International Undergraduate Full-degree Students
Frequently Asked Questions

When should I apply to UCT?
Application forms are available in mid-March for the following year of study. The processing of applications begins in April. An early application will increase your chances of receiving an early provisional offer of admission.

How do I apply?
You can contact the Admissions Office to request an application form.
By post:
The Admissions Office
University of Cape Town
Private Bag
Rondebosch
7701
Tel (+27 21) 650 2128
Fax: (+27 21) 650 3736
Email: admissions@bremner.uct.ac.za

The Admissions Office will post you an application on your provision of your postal address. Admissions will also provide assistance with the application process, should guidance be needed.

When is the application closing date?
Your application must be received by the Admissions Office before 30th September of the year preceding the academic year for which you are applying. For example, if you wish to apply for the 2007 academic year, your application must reach the Admissions Office before the 30th of September 2006.

What are the application /admission requirements?
When applying to be considered for undergraduate admission, ensure that you submit a completed UCT application form, a certified copy of your school leaving results. You must also meet UCT’s language requirements, qualify for a matriculation exemption from the South African Matriculation Board, and meet certain minimum faculty entry requirements.

There is a non-refundable application fee accompanying the application to UCT which an applicant is required to pay. (Please check amount for the academic year 2007 with the Admissions Office)

Meeting minimum requirements does not guarantee admission as study offers may be limited for reasons of available capacity. All applications are assessed individually.

For degree information and Faculty-specific academic requirements please visit the relevant faculty or contact them at the addresses below
* The Health Sciences faculty can only consider undergraduate applicants who are South African citizens or permanent residents, or citizens of SADC countries which do not offer the health science programme they wish to study.

**When can I apply for the Matriculation Exemption Certificate?**
A matriculation exemption is a legal requirement for first-degree study at a South African university. International students wishing to register for first-degree studies in South Africa must have their school qualifications evaluated by the Matriculation Board of South Africa that will then issue a certificate of exemption to those who qualify.

Once you have been offered a place of study at UCT you can apply for a Matriculation Exemption Certificate. An applicant should seek advice from their academic faculty on how to apply for this certificate as some faculties prefer to guide the applicants through the process of applying to the Matriculation Board. You can contact the Matriculation Board of South Africa at: [Http://www.sauvca.org.za/mb/](http://www.sauvca.org.za/mb/)  Tel:+ 27 12 481-2847 or 481 -2848

**How can I check the status of my UCT application?**
You can check the status of your application on the UCT website [https://www2.acs.uct.ac.za/prdweb/nwwcgi.exe/STU-WEB/WWW180nl](https://www2.acs.uct.ac.za/prdweb/nwwcgi.exe/STU-WEB/WWW180nl) alternatively you can call or e-mail the Admissions Office.

**What is the purpose of the IELTS or TOEFL language tests?**
The IELTS and TOEFL are English language proficiency tests. UCT uses English as a medium of instruction and examination. An international applicant whose first language is not English has to write either the IELTS or the TOEFL test. (This also refers to applicants who may have completed their education in English but are not first language speakers of English). UCT requires an applicant to submit a recent score (obtained within 3-5 years before application for admission). The TOEFL score should be at least 570 (paper-based TOEFL) or 230 (computer-based TOEFL). On the IELTS one is required to obtain an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual element of the testing scoring below 6.0.

You do not have to wait for the results of your TOEFL or IELTS test, to apply to UCT. If the English proficiency test results have not arrived before you wish to send in your application, put a note in with your application package, stating that you will be sending the proficiency test results separately. Try to give a predicted date on which this will be done. Your application cannot be completely processed before the TOEFL/IELTS results have been received; however, some preliminary assessments can be made.
Can I come to study at UCT to improve my English?
Not directly. The University of Cape Town is an English medium institution for tertiary education. A high standard of spoken and written English is required for admission. However, students with high TOEFL or IELTS score, who are accepted to study at UCT will obviously improve their English skills in the course of their studies.

