

Research at UCT

We are committed both to protecting and encouraging curiosity-driven research that has a real impact on our communities and environment.

15% of SA's NRF-rated scholars

The National Research Foundation (NRF) allocates ratings based on a researcher's recent research outputs and impact, as perceived by international peer reviewers. In 2018 UCT again recorded the highest number of NRF-rated researchers in South Africa: 541 of UCT's academic staff are rated by the NRF, against 514 in 2016 and 276 in 2008.



33% of SA's A-rated scholars

A third (42) of the country's NRF A-rated researchers, who are international leaders in their fields of research, are at UCT.



19% of SA's SARChI chairs

A total of 39 (19%) of the country's SARChI chairs (South African Research Chairs Initiative) are held by researchers at UCT.



Research and innovation in numbers

R1.6 billion in external research income generated in 2017

R39.6 million in accumulated income since 2001 from intellectual property



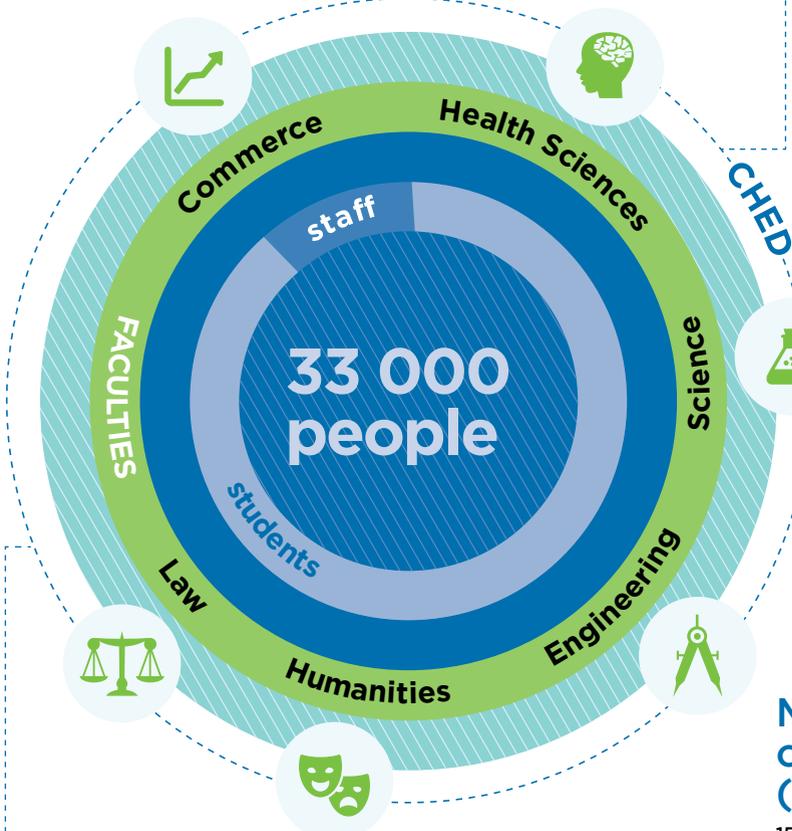
125 active inventions, with 72 patent applications filed in 2017

>R100 million of equity in spin-off companies in 2017

2 363 research contracts signed in 2017

10 645 postgraduates registered at UCT in 2017, including 2 002 from 34 African countries.

UCT today



The Centre for Higher Education Development partners with the six faculties to ensure students don't just gain access to UCT, but also succeed here. They work to improve UCT's teaching and learning environment.

6 370 students lived in UCT's 32 catered or self-catering student residences in 2018, while 22 230 students lived off campus.

8 062 undergraduates - nearly 50% - received financial support in 2018.

Massive open online courses (MOOCs)

15 MOOCs are currently running at UCT, and have attracted more than 230 000 people from over 100 different countries across the globe.

>1.2 million print volumes and an estimated 54 km of shelf space are available at UCT Libraries.

28 600 students and 4 544 staff

In 2018 UCT was home to 28 600 students (17 552 undergraduates, 11 048 postgraduates) and 4 544 staff (1 208 academic and 3 336 professional, administrative support and service staff). Over the course of the year, anywhere between 100 and 1 000 students are employed by the university.

