship expects."

PROFESSOR PETER MEISSNER

Director of Postgraduate Studies and Researcher Development



IN 2016

R1.57
BILLION TOTAL
AMOUNT OF
RESEARCH
INCOME

R250
MILLION TOTAL VALUE OF
POSTGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIPS AND
BURSARIES AWARDED

*All stats refer to 2016

WHY CHOOSE UCT?

As a UCT postgraduate, you will join a community of committed, smart and influential individuals who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge, contributing to the betterment of society, and who will go on to take leadership roles in academia, business and communities in South Africa, Africa and the world. Your postgraduate experience will give you the opportunity to establish networks that span the globe.

10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CHOOSE UCT FOR YOUR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

1 UCT, with its large population of globally influential researchers, is the leading university in Africa and is ranked among the top 200 in the world.

2 It is also in the top 100 clinical, pre-clinical and health universities globally and in the top 10 for development studies, area studies and ornithology. (See page 3)



3 You will mix with some of the best researchers in the world: just over a third of the country's A-rated researchers (international leaders in their field) are at UCT.

"Postgraduate degrees allow students to form a thorough foundation on their preferred subject matter. They also provide students with the platform to enrich their personal development."

TATIKA SCULLARD
(PricewaterhouseCoopers, Graduate Recruitment Manager)





4 UCT's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design Thinking (the d-school) is one of only three in the world. (See page 37)

5 We strive to offer our postgraduates an international experience through our wide network of international partnerships across Africa and the rest of the world, including joint doctoral and master's programmes and mobility opportunities. (See page 22)

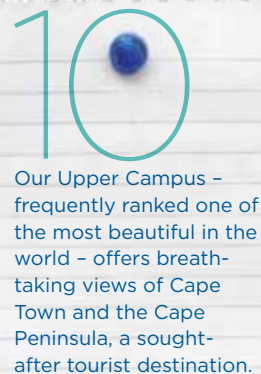


6 You will be joining a vibrant international community: UCT is home to over 3 000 international postgraduate students from more than 100 countries.

7 You can make a difference: UCT's Knowledge Co-op links postgraduates who want to make a difference to community partners with research needs.

8 We can help you: UCT has a dedicated Postgraduate Funding Office, an Office for Postgraduate Studies and dedicated staff serving the postgraduate community in all faculties. (See page 18)

9 The university has an outstanding record of attracting international funding: for example, for many years in a row, UCT has received more funding from the United States' (US) National Institutes of Health (NIH) than any other higher education institution outside the US.



10 Our Upper Campus – frequently ranked one of the most beautiful in the world – offers breathtaking views of Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula, a sought-after tourist destination.

“In a world where the future of work is evolving faster than it has ever before, acquiring leading-edge skills remains the only currency that will differentiate talent in an increasingly competitive labour market. Corporates endeavour to source the best talent possible, both for their skills and leadership.”

AZVIR RAMPURSAD
(HR Business Partner Unilever Food Solutions + Talent & Employer Brand Manager Unilever SA)



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

UCT's postgraduates have rich and unique data on their doorstep and a world of wicked problems to solve.

One of the factors that draws more researchers – including postgraduates – to UCT is our geographical location. The university is located at the tip of Africa, at a point where the Atlantic, Indian and Southern Oceans meet. On land, the Cape is home to the richest floral kingdom in the world. And all this is roofed over by Africa's great southern skies. So students of climate, oceanography, astronomy and related disciplines such as ornithology naturally gravitate to UCT. The university is also situated in a context with critical human problems to solve. South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, and faces multiple epidemics, including TB, HIV/AIDS and chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. These create a living laboratory for research into social and physical ills – and research that makes a real impact.







WHAT TYPE OF POST- GRADUATE STUDY IS BEST FOR YOU?

So, you have an undergraduate degree and you are considering your next step. Here's an overview of the different types of postgraduate study offered at UCT.



HONOURS DEGREE

Unless you hold a four-year bachelor's or equivalent degree, an honour's degree is the gateway to postgraduate studies in South Africa. This is a one-year degree programme.



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

Postgraduate diplomas are qualifications at the immediate post-bachelor's level, and enable students to undertake advanced reflection and development in a particular discipline or profession. They are similar to some honours and master's programmes, but without a dissertation or significant research project. Some postgraduate diplomas require students to have an undergraduate degree from the same discipline. Others are available to students with any undergraduate degree and act as conversion courses – allowing entry to vocational or professional work. For example, the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Practice is a pre-master's business programme that packs a power punch of vital business skills for success in uncertain economic times.



MASTER'S

Master's programmes at UCT are, for the most part, advanced research-based degrees. They fall into three general categories:

1. a research master's by full dissertation
 2. a research master's by coursework and dissertation
 3. a professional master's degree.
- In such degrees the research component may require a research paper styled submission, in addition or in place of the dissertation.



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Some professions have an examination or accreditation system to verify that the practitioners reach an acceptable level of knowledge and skill. This may be at the master's, honours or PGDip level. For example, the Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is a one-year qualification to train graduates who wish to become school teachers.



PHD

A PhD (i.e. doctorate) is a research degree at the most advanced level, typically three or four years in length, culminating in the acceptance of a doctoral thesis. In essence the degree consists of a piece of significant (most often original) research making a substantial contribution to knowledge in that field. It is expected that such research is publishable and students are encouraged to publish during the course of their PhD. Students undertake PhD studies under the guidance of a supervisor, sometimes with one or more co-supervisors.

There is no one route to finding a PhD option or topic. A student may apply for PhDs advertised by departments or research institutes or apply generally to the department, where an early research proposal may be required or advised. In many cases it is best to establish contact with a particular potential academic supervisor and gain their support for your research, and gain their agreement to potentially act as a supervisor.



Maybe it's been a few years since you finished your undergraduate studies and you would like to blow away the cobwebs before you kick-start your postgraduates studies. Or maybe you just want to gain some new skills to complement your postgraduate research?

UCT offers a number of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). These are free online courses with no entry requirements and are not for university credit. You can choose to purchase a certificate, and in some cases financial aid is available. Find out more about the UCT MOOCs project on the Postgrad Hub.

Still feel uncertain about which postgrad degree is the best fit for you? Visit the Postgrad Hub www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za for more information or contact the UCT Careers Service (www.careers.uct.ac.za/) to book a one-on-one consultation to discuss which degree option is best for you.

HOW TO APPLY FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDY AT UCT



Get to know your potential host department

Managing applications varies across departments and faculties. Visit the department or faculty website or email the relevant postgrad office or administrator within your department.

Before you start, check that you have the required qualifications.

Some programmes may allow for access through 'recognition of prior learning' (RPL) – visit the Postgrad Hub or faculty websites for more information

TIP Each faculty has a designated post-graduate office or administrator so don't be afraid to ask for help before you submit your application online.

For most research postgraduate degrees you need to contact a potential supervisor at an early stage. Contact details are generally available on departmental websites. For coursework master's degrees, decisions about research dissertation topics and supervisors are made after completion of the coursework.

2 Do you need funding for your degree?

Postgraduate funding applications are not considered unless you have already applied for the degree you're interested in. [See step 3.](#)

Be informed and prepared. While postgrad scholarships and bursaries are announced throughout the year, the deadlines are often months before you intend to start your studies. Applications involve a lot of time and effort so start the process as early as possible.

TIP Follow [@UCTpostgrads](#) on Twitter and monitor the Postgrad Hub for funding announcements.

NOTE: If you need help, ask for a one-on-one funding information session from the PGFO – but only once you have applied for admission.


3 Compile and submit an application

Visit applyonline.uct.ac.za to begin your application.

PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES. Applications for most postgraduate programmes containing coursework close on 31 October. You can apply any time during the year for a research master's or full dissertation or PhD.

Many of the documents you need to submit vary according to the department and faculty. Academic records must be submitted as certified, paper copies. UCT transcripts are not required.

TIP There are a number of brochures and handbooks designed to help you make sense of what you need to do. Download them from the Postgrad Hub or request printed copies directly from the Postgraduate Centre and Funding Office (PGFO) or the Admissions Office.

