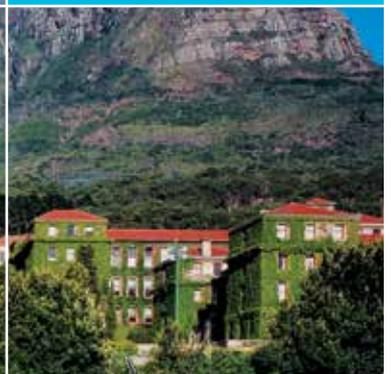
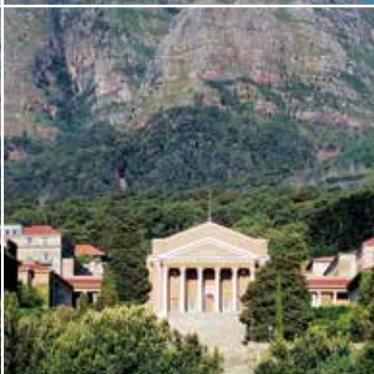
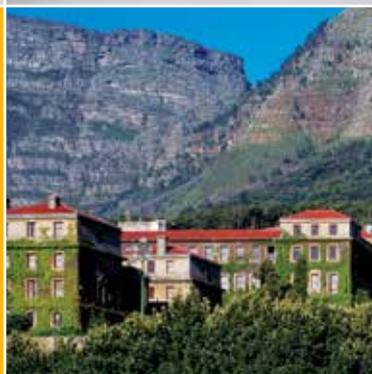




# POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT UCT

2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION





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With special thanks to our researchers and other staff members who contributed information and images.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN AT A GLANCE



“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**  
Vice-Chancellor (@FabAcademic)



## UCT INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

### 1st in Africa

198th  
IN THE WORLD  
QS 2020

156th  
IN THE WORLD  
THE 2019

114th  
IN THE WORLD  
US NEWS 2019  
BEST GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES

223rd  
IN THE WORLD  
CWUR 2018-2019

### BRICS RANKINGS

THE 2019 BRICS and  
emerging economies 9th

22nd QS 2019  
BRICS

## WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS SUBJECT RANKINGS

TOP 10  
Development  
studies

9th IN THE  
WORLD  
QS 2019

TOP 20  
Mining & mineral  
engineering

20th IN THE  
WORLD  
SHANGHAI 2019

### KEY TERMS

**THE** Times Higher Education  
**QS** Quacquarelli Symonds  
**CWUR** Center for World University Rankings  
**GRAS** Shanghai Rankings  
**BRICS** Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa  
**SHANGHAI** ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects  
**SHANGHAI\*** ShanghaiRanking's Special Focus Institution Ranking

## TOP 50

Oceanography  
36th IN THE  
WORLD  
SHANGHAI 2019

Immunology  
49th IN THE  
WORLD

US NEWS BEST GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES 2019

Sport science schools  
and departments  
49th IN THE  
WORLD  
SHANGHAI\* 2019

## TOP 100

Microbiology  
63rd IN THE  
WORLD  
US NEWS  
BEST GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES 2019

Social sciences  
and public health  
71st IN THE  
WORLD  
US NEWS  
BEST GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES 2019

Clinical, pre-clinical & health  
72nd IN THE  
WORLD  
THE 2019

Clinical medicine  
91st IN THE  
WORLD  
US NEWS  
BEST GLOBAL  
UNIVERSITIES 2019

Law  
77th IN THE  
WORLD  
THE 2019

Social sciences  
89th IN THE  
WORLD  
THE 2019

Education  
95th IN THE  
WORLD  
THE 2019

## TOP 100

- Anatomy & physiology
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Architecture/built environment
- Education
- Geography
- Social policy & administration
- Sports-related subjects

QS 2019

- Clinical Medicine
- Public health

SHANGHAI 2019

  
28 701  
Students

  
4 941  
International students

  
11 008  
Postgraduates

  
2 688  
International postgraduates

  
5 688  
Master's students

  
2 126  
Doctoral students

  
333  
Postdoctoral research fellows



"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



  
3 240  
Peer-reviewed research publications



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



IN 2018

R1.6  
BILLION  
TOTAL AMOUNT OF RESEARCH INCOME

R312  
MILLION  
TOTAL VALUE OF POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES AWARDED