Where can I write my TOEFL test?
You can contact the TOEFL centre at the following address:

TOEFL
P.O Box 6155
Princeton,
New Jersey
085416155
USA

E-mail: toefl@ets.org or web: www.toefl.org

Information on the TOEFL is also available in the following centres in South Africa

Cape Town
7th Floor
Broadway Centre
Hertzog Boulevard
Foreshore
Tel: +27 21 425 3510

Johannesburg
Empire Park
Block C
Ground Floor
55 Empire Road
Parktown
Tel:+ 27 11 482 3510

Durban
Global Consulting Network,
Penthouse Suite,
Boland Building
75 Crampton Street,
Pinetown
Tel:+ 27 31 709 1170

IELTS
Information on the IELTS can be obtained from the British Council at the British Embassy or Consulate in your country.
Web: Http://www.ielts.org

Information about the IELTS is also available from the British Council in:

Cape Town
What is required of a student intending on transferring to UCT?
A student who intends on transferring to UCT will be assessed on the basis of school-leaving results and higher education results. The designated officials at the academic faculty decide on the feasibility of a transfer. Kindly note that in order to graduate at UCT a student should have done a substantial amount of their academic work at UCT.

Can I apply for UCT Housing?
Yes. You may apply for accommodation at a UCT residence. You would need to indicate your interest in UCT accommodation on the UCT application form1 that you would have received from Admissions Office. Unfortunately, there is limited space and a high demand for a places in UCT residence thus not every applicant can be offered a place in UCT residence.

How do I check the status of my application for UCT Residence Accommodation?
You may visit:  https://www2.acs.uct.ac.za/prdweb/nwwcgi.exe/STU-WEB/WWW180nl or contact UCT Student Housing Tel: +27 21 650 2977/ 2429 E-mail:res@protem.uct.ac.za

What happens if I'm not offered a place in UCT residence?
We advise that you contact the Off-Campus Accommodation Bureau which could assist students with finding accommodation in suburbs surrounding UCT. Please visit their website at Http://cal.uct.ac.za/

When should I apply for a study permit?
An international student applies for a study permit once he or she has been offered a place of study at UCT by an academic faculty. Please read your letter of offer carefully as it contains important information to assist you in applying for a study permit. One would apply to the South African Embassy or High Commission in one’s home country. Remember it may take several weeks for your application to be processed.

Can I register and study without a valid study permit for UCT?
No. UCT cannot register you if you do not possess a valid study permit for the purpose of studying at UCT.

Can I register at UCT without Medical Aid Cover?
No. UCT will not pre-register you without proof of Medical Aid Cover. According to the New Immigration Regulations, amended regulation (10H) all international students studying in South Africa require:

“Proof of Medical Cover with a medical scheme registered in terms of the medical schemes Act, 1998 (Act no.131 of 1998) or other medical insurance cover recognised in the Republic” (Republic = South Africa)

It is the responsibility of student to keep medical insurance for his or her current academic year valid.

IAPO recommends the following medical aid providers:

INGWE HEALTH
TEL: +27 21 941 7600
FAX: +27 21 941 7609
http://www.ingwehpo.co.za

PROTEA/UCT MEDICAL AID
TEL: +27 21 939 4677
FAX: +27 21 939 1296
http://www.proteamas.co.za

PROSPERITY HEALTH
TEL: +27 21 419 2279
FAX: +27 21 419 2261
http://www.prosperitystudent.com

Could you please advise me on UCT tuition and residence fees?
This is a very important question to ask while considering UCT as possible study destination. Kindly refer to http://web.uct.ac.za/misc/iapo/finance/finance1.htm for information on UCT fees and relevant links on the issue of fees.

I am a citizen of Spain and I'm marrying a South African citizen. If I were offered a place to study at UCT would I qualify for local (South African) fees?
People married to South African Citizens or Permanent Residents pay South African fees **only once** they themselves have obtained South African citizenship or Permanent Residency.

Visit [http://web.uct.ac.za/misc/iapo/finance/finance2.htm](http://web.uct.ac.za/misc/iapo/finance/finance2.htm) to read about the International Fee Policy

**Is there financial assistance for undergraduate international students at UCT?**
There is no financial assistance for International undergraduate students at UCT. Thus, they are encouraged to seek funding from their home countries. Each student has to ensure that they have a secure source of funding to cover tuition costs, accommodation costs, books, pocket money and other general living expenses prior to taking up studies at UCT.

**Can I work in Cape Town to support my study endeavours?**
Yes, the new Immigration Act of 2002 allows for limited work whilst studying in South Africa. During the academic term a student can work for up to 20 hours a week. During vacation period, full time work can be undertaken. Students must obtain the **Permission to Work Letter from** UCT’s International Office (IAPO) allowing them to work. This letter is only given after registration and is only valid whilst a student is registered.