 Refer to the "Directions for Postgraduate Applicants" brochure for detailed information (visit the Postgrad Hub to download a copy).



4

Confirmation of submission and acknowledgment of application

You should receive confirmation of submission immediately. Within three working days, you will receive formal acknowledgment of your application, containing your applicant number and login credentials to UCT's online student self-service called PeopleSoft. Login to PeopleSoft to monitor the status of your application.

IMPORTANT: Acknowledgment of your application does not mean you have been accepted and admitted to UCT.



5

Notification of outcome

Consideration of your application may take up to a couple of months or more. You may be asked to submit further information and/or documentation. Communication about your application will reach you by email at the UCT email address assigned to you at the time of first application.

Registration

Generally registration takes place at the start of the academic year; for certain research-only postgraduate degrees you may register later. The process and dates for your programme registration will be sent at the time of acceptance/ admission but do check for updates on faculty or programme websites.

NOTE: You are not officially a UCT postgraduate student (with access to the required facilities and resources, including supervision) unless registered.

TIP Registration involves getting signatures from your supervisor or head of section/department or programme convenor, and there is a penalty fee for late registration, so don't leave it until the last minute.

Registration also requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between you and your supervisor - information for this is available on faculty or programme websites and the Postgrad Hub

NOTE: UCT residence accommodation for postgraduates is limited, and admission to UCT does not imply a housing offer. Housing applications are dealt with separately by the Student Housing Admissions Office. Visit the Postgrad Hub for more information.



www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za



INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATES

(INCLUDING FROM SADC COUNTRIES) must report to the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) for pre-registration clearance. This includes fee clearance, presenting your study permit and health insurance information. Your registration at the faculty will only be processed once you have been cleared by IAPO.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

The International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) supports international students and facilitates your integration into the UCT environment, including helping with queries relating to applications, visas and international tuition fees.

CONTACT IAPO

iapo@uct.ac.za or

+27 21 650 2822 / 3740



6 TIPS FOR FINDING A SUPERVISOR AT UCT

Conducting your own research is often challenging (but hopefully rewarding). You will need guidance, and all postgraduate research takes place under supervision by a member of academic staff. A supervisor's role is, among other things, to support you through the process, help you find relevant literature and guide you around the research methodology.

1 EACH FACULTY, DEPARTMENT AND DISCIPLINE IS DIFFERENT, so find out how your specific programme manages the process. Faculty websites are often a good place to start.

2 ASK FOR HELP. Many departments have a designated person to support postgraduates, who can be a useful first contact. You can also contact your head of department (HOD) or course conveners or even other postgraduates in your discipline for support if you are struggling to find a supervisor.

3 IF YOU WANT TO DO A RESEARCH MASTER'S OR DOCTORAL DEGREE, start finding out about supervision requirements and looking for a potential supervisor at least six months ahead of when you plan to register. If you need your potential supervisor to endorse your application for funding, you might have to start earlier than this. For coursework master's degrees, decisions about research dissertation topics and supervisors are made after completion of the coursework.





There isn't a one-style-fits-all approach to supervision: it depends on the agreement you establish between you and your supervisor, and the requirements of your discipline or degree programme.

4 SUPERVISION INVOLVES A LONG-TERM WORKING RELATIONSHIP, so try to get to know your potential supervisor and their areas of expertise before you make a decision. Start by establishing an email conversation and if possible schedule a meeting with them in person.

5 IF A SUPERVISOR DECLINES YOUR REQUEST FOR SUPERVISION, don't take it personally. Some academics are already supervising as many students as they can and you don't want a supervisor who is too busy to give you the attention you need.

6 DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF RESEARCH YOU WANT TO DO – particularly if it crosses a number of fields of expertise or disciplines – it might be useful to appoint one or more co-supervisors. Co-supervision by someone within or outside UCT is possible, but your principal supervisor should be employed at UCT. Discuss whether you need co-supervision with your supervisor or potential supervisor when you get started.

Visit the Postgrad Hub for more information about each faculty at UCT.



www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za

FINDING

7 KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT FUNDING YOUR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- 1 BE FLEXIBLE.** Financial assistance for postgraduates comes in various forms. Some are administered by the university and others by external agencies and donors. Be sure to investigate a range of options.
- 2 KEEP THOSE MARKS UP.** Most postgraduate awards are based on academic merit, with only a few available for financial need alone.
- 3 PLAN AHEAD.** Start looking for funding opportunities well in advance. Opportunities for funding are often announced months before the deadline to register for your degree.
- 4 FOLLOW @UCTPOSTGRADS** on Twitter for announcements about bursaries, scholarships and other opportunities. Otherwise, details are available on the Postgrad Hub's electronic noticeboard.



Criteria for funding eligibility in a nutshell

1 To qualify for postgraduate funding, prospective postgraduates must first apply for an academic place. Remember, you can apply for a research master's by full dissertation or PhD at any point during the year.

2 Only students registering for honours, master's and doctoral degrees are eligible. Students who register for postgraduate diplomas and certificates, the BArch, the LLB, or for the fourth year of any bachelor degree are not eligible for postgraduate awards.

3 Students who intend to study for a second degree at the same level as one they already hold (e.g. a second honours degree) are also not eligible.

FUNDING

5 DO YOUR RESEARCH. The Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) offers a range of material to help you find funding for your studies. Many booklets can be obtained from the PGFO or downloaded from the Postgrad Hub.

6 PREPARE FOR A BALANCING ACT. With the exception of a number of fellowships, full financial support to postgraduate students is rare. This means financing your postgraduate studies is likely to involve a combination of scholarships or bursaries and part-time employment, or loans. So when planning your funding, consider as many funding opportunities and sources of support as possible.

7 ASK FOR HELP. The PGFO is within easy walking distance from most faculties and departments on upper campus. Our staff are there advise you on the diverse funding opportunities available to postgraduates and help with submission of applications for funding. Also speak to researchers and potential supervisors as they may have access to grantholder bursaries.

**Upper Level, Otto Beit Building, University Avenue
North, Upper Campus**

☎ +27 (0)21 650 3622 ✉ pgfunding@uct.ac.za

VISIT OUR POSTGRAD HUB FOR FUNDING INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING:



www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za

**National Research Foundation
(NRF) and Medical Research
Council (MRC) funding**

**Prestigious scholarship and
fellowship programmes**

**The Woolworths/UCT
Fellowship Programme**

**UCT Council honours
merit scholarships**

Research awards

Departmental scholarships

UCT equity fellowships

Financial need bursaries

Conference travel grants

International travel grants

**Independent awards for
local and overseas study**



INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Most available funding is restricted to South African citizens, and in some cases to permanent residents. A limited amount of funding is, however, available for international students and those who have refugee status. Either contact the Postgraduate Funding Office or visit our Postgrad Hub for more information about international student options.

POSTGRADUATE DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

We offer a wide variety of services ranging from wellness consultations to writing workshops in order to support your academic and professional development. Here are some of the available services:

THE UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP links postgraduates to community partners – such as nongovernmental organisations – with specific research needs. Postgraduates can thus address real social challenges through their research projects. The co-op is there to provide support throughout the project.
www.knowledgeco-op.uct.ac.za

THE POSTGRADUATE CENTRE AND FUNDING OFFICE provides a communal space where postgraduates can meet. The Blue Desk in the office offers a one-stop information service for all aspects of funding and administration.
pgfunding@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 3622

THE OFFICE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES addresses the academic and professional needs of postgraduates. Here, you can discover a range of extracurricular opportunities and activities designed to support your studies.



www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za

pgstudies@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 3171

THE FACULTY POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS are run by postgraduates and foster a vibrant and diverse culture on campus. For more information regarding your PGSA representative, visit the Postgrad Hub.