\*All stats refer to 2018

# 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 universities globally for clinical, pre-clinical and health and in the top 10 for development studies. [\(See page 3\)](#)



**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."*

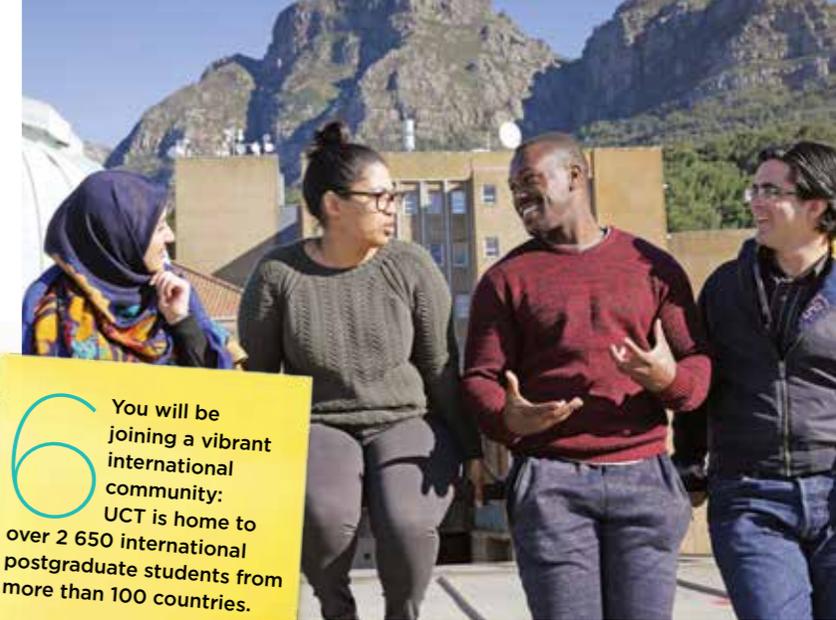
**TATIKA SCULLARD**  
(PricewaterhouseCoopers, Graduate Recruitment Manager)

**4** UCT's Hasso Plattner School 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 2 650 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.



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 postgraduate 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.



## 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.

Still feel uncertain about which postgrad degree is the best fit for you? Visit the Postgrad Hub [www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za](http://www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za) for more information or contact the UCT Careers Service ([www.careers.uct.ac.za/](http://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



## 1 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

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.

**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.

## 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.

**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.

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.

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

**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 by full dissertation or PhD.

## 3 Compile and submit an application

Visit [applyonline.uct.ac.za](http://applyonline.uct.ac.za) to begin your application.



## 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.

## 6 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.



**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](mailto:iapo@uct.ac.za) or

+27 21 650 2822 / 3740



[www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za](http://www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za)



# 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.

**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.

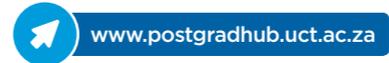
**5 IF A SUPERVISOR DECLINES YOUR REQUEST FOR SUPERVISION**, don't take it personally. Some academics are already supervising as many students as they can and you don't want a supervisor who is too busy to give you the attention you need.

**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.

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.



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



# FINDING FUNDING

## 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.** Many postgraduate awards are based on either academic merit alone or a combination of financial need and merit. While there are awards based only on financial need, the better your academic scores, the more awards are available.
- 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 (e.g., in the year preceding the start of your postgraduate studies).
- 4 FOLLOW @UCTPOSTGRADS** Our Twitter account announces bursaries, scholarships and other opportunities. Otherwise, details are available on the Postgrad Hub's electronic noticeboard.



**5 GATHER AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE.** The Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO) offers a range of material to help you find funding for your studies. Booklets, such as this one, and handbooks can be obtained from the PGFO or downloaded from the Postgrad Hub.

**6 PREPARE FOR A BALANCING ACT.** With the exception of some prestigious scholarships and a specific group of UCT-supported, full-cost awards, full financial support via a single award is rare. This means financing your postgraduate studies is likely to involve a combination of bursaries, part-time employment and loans. Bear in mind, some awards cannot be held concurrently with others. So, when you plan, consider as many sources of support as possible.

