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UCT to host the World University Debating Championships

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will host the largest student-run event globally, the World University Debating Championships. From 27 December 2018 to 4 January 2019 debating students from Malaysia, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria and the United States, among 45 others will descend on the city in hopes of becoming world champions.

Over 1000 participants will form into teams of two speakers that will battle in a British Parliamentary style against one another. The scoring of teams is done by adjudicators, most of whom are students or former students from the competing institutions.

Besides the main World Championship competition there are also English as a Second Language, English as a Foreign Language, individual public speaking and "World Masters" tournaments.

Universities depending on their ranking have multiple teams competing; UCT has five teams.

Emma Tiffin, who is Tournament Director is ecstatic about hosting the competition. "With so many burning issues globally and in South Africa this gathering brings together some of the finest critical thinkers from all around the world who will engage in vigorous debates and make friendships which will last a lifetime", she said.

The event culminates in an awards ceremony at the Cape Town International Convention Centre on 3 January 2019 where the winners will be crowned. Mayor of the City of Cape Town Dan Plato will address students at the closing of the awards evening.

All conference logistics were managed by UCT's Conference Management Centre.

While the debating rounds are closed to the public, media are invited to attend all sessions. Please RSVP to Yvonne.brown@uct.ac.za.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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