THE CAREERS OFFICE ensures that graduates are equipped with the skills they need to fulfil their career ambitions. They provide advice, information and resources, and facilitate engagements between students and employers.
www.careers.uct.ac.za
careers.service@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 2497

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFICE (IAPO)

provides specialist services for international postgraduates and helps with immigration issues and advice on study visas. IAPO also offers information on opportunities for postgraduates to spend time in other countries during their course.
www.International.uct.ac.za
int-iaapo@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 2822

THE STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICE is staffed by a team of doctors and nurses dedicated to helping students remain healthy. Services include a 24-hour toll-free helpline, clinical consultations and psychological support.
www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-wellness/about-student-wellness
+27 (0)21 650 1020/17

PHYSICAL HEALTH options include the Sport Science Institute of South Africa, which offers discounted membership to students. Also, don't forget the UCT gym on middle campus where you pay



only R500 a year for membership and R300 for an off-peak membership (08:30 to 15:00).

Sports Science: +27 (0)21 659 5600,
www.ssisa.com

UCT gym: +27 (0)21 650 3564,
www.uct.ac.za/students/recreation/fitness_centres/uctgym

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUD

seeks fair and equitable resolutions to concerns and problems raised by any member of the university community in a neutral, independent, informal and confidential environment.

www.ombud.uct.ac.za
ombud@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 3665

THE DISABILITY SERVICE aims to empower students with disabilities to reach their potential in every aspect of their lives. It is also responsible for ensuring that the university is as accessible as possible. This includes access to venues and study materials.

www.students.uct.ac.za/students/support/disability-service
pearl.tukwayo@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 2427

THE SPORTS INJURIES CENTRE

offers treatment for sports or other injuries by trained physiotherapists and biokineticists. The staff teach you how to prevent further injury, help you with training schedules and give advice on corrective equipment. They charge medical aid rates.

www.sic.org.za
info@sic.org.za
+27 (0)21 686 7777

WRITING HELP AND COURSES

THE WRITING CENTRE on Upper Campus helps you improve the quality of your academic writing in terms of argument and flow. You can contact them at any stage of your writing process.

www.writingcentre.uct.ac.za
writingcentre@uct.ac.za
+27 (0)21 650 5021

THE WRITING LAB at the Faculty of Health Sciences provides medical students and staff with convenient access to specialist writing support on their own campus.

www.writingcentre.uct.ac.za/about/healthsciences
+27 (0)21 650 6241

SHORT WRITING COURSES FOR POSTGRADUATES are offered in the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED), including blended and online courses. Keep an eye on the events calendar on our Postgrad Hub for upcoming workshops and seminars.

Write Science gives postgraduates in the sciences and engineering an opportunity to engage in different forms of scientific writing beyond the thesis.

mathilde.vandermerwe@uct.ac.za

Navigating Research Writing

is an intensive week-long course for postgraduates from all disciplines, at any stage of their postgraduate research.

mathilde.vandermerwe@uct.ac.za

Journeys in Research Writing

is a free five-week online course for all postgraduates, with special focus on writing your proposal and literature review.

mathilde.vandermerwe@uct.ac.za



UCT eRESEARCH supports researchers, including postgraduates, at every step of the research data lifecycle: including but certainly not limited to high-performance computing services, data visualisation support and facilities and research data management.

www.eresearch.uct.ac.za
eresearch@uct.ac.za

THE SAVVY RESEARCHER SERIES


is hosted annually by UCT Libraries. It is a series of seminars and workshops aimed at postgraduates that target all aspects of the postgraduate research experience.


www.lib.uct.ac.za/lib/savvy-researcher-workshop-series


FACILITIES AT UCT LIBRARIES

THERE ARE A RANGE OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARY SERVICES AVAILABLE TO POSTGRADUATES.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS consist of printed and audio-visual materials on a wide array of specialised subjects, including:

 **The African Studies Collection** of published material, which provides research and reference resources on Africa, with a strong southern African focus.

 **A rich collection of manuscripts and archives**, which offers primary research material relating to the political, social, cultural and economic history of South Africa, with a focus on the Western Cape.

 **The Rare Books and Antiquarian Collection**, which consists of rare and specialised material, including African children's literature and a fore-edge painting collection.
specialcollections.uct.ac.za

 **Government Publications** which includes historical and current publications for Southern African countries and current publications of most African countries, including French- and Portuguese-speaking countries.
governmentpublications.lib.uct.ac.za

 **The Digital Library Services** department which offers a variety of digitisation and research data management services to students and staff at UCT.
digitalservices.lib.uct.ac.za



THE RESEARCH COMMONS caters for the information and workspace needs of master's and PhD postgraduates, postdoctoral research fellows and academic staff. It offers:

- spacious workstations with high-end PCs
- an excellent selection of software applications
- laptops
- high-speed internet connections
- printing, scanning and copying facilities
- a seminar room for collaborative work
- a comfortable lounge
- experienced library staff who can help with information and arrange consultations with subject specialists.

The Library Learning Lounge is a bring-your-own-device, collaborative learning space. The venue is wifi enabled with plugpoints for electronic devices. Study rooms are available for group discussion and a library buddy is on hand to help.

The Hlanganani 24/7 study area offers comfortable after-hours working space for 148 students with wifi access and plugpoints for electronic devices. It is open when the library closes in the evening and on weekends, with on-site security.





72 000+
e-journal titles



28 500+
print journal
titles

38 000+
resources in
audio-visual
and other
formats

1 300
collections
of unique
manuscripts
and personal
papers

190
high-quality
electronic
databases

85 000+
books and
pamphlets
on African
studies alone



3 000+
films for viewing
and research
(the collection
of African film
is among the
most extensive
in the world)

Follow [@UCTLibrary](https://twitter.com/UCTLibrary) on Twitter or visit lib.uct.ac.za for the latest news on UCT Libraries' services

THE INTERNATIONAL POSTGRAD EXPERIENCE

The research endeavour at UCT is committed to bringing African knowledge and expertise to the global challenge of solving the world's wicked problems. International collaboration is key to achieving this goal, and we have developed a large and vibrant network of partnerships across the globe.

Since postgraduates lie at the productive heart of much of our research, we are committed to encouraging each of our postgrads to have an international experience – whether through exposure to other international students and researchers on our vibrant and diverse campuses, by tapping into our extensive networks or by taking up one of the many mobility opportunities to spend time or even be jointly taught and supervised at a university elsewhere in the world.

Keep an eye on the Postgrad Hub for announcements of these and other international opportunities.



www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za



The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)

The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) is a network of 11 international research-intensive universities from nine countries across the globe. One of IARU's flagship activities is the **Global Summer Program**; each member university puts forward one or more modules for which students from IARU universities may apply. Some fully funded scholarships to attend these programmes are available to UCT postgrads.

IARU universities:

● Australian National University ● ETH Zurich ● National University of Singapore ● Peking University ● University of California, Berkeley
■ University of Cambridge □ UCT ■ University of Copenhagen
■ University of Oxford ■ The University of Tokyo ■ Yale University





The **Yale/Fox Fellowship** is a prestigious two-way international exchange programme between the University of Cape Town and Yale University. It supports outstanding postgraduates with demonstrated leadership potential from the world's finest educational institutions to spend an academic year at Yale University pursuing independent research in one of a number of fields, from economics to politics and law.

Vrije University Amsterdam (VUA) offers scholarships to graduate students in the School of Economics at UCT to spend either a full semester or to attend the short SKILL programme at VUA.

UCT has an exchange agreement with the **University of California (UC)**, USA, in which students can choose to spend a semester at any of the UC campuses (apart from the medical campus) without paying tuition fees.



Mobility opportunities

UCT has exchange agreements with a number of universities across the world. These mean that students can apply to spend a period of time (usually a semester) at one of these institutions without paying tuition fees. Sometimes we are also able to offer a scholarship to cover some or all of the travel or living costs. We prioritise postgraduates for these exchanges.