**7 ASK FOR HELP.** The PGFO is within easy walking distance of most faculties and departments on Upper Campus. Our staff are there to advise you on the diverse funding opportunities available to postgraduates and help with the submission of applications. 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](mailto:pgfunding@uct.ac.za)

Visit our **Postgrad Hub** and consult **UCT Handbook 14** for details on the full spectrum of postgraduate funding awards available.



[www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za](http://www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za)



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Most 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 options for international students.

## IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER REGARDING FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

- 1 Postgraduate funding is not automatically granted based on admission to UCT or as a follow-on to the undergraduate funding you may have had. There are many awards, each with specific criteria and rules that must be fulfilled/matched. Hence there is an application process for all awards, including deadlines for submission dates, which must be adhered to.
- 2 To be considered for postgraduate funding, prospective students must have applied for an academic place at UCT (in addition to applying for funding).
- 3 Currently, students registering only for full-time honours, masters and doctoral degrees are eligible to apply for funding. 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.
- 4 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 for postgraduate awards.

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za)  
[pgstudies@uct.ac.za](mailto: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](http://www.careers.uct.ac.za)  
[careers.service@uct.ac.za](mailto: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](http://www.international.uct.ac.za)  
[iapo@uct.ac.za](mailto:iapo@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](http://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 R650 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](http://www.ssisa.com)  
**UCT gym:** **+27 (0)21 650 5197**,  
[www.students.uct.ac.za/students/student-life/sport-fitness/uct-gym](http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/student-life/sport-fitness/uct-gym)

**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](http://www.ombud.uct.ac.za)  
[ombud@uct.ac.za](mailto: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.oic.uct.ac.za/disability-service-1](http://www.oic.uct.ac.za/disability-service-1)  
**+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](http://www.sic.org.za)  
[info@sic.org.za](mailto: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](http://www.writingcentre.uct.ac.za)  
[writingcentre@uct.ac.za](mailto:writingcentre@uct.ac.za)  
**+27 (0)21 650 5021**

**UCT students can book online:**  
[uct.mywconline.com](http://uct.mywconline.com)

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

**The UCT English Language Centre** offers year-round courses in general English at all levels. Courses begin every Monday and last two to 48 weeks with students attending lessons in a friendly and supportive environment.  
[uctlanguagecentre.com](http://uctlanguagecentre.com)

**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.

**Research Writing in the Sciences** gives postgraduates in the sciences and engineering an opportunity to engage in different forms of scientific writing beyond the thesis.  
[kate.leroux@uct.ac.za](mailto:kate.leroux@uct.ac.za)

**Navigating Research Writing** is an intensive week-long course for postgraduates from all disciplines, at any stage of their postgraduate research.  
[sp.samson@uct.ac.za](mailto:sp.samson@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.  
[sp.samson@uct.ac.za](mailto:sp.samson@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](http://www.eresearch.uct.ac.za)  
[eresearch@uct.ac.za](mailto: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.  
[libguides.lib.uct.ac.za/savvyresearcher](http://libguides.lib.uct.ac.za/savvyresearcher)



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 on Twitter or visit [lib.uct.ac.za](http://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.

