



Postgraduate Studies





Welcome to Postgraduate studies at UCT

UCT aims to produce graduates with internationally recognised and locally applicable qualifications, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice. We strive to provide a high-quality educational experience through:

- inspired and dedicated teaching and learning
- exposure to the creation of new knowledge
- cultivating competencies for global citizenship
- stimulating social consciousness
- attracting a diverse community of scholars.

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“Postgraduates! You are a critical part of the academic community, contributing to the global body of knowledge through your research. And you are the future innovators, researchers and lecturers. We are committed to walking with you, from start to finish, on your journey to your higher degree, in whichever field of study you choose to pursue.”

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*Professor Mosa Mshabela
Vice-Chancellor*

Did you know?

UCT is the leading university in Africa and is ranked among the top 200 in the world.

The UCT Knowledge Co-op facilitates postgraduate research in partnership with communities to address development challenges.

It is also 24th globally for infectious diseases (US News and World Report Best Global Universities Rankings for Subjects 2024-2025)) and 15th for development studies (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025).

UCT ranked 77th worldwide in the 2024 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, with six areas ranked in the top 100

UCT has been ranked the 55th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Most International Universities in the World 2024). UCT is also the only university in Africa to make the cut.

In 2016, UCT joined the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU), a network of 11 top-ranked research universities, including Yale, Oxford and Cambridge.

UCT's Hasso Plattner School of Design Thinking Afrika* is one of only three in the world and is geared at empowering design-led thinking.

UCT's Graduate School of Business is one of the world's leading business schools. Its Executive MBA was named the top EMBA programme in Africa and 11th globally in the 2025 CEO Magazine Global MBA Rankings.

<https://uct.ac.za/postgraduate-hub/contacts/faculty-postgraduate-contacts>

Development and support

Postgraduates at UCT have access to a wide range of resources to support their development throughout their degree journeys.

For a full list of resources on our website visit:

bit.ly/PGsupportUCT

To read about these resources and more, check out our Postgrad Snapshot here:

bit.ly/PostgradUCT

Postgraduate support

The Postgraduate Centre and Funding Office offers a Blue Desk (a one-stop information service) where postgraduates can enquire about all aspects of funding and its' administration pgfunding@uct.ac.za +27 (0)21 650 3622





The Office for Postgraduate Studies addresses the academic and professional needs of postgraduates. Here, you can enquire about many aspects of postgraduate affairs focused on a range of activities and opportunities specifically offered to support and help in your postgraduate journey. Where our staff may not be able to help you directly, they will do their utmost to redirect you to the appropriate office or person. pgstudies@uct.ac.za : bit.ly/PGstudiesCalendar

The Faculty Postgraduate Student Associations are run by students and foster a vibrant and diverse postgraduate culture.

The International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) provides support services to international postgraduate students relating to immigration, orientation, pre-registration, accommodation, exchange programmes and the international buddy programme initiative.

iapo@uct.ac.za +27 (0)21 650 2822 uct.ac.za/international

The Careers Office ensures that UCT's graduates are equipped with the skills they need to fulfil their career ambitions by providing advice, information and resources, and facilitating engagements between students and employers.

careers.service@uct.ac.za +27 (0)21 650 2497

The Student Wellness Service is staffed by medical practitioners and nurses who are dedicated to helping students remain healthy. Services include a 24-hour toll-free helpline, clinical consultations and psychological support.



Four postgraduate qualifications are available at UCT

Doctorate (PhD and others)

A degree requiring research at the most advanced levels, culminating in the acceptance of a doctoral thesis.

Master's degree

Either a research master's by full dissertation, a research master's by coursework and dissertation, or a professional master's degree.

Honours degree

A one-year degree consolidating and deepening expertise in a particular discipline.

Postgraduate diploma (PGDip)

Enables professionals to undertake advanced reflection and development in a particular discipline or profession.



UCT postgrads in numbers

Every year over 11 000 students (38% of total enrolment) embark on postgraduate studies at UCT, including roughly

- 2 200 doctoral students
- 6 000 master's students
- 1 400 honours students
- 1 600 PG Ddip students



UCT has a wide network of international partnerships across Africa and the rest of the world, including joint doctoral and master's programmes.



What's on offer?



UCT offers a full range of postgraduate programmes in six faculties: Commerce (including the Graduate School of Business), Engineering & the Built Environment, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law and Science. Find out about postgraduate degree requirements:

Four facts about postgraduate funding

- 1 Students registered for full-time honours, or master's with a research component larger than 33.3%, or doctoral studies, are eligible to apply for funding to supplement their studies.
- 2 UCT does not offer full-cost fellowships, but it does have a range of scholarships and bursaries that offer supplementary funding.
- 3 Most UCT postgraduate scholarships and bursaries allow students to undertake limited part time work.
- 4 Applications for funding must be submitted before the advertised closing dates, so apply as soon as possible. Don't wait until you have been accepted for your course.

To find out how to apply for postgraduate funding, check out our intro to Funding brochure here: bit.ly/introPGfunding.