



Faculty of Science





Welcome to the Faculty of Science

The faculty has a long and distinguished history. Formally established in 1918 by UCT's founding act, today it's a sizable faculty consisting of 12 departments and multiple research units whose teaching and research is internationally acknowledged for excellence.

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The Faculty of Science is a place of excitement and innovation, where students and staff rub shoulders as they create knowledge to serve the society we live in.

We conduct research at the forefront of disciplines that are both locally relevant and globally excellent. Our renowned scholars and accomplished teachers lead the training of new generations of graduates, who are making substantial contributions to science and society locally, on the African continent, and internationally.

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Professor *Hussein Suleman*
Dean of Science

Did you know?



1. The Faculty of Science is placed in the band of **51–100 top universities in Geography** and in the **top 150 universities band for Earth and Marine Sciences**, Environmental Science, Geology and Geophysics according to the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject.

3. The Faculty of Science graduated 445 undergraduate students and 491 postgraduate students during the 2024 academic year.

2. Two alumni from the Department of Physics have won Nobel prizes:

- Alan McCormack (Nobel Prize in Medicine, 1979, for the development of computer assisted tomography);
- Aaron Klug (1982 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for crystallographic electron microscopy).

4. There were 911 journal publications, 31 conference related publications and 6 book related publications produced by staff in the Faculty of Science during 2023.

How do I apply?



Come and see what is on offer at the Faculty of Science during UCT's annual Open Day or contact the faculty to arrange a visit. Undergraduate admission differs depending on whether you are applying based on the South African National Senior Certificate (NSC), International Examinations Board (IEB), or whether you are wanting to transfer from another tertiary institution to UCT.

For more details on the admission guidelines, visit www.science.uct.ac.za



CONTACT US

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Level 6, Chris Hani Building,
University Avenue, upper campus



Staff and student snapshot

Over 3 500 people, including



987
postgraduates



2 154
undergraduates



226
academic
staff



177 professional,
administrative
support and service
(PASS) staff

World-renowned teaching staff

In 2024, a considerable number of the faculty's staff were rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF):

- 12 A-rated (leading international scholars)
- 54 B-rated (internationally acclaimed scholars)
- 49 C-rated (established researchers)
- 13 Y-rated (young researchers)
- 4 P-rated (young researchers with the potential to become world leaders)

Internationally Recognised Research - 8 SARCHI Chairs

17 research groupings:

- The Human Evolution Research Institute
- Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology
- DST/NRF Centre of Excellence: Birds as Key to Biodiversity Change
- Plant Conservation Unit
- H3D - Drug Discovery and Development Centre
- Centre for Supramolecular Chemistry Research
- Scientific Computing Research Unit
- Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
- Climate Systems Analysis Group
- Biopharming Research Unit
- Nansen-Tutu Centre for Marine Environmental Research
- UCT-CERN Research Centre
- Metrological and Applied Sciences University Research Unit: MeASURE
- Centre for Theoretical and Mathematical Physics
- Centre for Statistics in Ecology, the Environment and Conservation
- Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa
- Marine and Antarctic Research Centre for Innovation and Sustainability





12 academic departments

Archaeology

Astronomy

Biological
Sciences

Chemistry

Computer
Science

Environmental
and
Geographical
Science

Geological
Sciences

Mathematics
and Applied
Mathematics

Molecular and
Cell Biology

Oceanography

Physics

Statistical
Sciences

Extended Degree Programme (EDP)

It is widely acknowledged that the transition from school to university is significant – the quantity of work, the pace at which material is covered and the conceptual complexity are all greater than students have experienced at school.

Our experience has shown that many first-year students can overcome the difficult transition from high school to university by being given a reduced learning load in their first year and by spreading the curriculum over a four-year period.

The EDP is structured so that students entering the programme will receive additional academic and general support to establish a sound educational foundation and improve their chances of graduating within the four years allocated.

