



University of Cape Town  
iYunivesithi Yasekapa  
Universiteit van Kaapstad

# Faculty of Humanities





## Welcome to the Faculty of Humanities

With over 7 000 students, the Faculty of Humanities is the second largest at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

**It comprises 19 vibrant academic departments located in three main clusters:** the arts, the social sciences, and the performing and creative arts. Common to all is a focus on the human condition in all its dimensions.

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“The Faculty of Humanities at UCT is committed to nurturing scholars who embody imagination, critical insight, and analytical depth. Our graduates emerge as innovative leaders, well-equipped to navigate and contribute meaningfully to a rapidly evolving world. I take pride in the transformative Humanities experience we offer –one that prepares students not only for professional success but also for active global citizenship.”

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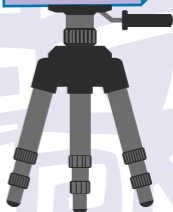
**Professor Shose Kessi**  
Dean Of Humanities

## Did you know?

1. The faculty has produced a number of world-renowned graduates, including Breyten Breytenbach (author), Philip Miller (international composer and sound artist), Roger Ebert (Pulitzer Prize winner), Richard E Grant (actor), Pretty Yende (opera singer), Akin Omotoso (film-maker) and two Nobel Prize winners – Emeritus Professor JM Coetzee (Literature) and Ralph Bunche (Peace).

3. The faculty offers 32 academic majors as well as the opportunity to choose from 21 majors offered through other faculties. This flexibility enables students to tailor their academic experience.

2. The present faculty was formed in 1999 as a result of a merger of the faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Education, Music and the Michaelis School of Fine Art.



## How do I apply?



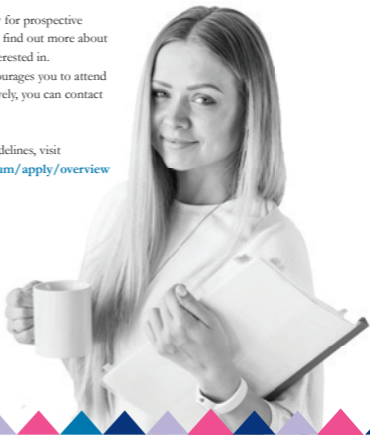
UCT holds an annual Open Day for prospective students to visit the campus and find out more about degree programmes they are interested in.

The Faculty of Humanities encourages you to attend Open Day if possible. Alternatively, you can contact the faculty to arrange a visit

For details on the admission guidelines, visit [www.humanities.uct.ac.za/hum/apply/overview](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/hum/apply/overview)

**CONTACT US**  
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**The Dean's Office**  
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[www.humanities.uct.ac.za](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za)



## 19 Academic departments

**African Feminist Studies** explores the power of gender dynamics within multiple fields of social relevance.

**African Studies and Linguistics** is an interdisciplinary teaching and research cluster located in the School of African and Gender Studies, Anthropology and Linguistics. It consists of two sections, the Centre for African Studies and the African Studies Unit.

**Education Development Unit** runs the four-year degree programme in the Humanities, the Plus Tuts, the Introductory Course project and various other initiatives to support student success.

**Historical Studies** encourages the interrogation of texts and the coherent communication of the results.


**Michaelis School of Fine Art** is one of South Africa's foremost institutions for the study of fine art and new media.

**Anthropology** provides practical training in analysis and methods of discovery that are useful in any activity that demands insight into complex social realities.


**Centre for Film and Media Studies** equips graduates with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills to embark on a career in the film and media industry.

**English Literary Studies** promotes access to literature in English from across the world.


**Knowledge and Information Stewardship** is a postgraduate department offering professional, academic and research programmes for information professionals.




**Philosophy** teaching and research spans analytic philosophy, with a thematic rather than historical approach.



**Political Studies** offers courses in international relations, comparative politics, South African politics, political theory, political economy, public policy and public administration.




**School of Education** is an interdisciplinary school focusing on research into knowledge development and transfer, policy evaluation and support, and adult education.




**Social Work and Social Development** offers social work education and training at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.




**South African College of Music** offers a range of degrees and diplomas in disciplines such as African music, composition and jazz.




**Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies** offers theatre and dance education and training in performance and performance-making.




**Psychology** focuses on how minds – individuals, groups and whole societies – develop and change over time.



**School of Languages and Literatures** offers teaching and research in languages, literatures and cultures of 11 national and international languages.



**Sociology** contributes to understanding South Africa in a globalised world through studying all manifestations of society.



**The Study of Religions** is committed to the open, plural, intercultural and interdisciplinary study of world religions.

# Student support at the Umthombo Centre for student success

The Umthombo Centre for Student Success provides strong academic and psycho-social support for Humanities students. A key initiative is the mentoring programme, where first-year students are paired with trained senior students. Mentors, closely supervised by Umthombo, meet with mentees weekly in the first semester, either one-on-one or in small groups. These sessions help students adjust to university life, build confidence, and develop academic skills, ensuring a smooth and supported transition into their studies.



## Rewards for academic excellence

- Faculty scholarships are awarded annually at the faculty's discretion to students who do well in the end-of-year examinations. The current value of the Faculty Scholarship Award is R20 000.
- A Fee Waiver for Enriched Curriculum can be granted to top-achieving undergraduate students, in their final year of study.
- The Dean's Merit List is an award given in recognition of consistent academic excellence. Nominations for the Dean's Merit List are based on above average academic performance and take into consideration individual programme load as well as the total duration of the degree.
- Class Medals are awarded by departments to top-performing students in the academic classes.



### Humanities in numbers [2025]

5641 undergraduates  
1768 postgraduate  
132 occasional  
7541 total students (2025)

### Excellence

5 SARChI  
2 Mellon research chairs  
86 NRF-rated staff members  
30 Distinguished Teacher Awards

### Internationally recognised research centres and institutes, including:

Centre for Contemporary Islam  
Institute for Humanities (HUMA)  
Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research  
Institute for Creative Arts (formerly GIPCA)  
Environmental Humanities South (EHS)  
Centre for Social Science Research