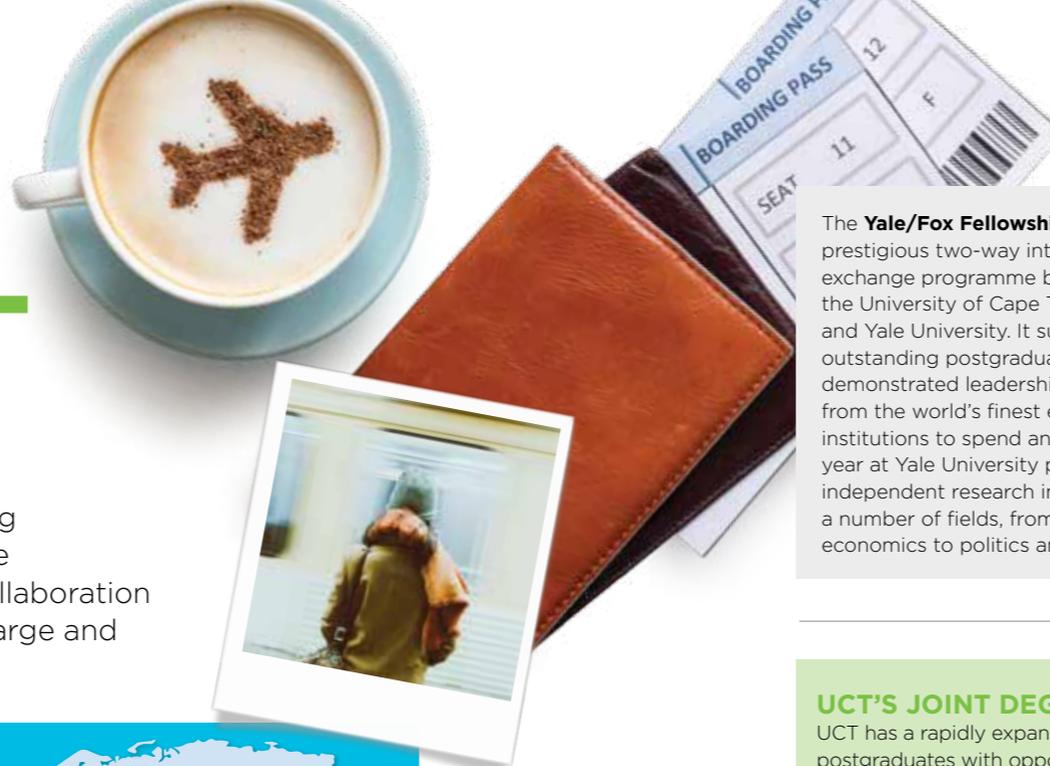
Keep an eye on the Postgrad Hub for announcements of these and other international opportunities.



**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.

**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.



**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
  - Ludwig Maximilian University, Germany
  - Leeds University, UK

**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.



# 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.



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



[www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za](http://www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za)

## 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.

## 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 [ocsas@uct.ac.za](mailto: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.





# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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. Students get a discount on ticket prices. [www.thelabia.co.za](http://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](http://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. [capetowntrains.freeblog.site](http://capetowntrains.freeblog.site)



### 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. 📶

### 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.



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 qualifications maintain academic integrity, workplace relevance and professional accreditation.



**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.

## Seven departments

 Education Development Unit	 College of Accounting	 Finance and Tax	 School of Economics	 School of Management Studies	 Information Systems	 Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance
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The African Institute of Financial Markets and Risk Management (AIFMRM) is an industry-funded unit within the Faculty of Commerce, offering postgraduate programmes in financial risk management and quantitative finance.

UCT's new School of IT is a collaboration between the Department of Information Systems in the Faculty of Commerce and the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Science.

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

# 45

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

## CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+27 (0)21 650 4375 | [com-faculty@uct.ac.za](mailto:com-faculty@uct.ac.za) | [www.commerce.uct.ac.za](http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za)

6 559 students

4 414 undergraduates

784 postgraduate diploma students

615 master's students

513 honours students

209 PhD students

24 postdoctoral research fellows

# FACULTY OF ENGINEERING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment (EBE) takes pride in its people – most especially its 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
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4 693 students

1 199 postgraduates

238 PhD students



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

**STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES**  
EBE laboratories make use of the latest industry standards to support modern teaching and learning.

The complex challenges facing Africa and the global community – water scarcity, alternative energy, urbanisation and sustainability – demand collaborative solutions. The faculty houses a number of interdisciplinary research units concentrating on these challenges.

## CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

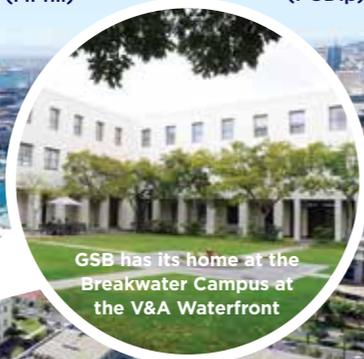
+27 21 650 2699 | [ebe-faculty@uct.ac.za](mailto:ebe-faculty@uct.ac.za) | [www.ebe.uct.ac.za](http://www.ebe.uct.ac.za)

# 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)



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

Ranked in the Financial Times' Global Top 100 for Customised Executive Programmes for eight consecutive years.