Our postgraduate exchange partners include:

- University of British Columbia, Canada
- Johannes Kepler University at Linz, Austria
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA
- University of Newcastle, Australia
- University of Nottingham, UK
- University of Stuttgart, Germany
- York University, UK
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA
- Sciences Po, France

UCT'S JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

UCT has a rapidly expanding joint degree programme to connect our postgraduates with opportunities to work in partnership with universities based overseas. These offer UCT postgraduates the opportunity to gain valuable international exposure and experience.

1 Jointly awarded degrees entail equal involvement and investment from both/all participating institutions (e.g., each institution will examine the work involved and postgrads are required to spend equal amounts of time at each institution).

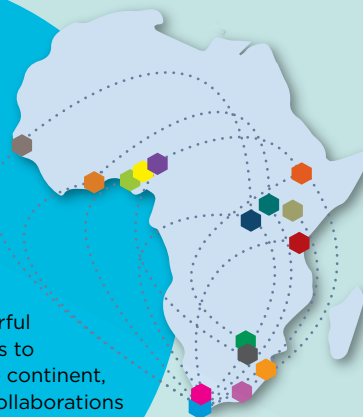
2 Co-badged degrees require 50% or more of the work conducted by the postgraduate to be done at the university where the student is registered.

In both instances a single degree is issued. UCT does not offer double degrees.

The Erasmus + programme aims to enhance quality in higher education through academic cooperation between the European Union and the rest of the world. UCT is involved in several successful Erasmus + partnerships that offer mobility opportunities to postgraduates and staff.

Postgraduates at UCT are part of a university with extensive collaborations across Africa. These knowledge networks help us achieve our mission of enabling Africa to solve our own, Africa-specific problems, and to develop the next generation of researchers in order to do so. We aim to be not just the best *in* Africa, but the best *for* Africa.

The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), a partnership of 16 research universities in Africa, was launched in early 2016 as a response to the growing challenges faced by African universities. The focus is on building African-centred research excellence to enable the continent to take control of its future and assert itself as a powerful global force. One of ARUA's missions is to increase research capacity across the continent, and the many formal and informal collaborations between ARUA universities offer a number of mobility and research opportunities to postgraduates.



Universities Science, Humanities, Law and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPiA)

USHEPiA promotes collaboration among established African researchers in the generation and dissemination of knowledge, and builds institutional and human capacity in African universities.

83
full degree
fellowships
awarded
since 1996

11
cohorts
generated

56
degrees
conferred

THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The MasterCard Foundation (MCF) Scholars Program allows UCT to recruit, educate and mentor talented students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Africa.

338 students
will enroll at UCT over 10 years

270 postgraduates
and 68 undergraduates

CARNEGIE PROJECT: GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACADEMICS FOR AFRICA

This extensive programme runs at UCT, the University of the Witwatersrand, Makerere University (Uganda) and the University of Ghana and aims to train a community of future academics.

120 early-career
researchers
trained at UCT
over five years:



96 PhD students
24 postdoctoral fellows



39 from South Africa
81 from the rest of Africa



AFROBAROMETER

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts regular public attitude surveys on democracy, governance and well being in Africa. Six rounds of surveys with more than 220 000 African citizens in 37 African countries have been conducted. The data from the surveys is used to contribute to the Index of African Governance compiled by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation.

HUMAN HEREDITY HEALTH IN AFRICA (H3AFRICA)

Despite both the high disease burden and genetic diversity on the continent, genomic research is limited in Africa. H3Africa seeks to increase the number of African scientists in genomics and population-based research, establish collaborative networks of African investigators and grow the infrastructure to facilitate genomics research across the continent.

SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA)

The SKA project is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope. The telescope will be co-located in Africa and Australia. UCT is playing a leading role in a flagship program that will create data science capacity for leadership in the MeerKAT SKA precursor survey projects, other global precursor and pathfinder programs and SKA key science.

FINDING A PLACE TO STAY

3 important things to know about accommodation on UCT campus:

1 UCT can offer on-campus accommodation to just over 600 postgraduates, so space is limited. If you are looking for on-campus accommodation, apply early. You will not be considered for on-campus

accommodation unless you apply.

2 The allocated bed space for postgraduate students is proportionally divided between the faculties. Each faculty has a set number of

housing places for the year, and placement is dependent on individual faculty rules.

3 Some residences provide for the needs of students with physical disabilities.





5 TIPS FOR FINDING ACCOMMODATION OFF CAMPUS

- 1 Start looking for accommodation at least two months before your planned occupation date: accommodation in Cape Town is highly sought after.
- 2 The Off-Campus Student Accommodation Services (OCSAS) team help students find accommodation. Get in touch with the OCSAS team if you need assistance:
[+27\(0\)21 650 4934](tel:+27(0)216504934) ocsas@uct.ac.za
- 3 UCT has its own 'Gumtree for digs' – a list of private accommodation on the OCSAS website to help you find somewhere to live.
- 4 UCT offers a free shuttle bus route called the Jammie Shuttle. Find a link to the Jammie shuttle bus route on the Postgrad Hub. Cape Town is a massive city with poor public transport infrastructure, so accommodation within walking distance of any Jammie shuttle bus-stop saves a great deal of time and money.
- 5 Beware of false advertising and scams. Use accredited landlords and sign a lease agreement before you pay a deposit and move in.

Third-tier residences for postgraduate students

Third-tier residences offer semi-autonomous self-catering accommodation. They have wardens who oversee the academic and social well-being of the students in the sector. The wardens ensure that there is a good community life in the houses, flats and the purpose-built residences like Obz Square.

Since there are limited places in UCT residences, many postgraduate students find their own accommodation in private housing off campus.

Visit the Postgrad Hub for more information on student housing and accommodation.



www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za



the Mountain
the Sea Point promenade
me in the garden
yourself to a show
e a hike



11



THINGS TO DO IN CAPE TOWN ON A STUDENT BUDGET

1 RIDE UP TABLE MOUNTAIN

The cableway up Table Mountain is a must-do Cape Town experience. On Fridays students get a discount. If you're a South African, you can get a free ride on your birthday. www.tablemountain.net

2 WALK OR CYCLE ON THE SEA POINT PROMENADE

You can hire a bike from UpCycles at a reasonable rate; walking is free. www.upcycles.co.za

3 SPEND TIME IN THE GARDEN

At Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden you can picnic on the rolling lawns, explore the Boomslang canopy walkway or stroll through the indigenous gardens. Summer sunset concerts run from November to early April. Students get a discount for entry to the gardens but you pay extra for the concerts. www.sanbi.org/gardens/kirstenbosch



4 EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS ART FOR FREE

Explore art galleries and cultural attractions for free on First Thursdays (the first Thursday of every month). Organisers provide a map and highlights. www.first-thursdays.co.za



5 TAKE A HIKE

There are some magnificent free hiking routes in and around Cape Town – Lion's Head is one of the most popular. Other popular hikes are Platteklip Gorge, which takes you to the top of Table Mountain, and Newlands Forest, which offers shady walks under the trees. Remember always to follow mountain safety rules.



6 VISIT IZIKO MUSEUMS AND THE DIGITAL PLANETARIUM

There are many Iziko Museums in Cape Town that offer insights into South Africa's natural and cultural history. All museums, except the Planetarium and the Castle of Good Hope, have free entry on public holidays. You get 50% off the admission price to all Iziko Museums with your student card.

www.iziko.org.za



7 WATCH THE LATEST ARTHOUSE FILMS AT THE OLDEST INDEPENDENT CINEMA IN SA

The Labia Theatre screens a range of independent films and documentaries as well as hosting various film festivals throughout the year.

www.thelabia.co.za

8 TREAT YOURSELF TO A SHOW

The Baxter Theatre complex is part of UCT's DNA. It offers performances ranging from dance and music to comedy and drama.

The Little Theatre and the Arena Theatre showcase a wide variety of student and professional productions.

www.baxter.co.za

 @UCTLittleTheatre

9 TAKE A TRAIN TRIP ALONG THE SOUTHERN LINE

The southern line railway route stretches from Cape Town to Simon's Town. Buy the hop-on/hop-off ticket to explore stops along the way.

www.metrorail.co.za

11 GO TO THE BEACH

Cape Town is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Whether you like to surf, swim or just lie in the sand and watch the world go by, there's a beach for you in Cape Town.