Classroom renewal

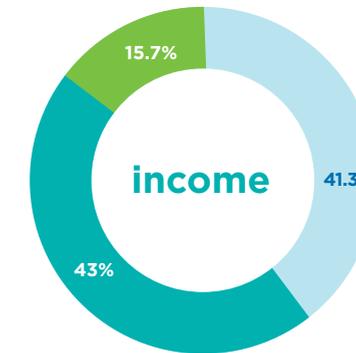
90 classrooms were upgraded as part of the Classroom Renewal Project, which was finalised in 2017. 88 classrooms now have lecture recording facilities, 37 have induction loop technology, and 79 have custom-designed motorised lecterns.

100+ student societies are active on campus, divided into five categories: academic, national/cultural, faith, special interest and political. Students can choose to participate in almost 40 sporting codes, including jiu jitsu, fencing, rowing and rugby.

25 km²

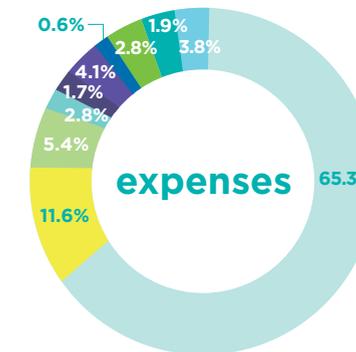
is the total area of UCT's campuses, including upper, middle and lower campus in Rosebank; the health sciences campus in Observatory; the Hiddingh Campus in Gardens; the Graduate School of Business (GSB) Breakwater Campus on the Atlantic Seaboard and the GSB Solution Space in Philippi.

General operating budget 2017



INCOME 2017
R3 106 million

■ State subsidy ■ Tuition fees ■ Other



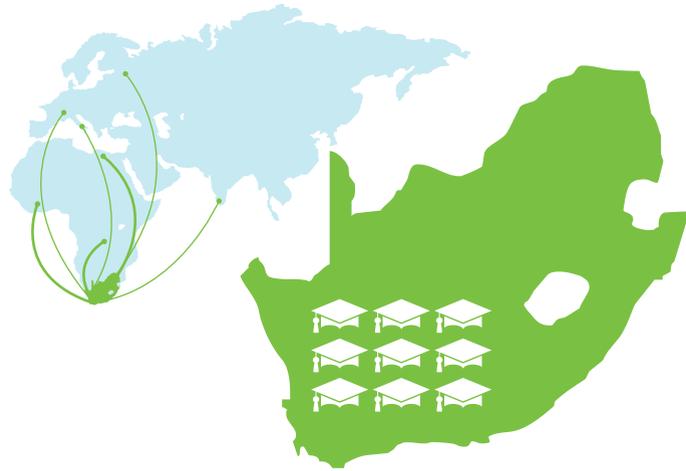
EXPENDITURE 2017
R3 060 million

■ Staff and related ■ Admin and operating expenses
■ Financial aid and scholarships ■ Library acquisitions, books & journals
■ Maintenance ■ Rates and utilities
■ Jammie Shuttle ■ Computers, furniture and equipment
■ University research and equipment committees ■ Other costs



01 About UCT

Where do our students come from?



Students come to UCT from all over Africa and the world ...

In 2018, 28 600 students were registered for studies at UCT, including 22 669 South African students, 3 512 SADC students, 1 539 students from the rest of Africa and 880 students from elsewhere in the world.



... and when they graduate they are welcome anywhere

After graduating, UCT students take up positions in every sector of the economy, around the world. UCT's Development and Alumni Department is in contact with over 170 000 alumni in 151 countries, some 121 000 of whom live in South Africa.

Welcome to UCT

UCT aspires to become a premier academic meeting point between South Africa, the rest of Africa and the world. Taking advantage of expanding global networks and our distinct vantage point in Africa, we are committed, through innovative research and scholarship, to grapple with the key issues of our natural and social worlds.

We aim to produce graduates whose qualifications are internationally recognised and locally applicable, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice.

Did you know?