As a top school located in a changing emerging market, the GSB has a responsibility to engage with its socio-political and economic context. Its teaching, learning and research is directed towards building a more economically prosperous, equitable and integrated continent. The school is constantly investing in quality scholarship and strong partnerships to support these aims.

### CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

-  0860 UCT GSB (828 472)
-  [info@gsb.uct.ac.za](mailto:info@gsb.uct.ac.za)
-  [www.gsb.uct.ac.za](http://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.

2 200+ undergraduates  
2 500+ postgraduates



274 postgraduates graduated in 2018, including 30 PhDs



37 research groupings spanning basic, clinical, rehabilitation and public health sciences

R935 million in research contracts entered into in 2017

12 A-RATED RESEARCHERS  
As rated by the National Research Foundation

### CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

-  +27 21 406 6340
-  [www.health.uct.ac.za](http://www.health.uct.ac.za)
-  [fhs-pgadmiss@uct.ac.za](mailto:fhs-pgadmiss@uct.ac.za)

## 13 departments

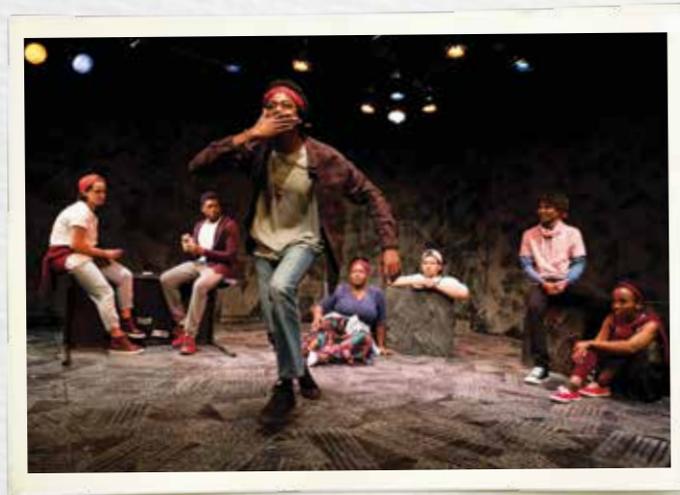
-  Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine
-  Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
-  Health Sciences Education
-  Human Biology
-  Integrative Biomedical Sciences
-  Medicine
-  Pathology
-  Obstetrics and Gynaecology
-  Paediatrics and Child Health
-  Psychiatry and Mental Health
-  Public Health and Family Medicine
-  Surgery
-  Radiation Medicine

31 Of the 81 accredited research units at UCT, 31 are in this faculty.

\* 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 17 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.



The faculty has produced a number of world-renowned graduates, including Breyten Breytenbach (author), Philip Miller (international composer and sound artist), Roger Ebert (Pulitzer Prize winner), Richard E Grant (actor), Pretty Yende (opera singer), Akin Omotoso (filmmaker) and two Nobel Prize winners – Emeritus Professor JM Coetzee (Literature) and Ralph Bunche (Peace).

## CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+ 27 (0)21 650 3059 [hum-postgrad@uct.ac.za](mailto:hum-postgrad@uct.ac.za) [www.humanities.uct.ac.za](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za)

## 17 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)
-  Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies
-  School of Education
-  School of Languages and Literatures
-  Social Development
-  Sociology
-  South African College of Music
-  Knowledge and Information Stewardship



# 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 in the top 100 law schools worldwide.

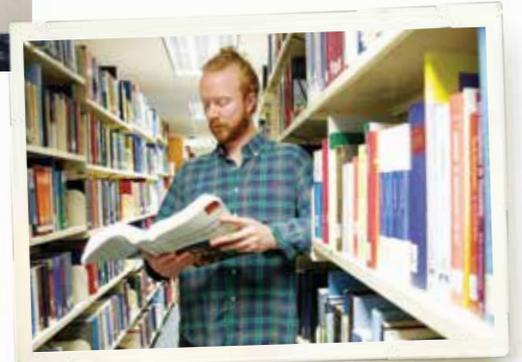
 The faculty has students and alumni working across the globe – contributing excellence to the legal profession, the development of law, and research in the field.

 The faculty has over 25 international agreements that enable students and staff to pursue exchanges and research relationships elsewhere in Africa and across the world.