10 WANDER THROUGH THE COMPANY'S GARDEN

You'll find the Company's Garden in the city centre. It's well-known for the perpetually hungry squirrels, so take along some peanuts. And the garden offers free wifi.

Your UCT student card not only opens doors (quite literally) on campus; it's also a passport to discounts and freebies in and around Cape Town.



FACULTY OF COMMERCE

Commerce degree programmes prepare students for the constantly changing business and public management environments, and for participation in the global economy. The faculty continually reviews degree curricula and outcomes to ensure that they maintain relevance and accreditation with professional bodies.

Seven departments



Education
Development
Unit



College of
Accounting



Finance
and Tax



School of
Economics



School of
Management
Studies



Information
Systems



Graduate
School of
Development
Policy and
Practice

"The whole way of working is changing; more and more people are working in atypical employment. We need to think of the softer skills like flexibility and resilience and teach our graduates how to be adaptable. It isn't enough to say, 'This is what you're going to study, and this is what you're going to do in your job for the next 40 years.' Businesses will buy services as and when they need them. Our students have to be able to market themselves and have to be able to self-manage."

PROFESSOR INGRID WOOLARD
Dean



An extensive range of postgraduate study options are available, including vocationally orientated postgraduate diplomas, and honours, master's and PhD degrees.

40

National Research
Foundation (NRF)-
rated researchers, of
which two are A-rated

DID YOU KNOW?

UCT is the first university in Africa to offer an **MPhil in Data Science of Financial Technology** to prepare students for the tech revolution in financial services.

7 424
students

5 301
undergraduates

934
postgraduate
diploma students

490
master's students

475
honours students

210
PhD students

14
postdoctoral
research fellows

CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+27 (0)21 650 4375 com-faculty@uct.ac.za www.commerce.uct.ac.za

FACULTY OF **ENGINEERING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

The Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment (EBE) takes pride in its people – most especially its under- and postgraduate students, who become sought-after architects, planners, quantity surveyors, property valuers and professional engineers in a variety of areas, whether electrical, chemical, mechanical, electro-mechanical, civil, computer engineering or mechatronics.

Six departments



**Architecture,
Planning and
Geomatics**



**Chemical
Engineering**



**Civil
Engineering**



**Construction
Economics
and
Management**



**Electrical
Engineering**



**Mechanical
Engineering**



Internationally recognised research

EBE research is recognised for its relevance to the needs of industry, and offers great opportunities for postgraduate students.

“One of the core aspects of our vision as a faculty is to develop outstanding graduates and scholars, who contribute to society and address socioeconomic challenges through their work. I believe that our engineers and professionals of the built environment are ideally equipped to rise to the complex challenges and global problems of the 21st century.”

**PROF
ALISON
LEWIS**
Dean



CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+27 21 650 2699 ebe-faculty@uct.ac.za www.ebe.uct.ac.za

THE UCT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The UCT Graduate School of Business (GSB) is internationally renowned as one of just three triple-crowned business schools in Africa with endorsements from the European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS), the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and the Association of MBAs (AMBA).

Our most popular degrees:



Master of
Business
Administration
(MBA)



MBA in
Executive
Management
(EMBA)



Master of
Commerce in
Development
Finance
(MCom)



Master of
Philosophy
in Inclusive
Innovation
(MPhil)



PhD
programme



Postgraduate
Diploma in
Management
Practice
(PGDip)

The UCT GSB has been ranked in the *Financial Times'* Global Top 100 MBAs for 12 consecutive years.

“As a leading business school, the GSB has a key role to play in facilitating and promoting the growth of business in South Africa and positively influencing the direction of the country, both by training excellent leaders and managers and also by using its convening power to facilitate meaningful dialogue and bridge the trust gap between government and business.”

**ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR
MILLS SOKO**
Director



GSB has its home at the Breakwater Campus at the V&A Waterfront

CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

 0860 UCT GSB (828 472)

 info@gsb.uct.ac.za

 www.gsb.uct.ac.za

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences is committed to improving the health of the people of South Africa and beyond. Regularly ranked the #1 health sciences faculty in Africa*, its prestige today is rooted in over 100 years of excellence. This is the home of the oldest medical school in southern Africa, and the site of famous advances in healthcare – including the world's first successful heart transplant in 1967 and research that led to the development of the CT scan.

2 100+

undergraduates



2 300+

postgraduates



"Meeting the health needs of 55 million South Africans and a billion Africans demands vision and direction. And it starts with students who have a love of knowledge and are exposed to full-time research at a reputable institution."

PROF BONGANI MAYOSI

Dean

CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+27 21 406 6340 www.health.uct.ac.za

13 departments



**Anaesthesia and
Perioperative Medicine**



**Health and Rehabilitation
Sciences**



Health Sciences Education



Human Biology



**Integrative Biomedical
Sciences**



Medicine



Pathology



Obstetrics and Gynaecology



Paediatrics and Child Health



Psychiatry and Mental Health



**Public Health and Family
Medicine**



Surgery



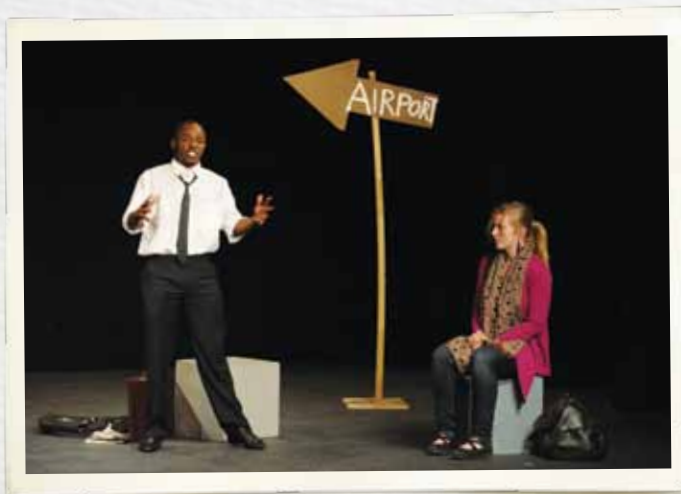
Radiation Medicine

On average, more than three peer-reviewed articles are published by faculty researchers every day

* Times Higher Education World University Rankings for clinical, pre-clinical and health rankings

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

With close to 6 000 students, the faculty is the second largest at the University of Cape Town. It comprises 16 vibrant academic departments located in three main clusters: the arts, the social sciences, and the performing and creative arts. Common to all is a focus on the human condition in all its dimensions.



"In the humanities, we teach our students to be analytical, to question, to engage in out-of-the-box thinking, to ask the difficult questions and to use their imagination in solving real-world problems."

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HARRY GARUBA
Acting Dean




CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES


+27 (0)21 650 3059 hum-dean@uct.ac.za www.humanities.uct.ac.za




16 academic departments

 **Centre for Film and Media Studies**

 **Drama**


 **English Language and Literature**

 **Historical Studies**


 **Michaelis School of Fine Art**


 **Philosophy**


 **Political Science**

 **Psychology**

 **Religious Studies**

 **School for African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics (AXL)**


 **School of Dance**

 **School of Education**

 **School of Languages and Literatures**

 **Social Development**

 **Sociology**

 **South African College of Music**



66% **women**



43% **master's or doctoral students**



19% **international students**

FACULTY OF LAW

The Faculty of Law might be the smallest at UCT, but its footprint is large – whether you're talking about the impact of its staff and students on society, the largesse of its alumni or the diversity of its research.

Did you know?



The faculty is the oldest law school in South Africa.



It is ranked 40th in the top 100 law schools worldwide.



In the three years since the inauguration of UCT's social responsiveness award, it has twice been awarded to members of the law faculty.



The faculty has over 25 international agreements that enable students and staff to pursue exchanges in countries such as Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Europe, Kenya, the UK and the USA.



