



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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UCT among only 39 out of 200 institutions led by women

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2020 recently revealed that just 39 of the top 200 institutions are led by women – and the University of Cape Town (UCT) is among them.

In a separate development, UCT was also recently ranked among the top 100 institutions globally for seven subjects in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020. Development studies was the university's top-ranked discipline at 10th globally.

Unusually for higher education institutions around the world, UCT has an all-women executive academic leadership. During 2019, Professor Sue Harrison was appointed the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) for Research and Internationalisation, joining Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, Associate Professor Lis Lange (DVC for Teaching and Learning) and Professor Loretta Feris (DVC for Transformation).

"While UCT did not set out deliberately to appoint women, we are proud of the experience and expertise they have brought to the executive, and it marks a significant moment for women in academia and executive management – in South Africa, Africa and around the world," said Phakeng. "And I am delighted to be part of it."

Meanwhile, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject, UCT remains one of the top destinations in the world to learn about and research development studies. UCT managed to retain its spot in the top 10 globally for the subject, although it dropped one position from 9th to 10th compared to last year.

UCT had six additional subjects ranked in the 51–100 band – anatomy & physiology, anthropology, archaeology, architecture/built environment, geography, and medicine – bringing its total number of subjects in the top 100 to seven.

In the broad subject areas, UCT ranked as follows: arts & humanities (168th); engineering & technology (307th); life sciences & medicine (112nd) and natural sciences (230th).

UCT's strongest field, life sciences & medicine, held steady at 112nd position – the same as in 2019.

To produce the 2020 rankings, QS analysed information for 1 369 institutions across 48 subjects grouped into five broad areas. It combines information from four sources – weighted differently depending on the discipline – to produce their results.

The four sources are two global surveys of academics and employers, used to assess international reputation in each subject, and two indicators, research citations per paper and h-index in the relevant subject (both drawn from Elsevier’s Scopus database) used to assess research impact.

[Read more about the THE World University Rankings 2020.](#)

[Review the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject.](#)

[Read more about the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020 methodology.](#)

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Aamirah Sunday

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5427
Cell: (076) 947 6071

Email: aamirah.sunday@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za