## CONTACT US FOR A LIST OF POSTGRADUATE COURSES

+27 (0)21 650 3086 [law-studies@uct.ac.za](mailto:law-studies@uct.ac.za) [www.law.uct.ac.za](http://www.law.uct.ac.za)

-  Commercial Law
-  Private Law
-  Public Law



## Internationally recognised research

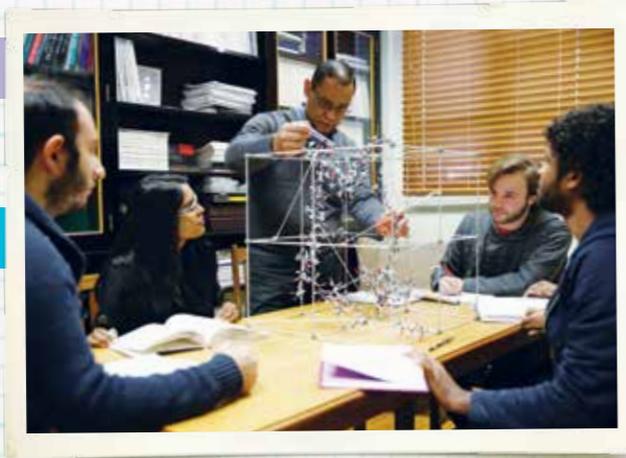
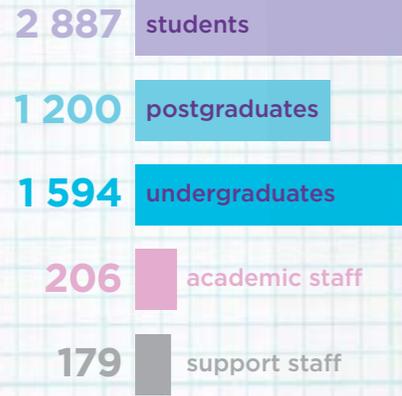


The faculty's research is recognised for its great relevance to the national and international needs of industry, as shown by the considerable industrial funding of research programmes and projects.

Apart from the active research members in each department, there are 10 research units based in the departments pursuing specialised areas of research and practice. These include the innovative UCT Law Clinic and UCT Refugee Rights Unit.

# 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.



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

## AREAS OF RESEARCH FOCUS

- African climate and development
- Biodiversity and the Greater Cape Floristic Region
- Chemistry and biology for health in Africa
- Marine biology and the Southern Ocean
- Southern skies and evolving universe
- Human evolution and the African Quaternary

20%  
of the  
publication  
output of UCT  
as a whole is  
produced by  
the Faculty  
of Science

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 School of Design Thinking (HPI d-school) at UCT is one of only three 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

"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

"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

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.

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](http://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

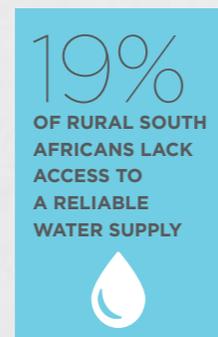
The university research institutes are grounded in existing areas of internationally recognised excellence while being aligned to institutional, regional and national priorities. These institutes take interdisciplinary approaches to research. Thus, as a postgraduate, you may be registered within a department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



## 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.

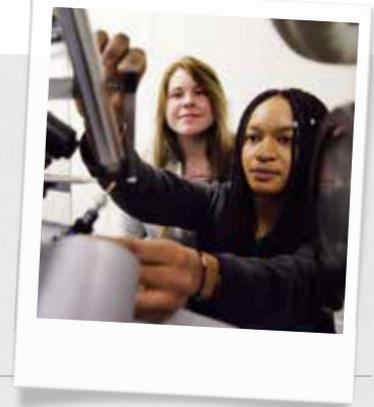


## 6 Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa (IDCPPA)

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.

## 7 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.



## 5 Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (iCWild)

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.



# 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 research in this area spans stellar and galactic astrophysics, and extragalactic astronomy, and extends into the fundamental physics that underlies the nature of the universe. UCT also plays a leading role in the Square Kilometre Array (see 'data-intensive research' pg. 43). The Department of Astronomy - the only dedicated university-based astronomy group in South Africa - and the High Energy Physics, Cosmology and Astrophysics Theory Group are two groups that undertake this research.





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.