In 2016 the Law Students' Council (LSC), the LSC president, *Altum Sonatur* (UCT law students' newsletter) and the president of the Postgraduate Students' Association all received leadership awards from the university and the Vice-Chancellor.



"Historically, South African law played an important role in creating and retaining an oppressive and divided society. Our Constitution is the driving force in creating an open, democratic and free society. Here at the Faculty of Law we are committed to furthering the goals of the Constitution. Our aim is to train the next generation of skilled legal professionals who will ensure the maintenance and strengthening of our open, free and democratic society."

**PROFESSOR
PENELOPE
ANDREWS**
Dean



CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+27 (0)21 650 3086 law-studies@uct.ac.za www.law.uct.ac.za

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The faculty has a long and distinguished history. Formally established in 1918 by UCT's founding act, today it's a sizeable faculty consisting of 12 departments and multiple research units whose teaching and research is internationally acknowledged for excellence.

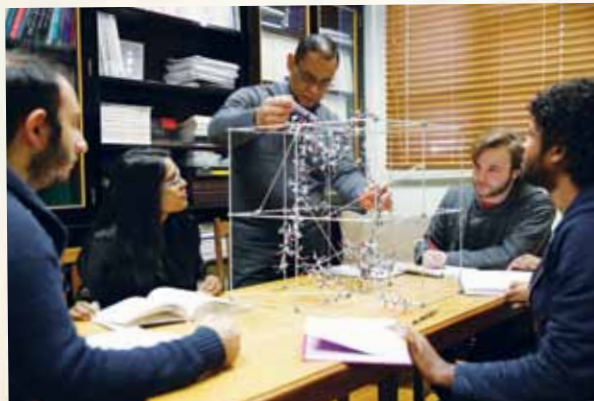
2 500 students

900 postgraduates

1 600 undergraduates

200 academic staff

160 support staff



**PROFESSOR
ANTON
LE ROEX**
Dean

"The faculty prides itself on its strong teaching programmes, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, and on the strength of its research enterprise. With well-developed international links with researchers across the world, the faculty is a major contributor to cutting-edge, globally relevant research. Our goal is to be internationally recognised as a leading, research-intensive faculty and the top science faculty on the African continent, producing research that is globally competitive and locally relevant."

25%
of the
publication
output of UCT
as a whole is
produced by
the Faculty
of Science

12 academic departments



Archaeology



Astronomy



Biological Sciences



Chemistry



Computer Science



Environmental and Geographical Science



Geological Sciences



Mathematics and Applied Mathematics



Molecular and Cell Biology



Oceanography



Physics



Statistical Sciences

**CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF
POSTGRADUATE COURSES**

+27 (0)21 650 2712

sci-science@uct.ac.za

www.science.uct.ac.za

THINKING BY DESIGN

How UCT's d-school trains postgraduates to solve complex real-world challenges

The Hasso Plattner Institute of Design thinking (HPI d-school) at UCT is one of only three HPI d-schools in the world. The other two are at Stanford University in the USA and the University of Potsdam in Germany.

The d-school's approach is centred on the principals of 'design thinking': a creative, human-centred approach

"It opened me up to the scope for doing things that have a social impact. Before, I was focused on good income, now I am searching to make a good impact. It empowered me to think big about issues that affect all of us." – **Charl Souma, honours in digital forensics**

"I learnt to think analytically and critically towards solving problems in a multidisciplinary team. And I gained an empathetic understanding of human needs, which makes me better at solving problems."

– **Andrew Bisagaya, master's in commercial law**

to problem solving that has its roots in industrial design. Learning to practice this hands-on process of creating a culture of innovation is offered to postgraduate students from all faculties – and it's free of charge.

For two days a week, over a 12-week period, students are given an opportunity to develop



a design-thinking mindset that is empathetic, collaborative, innovative and action-oriented.

Design thinking helps find the sweet spot that lies at the intersection between what people desire and want to use, what is technologically feasible and what is financially viable.

"Key to this creative confidence-building is embracing failure as part of the learning process," says d-school director, Richard Perez. "The idea is to fail early, learn quickly from mistakes and move on."

Postgraduates learn design thinking on real-world projects provided by partners from industry, government and academia. Through this experience, they get to grips with how to use these essential skills for a fast-changing world of work.

www.d-school.uct.ac.za

"It taught me a lot about the importance of empathy. It highlighted the value of working in diverse teams to solve challenges, especially real-world challenges that are not limited to one sector."

– **Sarah Atmore, master's in social policy and management**

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTES

The university research institutes are grounded in existing areas of internationally recognised excellence while being aligned to institutional, regional and national priorities. These institutes take interdisciplinary approaches to research. Thus, as a postgraduate, you may be registered within a department but your research carried out within a particular research institute.

1 African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI)

The African continent has an imperative to improve human wellbeing, but within the constraints of the need for low-carbon development and mounting impacts of climate variability and change. The ACDI engages with these challenges through innovative research and teaching that draws on intellectual capital across a wide range of disciplines. It brings together academics with non-governmental organisations, business and government in a knowledge factory that co-produces and tests new insights, evidence and innovations that will help to solve Africa's climate and development challenges.

2 Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII)

The Poverty and Inequality Initiative (PII) tackles the question of why, in a country of rich resources, poverty and inequality are persisting and even, in the case of inequality, deepening. PII aims to identify all major role players inside and outside the university, including academics, research groups, government and NGOs who are working in poverty alleviation. It also plays a leading role in the Carnegie national inquiry into strategies to overcome poverty and inequality.

19%
OF RURAL SOUTH
AFRICANS LACK
ACCESS TO
A RELIABLE
WATER SUPPLY



3 Future Water

The complexity and uncertainties that go with water management in South Africa provide a major national challenge and can no longer be explained through the lens of single disciplines. Future Water's aim is to increase water sensitivity to underpin improved quality of life and sustainable development in South Africa. The institute integrates technical and socioeconomic aspects through the adoption of inter- and transdisciplinary scholarship, as well as the perspectives of multiple stakeholders and users. The research programme includes a clear focus on the interactions between environmental, technical, economic and social aspects.



4 Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM)

The Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) is a trans-faculty, multidisciplinary research enterprise that has become the largest research entity at UCT and a national leader in research and human capital development in the field of health sciences. The IDM is distinguished by the ability to drive world-class research at the laboratory-clinic-community interface by engaging a wide range of scientific and clinical disciplines.

5 Institute for Safety Governance and Criminology (ISGC)

The intersection between global illicit flows, violence and crime at the local level remains under-studied, particularly in the global south where the consequences for development and individual safety are greatest. The ISGC is building a network of Latin American, Asian and African scholars focused on new global and local (in)securities – in particular, environmental security, illicit markets and violence.

7 Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (IDCPPA)

The IDCPPA conducts comparative empirical studies on contemporary African democracy. Previous research has demonstrated that democracy is sustained through effective and predictable political institutions, and an active and critical citizenry, underpinned by public policies that enable inclusive growth and rising welfare. The institute investigates each of these areas with democracy as the guiding theme binding them together.



6 Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (ICWA)

While biology and sociology are core research domains for wildlife and society, conservation also needs to engage with the historical and socioeconomic context and the philosophical, legal and political frameworks within which conflicts arise. The ICWA challenges the divide between the arts and hard sciences as it strives to understand and guide the realignment between humans and the natural systems we depend on.

8 Neurosciences Institute

There is a major research gap when it comes to understanding the impact of many disorders of the brain in Africa. There is also a need to understand these conditions in context, as some diseases – such as traumatic brain injury and the neurological and neuropsychiatric consequences of HIV and TB – are far more prevalent here than elsewhere. The Neurosciences Institute brings together expertise in the basic sciences, public health and an array of other disciplines to advance our understanding of the brain. The institute advances patient care while fostering research, education and advocacy in the fast-moving and exciting world of neuroscience.



INTER- DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Increasingly, research at UCT is drawn together into areas of research strengths: interdisciplinary hubs that are selected for particular support because they meet a number of strategic objectives and encompass a critical mass of researchers. They also provide an opportunity to leverage our geographic advantage, and show potential for strong collaboration nationally, across the continent and globally.



