The University of the Witwatersrand (aka Wits) is a leading higher education institution in Africa, committed to research and academic excellence, social justice and the advancement of the public good.

- Wits is ranked in the top 1% in the world out of over 25,000 universities.
- The Faculty of Humanities is ranked in the top 1% in the world.

Wits Today

One of the top two universities in Africa and amongst the world’s top 250 universities in major global rankings.

In the top 100 globally in clinical medicine, public health, and mining engineering.

In the top 10 globally for academic ranking of universities.

In the top 15 globally for Times Higher Education.

201 - 300 globally for the Academic Ranking of World Universities.

254 globally for Times World University Rankings.

11th globally for the BRICS & Emerging Economies.

200+ globally for the TIMES Higher Education’s New faculties.

5 Nobel Laureates

400 research Impact

96 Percent of our research is published in internationally competitive journals.

52 Research Entities

20 Do not accept for Funded CHAIRS

30 SA Research Chairs

50 Percent of our research is conducted in interdisciplinary teams.

1227 Research and Innovation Projects

10171 Faculty of Humanities

7935 Faculty of Health Sciences

5364 Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

38000 Home to over 83 000 learners from around the globe.

65/35 split between undergraduates and postgraduates.

Did you know?

- Dr Tamlyn Naidu from Wits won the 2019 Young Researcher Award from the Royal Society of the United Kingdom.
- Nokwazi Mphuthi, a PhD candidate in the School of Physics, won the US award for the Best Emerging Young Investigator.
- Robert Ngwa, a PhD candidate in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences, received a $20 000 McNamara Foundation Scholarship.
- The Africa Centre for Migration and Society is Africa’s leading centre for high-level research on human mobility dedicated to shaping global discourse on human mobility and social transformation.
- The African Centre for Migration and Society is one of 400 Research Impact centres worldwide.

In 2017, a multidisciplinary team of doctors, academics and researchers from the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre performed the world’s first intentional liver transplant from a maternal leg skin cell to her critically ill child.

The success of this world-first offers new hope to South Africans and presents the potential of a time when most of the world’s children could be saved.

In 2018, Wits scientists from the Global Change Institute found a way to break the climate change code.

This “trojan horse” approach can change what it means to be human in a digital world – from exploring what it means to be human in a digital world – and the planet, the environment and the economy.

The eZone, a student-centred adaptive learning environment, has revolutionised teaching and learning.

Home to over 38 000 students

The high-impact of research (learn with UJ) online has revolutionised teaching and learning. Students can access great teaching and learning methods so that students become tech-savvy and able to apply their knowledge in the real world.

In 2013, the launch of the Centre for the Advancement of Mining Innovation (CAMI) to enhance the connectedness of mining and research at Wits.

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Wits is known for its academic excellence and its ability to adapt to the challenges of the 21st century.

The university offers a variety of undergraduate programmes, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as postgraduate programmes in disciplines ranging from arts and humanities to business and law.

Wits’ new digital suite includes full online programmes, blended learning, online programmes and augmented blended learning in collaboration with E-learning.

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Wits does research on its campus in an area of research that directly affects humans and the future of our planet, including climate change, energy, technology and health.

Wits has more than 100 000 alumni, and a strong global alumni network.

How many alumni does Wits have?

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How many alumni does Wits have?
Wits is the first African partner on the IBM Q network and is leading quantum computing in Africa through hosting a centre for quantum computing education, research, development and implementation.

Wits’ new digital offerings enable access to higher education.

Wits is training scholars to deal with next frontier science, the future economy and its impact on people and society. Whilst researchers, academics and scholars are focusing on mechanisation, blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, new mining technologies, quantum computing, machine learning and deep science with industry partners, Witsies are mindful of the impact of these new technologies on humanity, on how we express ourselves, on the future of our work, on morals, ethics and values, and the world as we know it today.

FUTURE IMPACT

Wits is a responsive institution that is locally embedded, nationally responsive and globally competitive. We strive to create impact through inspiring young leaders.

• The Wits Disability Rights Unit is a model centre that creates equal opportunities and environments for all students with disabilities to ensure a rewarding student experience.

SOCIAL IMPACT

• The Targeting Talent Programme academically and psychologically enriches learners (grades 10-12) from both well-resourced and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds in South Africa to ensure that they are prepared for admission into South African universities.

Did you know that Wits students have connected a human brain to the internet in real-time? They also researched how brainwaves can be used to control a robotic prosthetic hand and produced 3D printed prosthetic hands at a low cost to make them accessible to all.

48% of undergraduates are female headings to their courses.

Almost 50% of Wits graduates are first-generation university students and 56% are black women.

SPORTS AND CULTURAL IMPACT

• The Wits campus has a wealth of cultural sites to visit including the Planetarium, the Origins Centre, the Boulders Geology Museum, the Life Sciences Museum and the James Kitching Gallery in the South African Museum.

• Wits fossil vault and underground chamber hold some of the world’s priceless faunal, floral and hominid palaeo treasures.

• The Adler Museum of Medicine, the Brebner Museum, the Hunterian Museum of Anatomy and the Museum of Obstetrics and Gynaecology are based in Parktown.

• New, experimental work is always explored at the Wits Theatre complex, side by side with the best professional talent on the continent. The Fassler Gallery and the Anthropology Museum provide unique educational experiences.

• The Wits Art Museum houses over 9 000 works of classical African art.

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