Image by Matthew Bone



#### 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.



Image by Johnny Miller

# OUR NEW GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

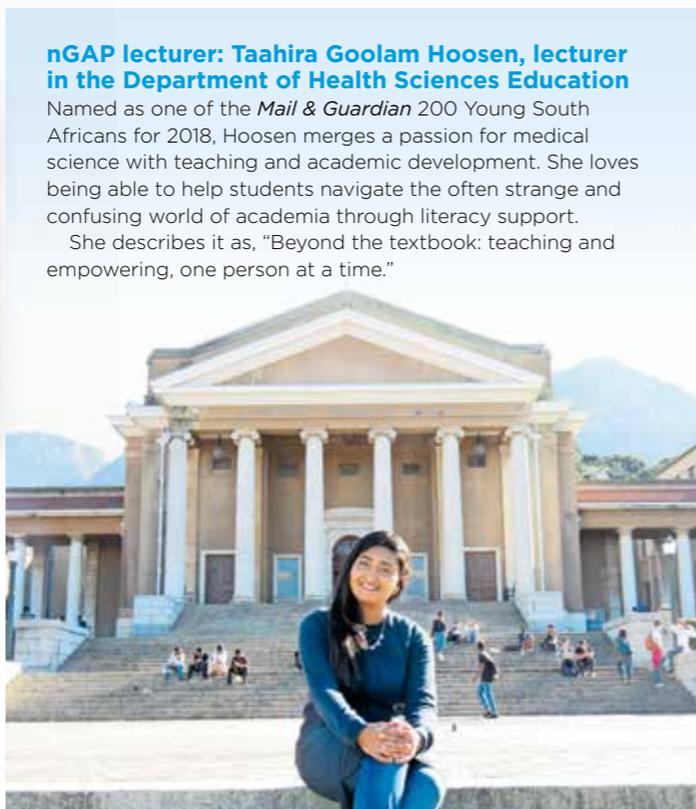
## MAKING AN IMPACT

UCT has embraced the New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP), an opportunity provided by the Department of Higher Education (DHET) to build a new generation of black South African academics. Here, we feature just five who are making their mark.



**nGAP associate: Mochelo Lefoka, lecturer with Construction Economics and Management**

Lefoka's first international paper, written in collaboration with Professor Abimbola Windapo, won the Singapore Institute of Building Limited Best Paper Award in 2018. "The transition from industry to academia can be hard. The nGAP is a perfect transitional package. It's allowed me to survive and thrive. The journey so far has been amazing. It's given me space to do research and develop as an academic."



**nGAP lecturer: Taahira Goolam Hoosen, lecturer in the Department of Health Sciences Education**

Named as one of the *Mail & Guardian* 200 Young South Africans for 2018, Hoosen merges a passion for medical science with teaching and academic development. She loves being able to help students navigate the often strange and confusing world of academia through literacy support. She describes it as, "Beyond the textbook: teaching and empowering, one person at a time."

**nGAP lecturer: Melissa-Rose Abrahams, researcher in the Department of Pathology**  
Abrahams is part of a team of scientists involved in driving HIV cure research, an area which has gained attention as it becomes clear that infected individuals must remain on treatment for the rest of their lives. "Of the many hats worn by academics, I most enjoy the excitement of critically analysing and interpreting laboratory results and determining what story they have to tell."



**nGAP lecturer: Frissiano Honwana, assistant lecturer in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine**

From rural Mpumalanga, Honwana's work in public health has opened doors and shown him that research involves collaboration among people with a common goal. With an interest in infectious disease modelling and longitudinal models, he believes the nGAP programme is helping him build a research profile that will contribute to knowledge in the field.



**nGAP associate: Suraya Scheba, lecturer in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences**

Scheba recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the African Centre for Cities. Through her work, she aims to understand the contested political processes shaping cities. Scheba's recent work includes an investigation into water scarcity in the Western Cape and the adoption of desalination technology in the Knysna Local Municipality.