Astronomy, cosmology and gravity

UCT's Astrophysics, Cosmology and Gravity Centre (ACGC) is where astronomy and mathematics fuse to produce a string of astounding discoveries and to grapple with the most challenging questions about the universe. In partnership with numerous international research institutions, the ACGC is becoming Africa's astronomy hub, attracting talented postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty from around the world.







Research is, at its best, profoundly transformative. This is a particular imperative for the University of Cape Town, located as we are in a country, and on a continent, of vast wealth and deprivation – with the opportunity to make a difference.



Data-intensive research

UCT is rapidly becoming a hub for astronomical and astrophysics research in Africa. In order to address the shortage of skills required for dealing the data-intensive nature research, UCT (in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape) is taking the lead in creating the framework to introduce African researchers to research-intensive data and turn it into actionable knowledge. While astronomy and astrophysics are the main focus areas for developing and transferring these skills, other areas such as bioinformatics and statistical sciences will be included.



Drug discovery

The Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3-D) at UCT was established to close the gap that exists between the institution's research and the development of new medicines. By adopting a multidisciplinary approach and the use of modern technology platforms, the H3-D has become the leading drug-discovery organisation on the African continent. The centre is also committed to training a new generation of African scientists with the key skills needed for integrated drug discovery and development.



High-energy physics

To gain new knowledge, physicists have been colliding atomic particles at ever higher energies. At present the highest beam energies are available at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) near Geneva, Switzerland. The Department of Physics at UCT has been participating in the work of the LHC by contributing to two of its large detectors. This is now an important component of the Department of Physics

and contributes strongly to its visibility on the international scene.



Marine research

The cold Benguela current and warmer Agulhas current, together with the southern ocean, are central to African climate variability in the region and its diverse biology. South Africa's position between the currents, with ready access to three major world oceans, makes it an optimal site for marine research. The UCT Marine Institute (Ma-Re) is advancing knowledge of this unique marine environment and its associated environmental issues.



Mineral beneficiation

South Africa's economic growth is greatly dependent on the efficiency and sustainability of its mining industry. Mining research at UCT explores ways to address these challenges and also investigates the role of policy and law in South African mining. Here, the focus has primarily been on the competing demands of nationalisation and private ownership of the country's natural resources and how it has had an impact on relations between government and national and international investors.



Preserving our African heritage

Globalisation presents many challenges involved in preserving Africa's identity – it is the topic of ongoing debate. One thing, however, remains clear: during this time of rapid development, it is essential that Africans are empowered to shape their own identity. Since narrative shapes identity, UCT supports a variety of projects that give a voice to the different histories of South Africa and the continent. In this way, UCT aims to contribute to a process of respect, growth and healing.



Safety and violence

South Africans continue to face persistent high rates of violence. There is a core group

of researchers at UCT from a variety of disciplines who have been working within the diverse but related fields of policing, causes of rape, prevention of child maltreatment and the like. Together they have formed the Safety and Violence Initiative (SAVI) with a mandate to focus on understanding and intervening in the promotion of safety and the reduction of violence in South Africa.



Schools improvement

The Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) is a direct response to the education crisis in South

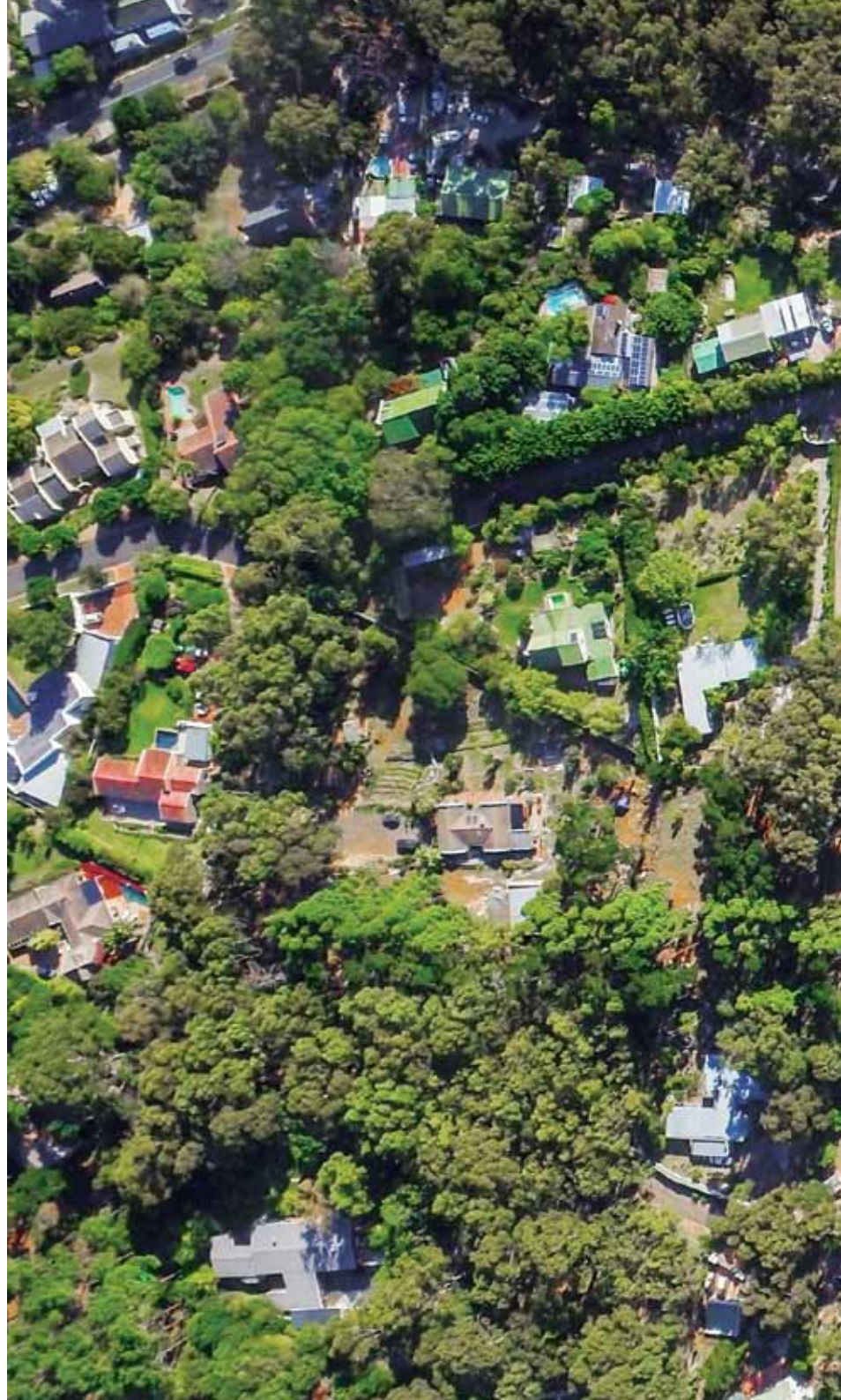
Africa. The underachievement of learners, in particular in township schools around Cape Town, has resulted in relatively small numbers of black students from these disadvantaged areas qualifying for entrance to UCT. SII was formed to harness the university's broader resources to foster meaningful partnerships with education-related groupings, both within and outside of UCT.



Urban Africa

Rapid urbanisation raises issues of adequate food supply, affordable shelter,

employment opportunities, water and waste management, environmental degradation and climate change. Achieving well-governed and sustainable cities is becoming increasingly important to the future health of the planet. The African Centre for Cities at UCT is an interdisciplinary research and teaching programme that seeks to facilitate critical urban research and policy discourses for the promotion of vibrant, democratic and sustainable urban development in the global south from an African perspective.





MEET A NEW GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

Five new members of staff joined the New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) and their postgraduate research is well under way.

Phindile Ntliziywana, lecturer in the Department of Public Law

Ntliziywana is committed to ensuring that local governance meets the needs of society's poorest. Lady Frere in the Eastern Cape, where he grew up, epitomises the plight of many traditional South African rural settlements. Services and resources are meagre. Caught in a cycle of neglect, the community is "defeated, disempowered and disinterested," says Ntliziywana.