- 1 UCT is the South African university with the longest history.
- 2 It is alma mater to five Nobel Laureates: Max Theiler (Medicine), Ralphe Bunche (Peace), Sir Aaron Klug (Chemistry), Allan McLeod Cormack (Medicine) and JM Coetzee (Literature).
- 3 UCT was ranked first in Africa and 156th in the world according to the 2018 Times Higher Education rankings, while the 2018 Quacquarelli Symonds rankings put it first in Africa and 200th in the world.
- 4 A third of South Africa's National Research Foundation A-rated researchers – who are considered international leaders in their fields – call UCT home.
- 5 UCT is a member of a number of global university networks, including the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).

The story of UCT

What began as a humble high school has evolved over the course of three centuries to become Africa's top-rated university.

1829-1873 An unsteady start

Starting in 1829 as a private secondary school for boys, UCT's predecessor, the South African College (SAC), waxed and waned for over 40 years until 1873. The establishment of the sub-continent's first university, the University of the Cape of Good Hope, in that year gave SAC the incentive to prepare its senior boys for post-matriculation study and eventually for a degree for the first time. This put it on stable footing and prompted it to shed its more junior classes to the newly created SA College School (SACS).

1873-1918 Higher aspirations

Fuelled by the transformation of southern Africa through the discovery of diamonds and gold in the interior, the SAC grew steadily. In 1887 it admitted women for the first time. By 1900 it had transferred the remainder of its school pupils to SACS, in effect becoming a university college under the University of the Cape of Good Hope. After the South African War (1899-1902), it set its sights on independent university status, free of the constraints of the University of the Cape of Good Hope.

1918-1950 A teaching university on the Groote Schuur Estate

Elevated into a fully-fledged university with its own charter in 1918, the new University of Cape Town made teaching its first priority. To meet the needs of emerging professions in the country, it created five new faculties. In 1928-9 it also moved the bulk of its campus to two sites on Cecil Rhodes' Groote Schuur Estate. As a result of these burgeoning facilities, its student body swelled by 65% in this period to 4 258 students, though this number fell slightly in the early 1950s when the ex-service contingent which had flooded into UCT after World War II graduated.

1950-1968 Passive protest amid active research and teaching

During these years UCT began to give active support to teaching and research in the fields of medicine, engineering and science. At the same time a gradual imposition of apartheid took place on student admissions, barring black students from enrolling at UCT except with government permission. The formal public opposition which this policy elicited from many students and staff had little effect. By 1968 the number of black students at UCT had fallen to 411, from 552 ten years earlier. When UCT, under pressure from the government, agreed to revoke the appointment of a black lecturer in 1968, student outrage boiled over, producing a nine-day sit-in at UCT's administrative headquarters, Bremner building.

1969-1985 Active protest amid hyperactive research and teaching

Parallel to the rising tide of resistance to apartheid across the country, a growing number of UCT students raised the level of their opposition to the policy barring black students from being admitted without special government permission, clashing more and more directly with police as they did so, both on and off campus. Notwithstanding this turbulent environment, UCT went on strengthening its commitment to research and teaching by providing more facilities and new buildings to house them.

1985-2019 An unfinished revolution

The waning of apartheid removed racial restrictions on student admissions and staff appointments even before democratic elections in 1994. This opened the way for an escalating transformation of the student body and, belatedly, of the staff profile. UCT's 2016-2020 Strategic Planning Framework has been developed against the backdrop of widespread social action on campuses throughout the country, which have focused on inequalities, prejudices and structural disadvantages that continue to characterise South African society. The Strategic Planning Framework is organised around five broad goals and high-level institution-wide objectives to effect improvements in the areas of research, teaching and learning, internationalisation and social responsiveness, while infusing all of these with the transformation agenda.



"I believe that this is a great time to be at UCT. Across South Africa and even the world, the higher education sector is seeking ways to be more inclusive, to fund students so that its opportunities are available to everyone with high academic potential, irrespective of their background. This is a time that brings the prospect of making real change happen, of contributing to solutions that might guide other institutions and organisations across our nation to do the same. UCT's place in the world is to be at the cutting edge, to forge into the unknown and the unfamiliar."

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