**RIGHT: Scheba's husband and two children accompanied her on a UCT nGAP writing retreat.**



"I am excited about nGAP, as it contributes to what I believe to be the heart of transformation at UCT - institutional culture change. Transformation at UCT is therefore about creating a university that is truly a 'pluriversal' place that reflects the many identities, ideologies and belief systems in a manner that includes and doesn't alienate."  
**Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Transformation, Professor Loretta Feris**



# 5 BRIGHT, YOUNG POSTGRAD RESEARCHERS

Of the exceptional young people featured on the 2018 and 2019 *Mail & Guardian* 200 Young South Africans lists, 81 are UCT students, alumni and staff members. Here are a few of their stories.

## 1 NTSAKO MGIBA Co-founder and CEO, Jonga Systems

Following a personal encounter with burglary, Mgiba fused his training in mechatronic engineering and interest in entrepreneurship to “restore dignity, security and peace of mind to communities that are often seen as perpetrators of violence in South Africa”. He co-founded Jonga, which develops low-cost, community-based home-monitoring solutions for low-income communities.

Currently pursuing a master’s degree in computer science at UCT as a Mandela Rhodes scholar, Mgiba clinched the first prize in numerous entrepreneurship challenges on- and off-campus.

“I believe my career as a social entrepreneur has a direct impact on society,” says Mgiba. “Through providing our product, I hope that communities will become empowered to come together and form neighbourhood watches that protect themselves.”



## 2 DR SINDISIWE BUTHELEZI Scientific researcher, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

After finishing matric, Buthelezi – who was born and raised in a small town in KwaZulu-Natal – settled on microbiology and biochemistry as majors and secured a place at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

“In my first year, I became more and more fascinated by the functioning of the human body,” she says. She went on to complete an honours degree at the University of the Witwatersrand and a master’s degree at UCT. For her PhD, she investigated ways to increase the stability of anti-rabies drugs for developing countries.

Now, Buthelezi is involved in research to identify drug targets relevant to the South African population. She believes a career in science “gives one the opportunity to make a contribution that may result in improving people’s lives.”



## 3 LONDEKA MAHLANZA Environmental project coordinator, Anglo American

Through her tertiary education – which included working towards two master’s degrees at Oxford University and the University of Cape Town, simultaneously – Mahlanza became aware of the socio-ecological aspects of environmental governance. With a clear understanding that environmental damage and climate change would have the most severe effects on society’s most vulnerable, she pledged her support to environmental conservation that’s socially just.

She has since established herself as a leading thinker and practitioner in the field of environmental governance and management.

Mahlanza, who has been part of Anglo American’s efforts to support women’s representation in the company’s leadership roles, joined the environmental team at Anglo Platinum to support the development of environmentally and socially sensitive approaches to risk management and operational models.

These profiles have been adapted from the individual profiles on 200youngsouthafricans.co.za

## 4 DR THULWANENG MASHIFANE UCT postdoctoral research fellow, South African Environmental Observation Network

Mashifane graduated with a PhD in ocean and atmosphere Science at UCT in 2017; he was the first black South African to do so.

During his PhD he received two prestigious fellowships: the German Academic Exchange Services and the UCT Science Faculty PhD Equity Fellowship.

Mashifane is one of the few experts in South Africa who has skills in biogeochemical modelling, and he has transferred these skills to students as a tutor and teaching assistant at UCT. He is also actively involved in education outreach programmes at the South African Environmental Observation Network. He participates in international discovery research and capacity building cruises between Namibia, South Africa and Mauritius, where he contributes to the advancement of knowledge in the Indian and Atlantic oceans.



## 5 PABALLO CHAUKE Training and outreach coordinator, H3ABioNet-Pan African Bioinformatics Network for H3Africa



Chauke says he grew up in conditions of squalor that made him hungry for success and opportunities. After obtaining an undergraduate degree and honours at UCT, he did an MSc in biodiversity, conservation and management at the University of Oxford in 2016. Throughout his studies, he assumed leadership roles and volunteer positions. Now, in addition to working at H3ABioNet-Pan African Bioinformatics Network for H3Africa, Chauke supervises, mentors and guest lectures at the School of International Training.

“There is an urgent need to develop a new generation of researchers, practitioners and decision-makers who are equipped with the necessary skills and experience to tackle climate change, because ultimately it will affect the marginalised Africans more than anyone else,” says Chauke.



# VISIT OUR POSTGRAD HUB

The UCT Postgrad Hub will provide postgraduates at UCT with all the information that they need to enhance their research experience – from start to finish.

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