His PhD thesis proposes that professionalisation of local government's administrative arm could go a long way to stemming the tide of incapacity and dysfunction in many municipalities.



Closing the gap: PhD candidate and nGAP scholar Phindile Ntliziywana's thesis examines the functioning and efficiency of the public service, specifically local government.



Kentse Mpolokeng is realising her dreams of furthering her studies in anatomy research.

Kentse Mpolokeng, assistant lecturer in the Division of Clinical Anatomy and Biological Anthropology

Mpolokeng chose not to let rejection from the University of the Free State (UFS) Medical School deter her career plans. "My dream of a bright future didn't end there," she says. "I enrolled for the Bachelor of Sciences degree and have always aimed to become one of the top medical researchers in the country." She began her academic career as an anatomy officer at the University of the Western Cape, and took up the nGAP lectureship at UCT in 2016.

Mpolokeng is currently working on her master's research in anatomy, looking at variances in blood supply to the eye. Once that is out of the way, she plans to enrol for a doctorate in the same area.

Zuziwe Msomi, lecturer in the Centre for African Studies

"Why would people hate you for the colour of your skin?" asks Msomi. This question has spurred her to interrogate racial identity in post-apartheid South Africa.

"I came into academia because I like research," she says.

Her thesis, she explains, explores the discursive strategies that Rhodes University students used to construct their raced experiences of the university, and whether these strategies challenge or reinforce the culture of whiteness.

"It looks at the way we talk as a way of creating the world around us ... If you talk about the world in a particular way, you're shaping the way you and other people view the world."



Zuziwe Msomi is asking the tough questions. Why, in post-apartheid South Africa, does whiteness still appear normal?



nGAP scholar Philile Mbatha is researching the influence of complex governance systems on rural livelihoods in South Africa.

Philile Mbatha, assistant lecturer in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences

Mbatha is studying the influence of complex governance systems on rural livelihoods – and in doing so, she is amplifying the voices and viewpoints of Kosi Bay locals.

Through the lens of Kosi Bay, a rural area located within South Africa's first World Heritage Site, iSimangaliso, Mbatha's doctoral research documents livelihood strategies and interrogates how people's livelihoods are influenced by the existence of multiple and plural coastal governance systems and processes.

Sadiq Toffa, lecturer in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics

Sadiq Toffa, born and raised in Bo-Kaap, Cape Town, has a passion for cultural heritage and transformative knowledge.

"What's rarely understood about black communities is that they're sites of struggle, but sites of struggle are great sites of knowledge and ethics – they're culturally rich rather than deprived spaces."

Toffa obtained a professional graduate degree in architecture from UCT and a master's in human settlements from the University of Leuven, Belgium and was recently a visiting researcher at the London School of Economics and Political Science as a Commonwealth Scholar. His PhD research focuses on critical heritage studies.



Curator of the Decolonial Alternatives Project Space, Sadiq Toffa is pictured at the Rustenburg Burial Ground on middle campus.

The New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) is an initiative to recruit young scholars to permanent academic positions at South African universities. Funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in partnership with individual universities, all nGAP scholars are mentored by a senior academic and given the opportunity to immerse themselves in research for six years until they're fully rooted as academics. While they do teach, their lecture load is kept relatively light to allow them to focus on research.

5 BRIGHT YOUNG POSTGRAD RESEARCHERS

Almost 30 of the exceptional young people featured on the 2017 Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans list are UCT students, alumni and staff members. Here are a few of their stories about what shaped their research journeys.

1

XICHAVO ALECIA NDLOVU Political studies lecturer, UCT

Just 28, Alecia Ndlovu lectures political studies at UCT while studying a PhD in international relations, focusing on the effects of political institutions and party systems on the inclusiveness and sustainability of development in resource-rich African countries, specifically Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

Yet, having come from an underresourced school, Alecia Ndlovu was not the strongest student during her undergraduate years. Determination, hard work and a passion for learning changed that, and today she is considered the up-and-coming academic on comparative and international political economics in South Africa.

Ndlovu attributes much of her success to good mentorship.

“A key role in cultivating curious minds is to challenge self-doubt and encourage boldness in questioning the status quo.”

- XICHAVO ALECIA NDLOVU



2

DR EUGENE LEE DAVIDS Postdoctoral research fellow, UCT

Dr Eugene Lee Davids is a postdoctoral research fellow at UCT's Adolescent Health Research Unit, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. The 27-year-old has achieved significant progress in his career to date, having been awarded many prestigious awards and fellowships.

Davids grew up in Cape Town, and chose to study psychology based on

a suggestion by his teacher at Spes Bona High School. His interest in research grew after completing his internship, and later led to his doctoral study, which aimed to develop and test a model examining the role of parenting styles in adolescent health decision-making in a rural community in the Western Cape.

His current research is aimed at developing and validating an instrument to measure adolescent health decision-making in South Africa. "There is a gap in our understanding of what drives health decision-making among adolescents," he explains.



LETHABO MOTSWALEDI Chief executive, 3D Power

"When we speak of 3D printing, we refer to a process that turns a blueprint into a real product, an actual three-dimensional object," says the future-minded Lethabo Motswaledi on the 3D-printing company she co-established in 2014.

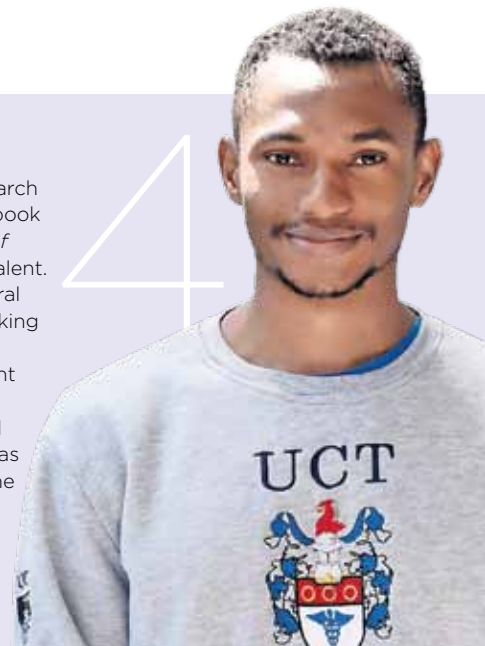
Motswaledi studied geomatics engineering, an applied science in the rapidly developing engineering

DR MATTHEW AMONI PhD candidate

Matthew Amoni aims to carry out essential research that contributes to his dream of an African textbook of medicine. "The UK has the *Oxford Textbook of Medicine*, but Africa does not yet have an equivalent.

"My childhood exposed me to the needs in rural communities and created in me an ethos of working to contribute to society."

The exceptionally hardworking medical student undertook MBChB studies concurrently with BSc (Med) honours and MSc studies at UCT and successfully completed them on schedule. He was one of the first medical students to enroll into the MBChB/ BSc honours intercalated programme, a course offered by UCT that promotes future medically-qualified scientists. Amoni was awarded distinctions for both degrees, and is now working on his PhD in Belgium.



discipline that deals with spatial information, at UCT. She went on to complete her MA in engineering, where she discovered a strong desire to start something of her own, which is when 3D Power was born.

"My engineering degree gave me a broad scope of what was possible and the confidence to venture into new technical territory. And through starting my business I've had the opportunity to learn how to apply all these skills."

ANDREW EINHORN Managing director, Numeric

Andrew came back to South Africa in 2007 to pursue a master's degree in immunology at the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine at UCT after having studied physics and mathematics at Harvard

University. During his studies he had an idea of how to improve the learning of maths with children from Khayelitsha.

His idea was born out of the challenges that South Africa faces in providing access to quality education for children, particularly for children from poor backgrounds.

The idea he developed is called Numeric: an intensive after-school maths programme for children in their final year of primary school. Numeric is currently being implemented in 47 primary schools.





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