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**26 April 2018**

## **Survey reveals UCT graduates are increasingly entrepreneurial**

While South Africa is grappling with high rates of unemployment and the world of work is in near constant flux, University of Cape Town (UCT) graduates are becoming increasingly entrepreneurial. This was one of the major findings of the 2018 graduate exit survey administered by the UCT Careers Service.

The survey results speak to consistently high levels of employment and increased postgraduate enrolment, complemented by a mounting spirit of entrepreneurship.

Of the 3297 survey respondents who graduated in April 2018, 39.4% were already employed, 45.3% were studying, 11.8% were still hoping to pursue further studies while only 19.7% were still seeking employment at the time of the April graduation. Ten percent of those employed indicated they were self-employed.

This is an encouraging trend for a university that is working hard to equip students for an ever-shifting and increasingly entrepreneurial world of work.

David Casey, UCT Careers Service director, says: "We constantly aim to better support students' access, success and the transition to the world of work. Our pioneering graduate exit survey was one of our various strategic projects of 2017 and is a vital source of data that fuels the work that we do.

The majority of graduates from the faculties of Engineering & the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Law were already employed (at 54.1%, 53.2% and 62.1% respectively).

Figures from the faculties of Humanities and Science, which have higher numbers of students, are comparatively low in rates of employment. But the majority of graduates from these faculties are studying further (at 50.7% for the humanities and 64.5% for the sciences).

Graduates from the Faculty of Commerce are evenly split, with 44% already employed and 45.5% studying further.

Of the graduates employed 64.9% listed their jobs as directly related to their studies, and 26.6% listed their jobs as somewhat related to their studies. Just over 22% of employed graduates earn between R20 000 and R30 000 and 16.1% earn between R15 001 and R20 000.

The private sector remains, by far, the leading employer of UCT graduates, with 65.7% employed in the sector.

Professor Loretta Feris, UCT deputy vice-chancellor for transformation, commented: "The graduate exit survey shows that a UCT degree is in demand. However, for UCT, true success is measured in the extent to which our graduates contribute to ensure that we stem the growth of inequality in our country.

"It is therefore heartening to see that entrepreneurship of our graduates is on the rise, and we hope that through these endeavours they will address the challenges of unemployment and poverty," Feris concluded.

Notes to editors:

Respondents were able to select more than one main activity during the graduation survey, i.e. they could be employed and seeking studies, seeking studies while already studying, or seeking employment while studying, and so forth. Figures should be understood as separate variables, rather than being part of a 100% total.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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