

Your academic work can make a positive impact on people's lives.

The UCT Knowledge Co-op adds a new dimension to our commitment to community engagement by acting as gateway for external constituencies to access the knowledge, skills and professional expertise within the University.



How it works

- community groups submit an idea
- the Co-op matches them with students
- it is not volunteering – you do your thesis / practical work on this



How you can benefit

- gain community work experience
- contribute to address challenges for our society



How to get involved

- visit the WEBSITE
- check if any AVAILABLE PROJECTS interest you
- let us know

VISIT OUR STALL IN MOLLY BLACKBURN ON 24 AUGUST

www.knowledgeco-op.uct.ac.za



UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP

Opening the door for community partnerships with UCT



INTRODUCING THE UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP

An important part of the University of Cape Town's mission is to be socially responsive. Staff and students often work with, and on behalf of, local community partners, helping them to resolve a range of development challenges.

The UCT Knowledge Co-op adds a new dimension to our commitment to community engagement by acting as a gateway for external constituencies to access the knowledge, skills, resources and professional expertise within the University.

The UCT Knowledge Co-op encourages potential community partners to approach UCT for help with a project. We will work with them to decide whether their needs fit the criteria for a joint project with the University. If feasible, the Co-op will attempt to bring together the partner with appropriately qualified staff and students and facilitate the development and successful completion of the project.

Students, supervised by academic staff – or staff members themselves – may take on projects to give practical support or conduct research. In each case the work they do will benefit both the community partners and UCT's teaching, learning and research endeavours.

Prospective community partners

Suitable partners will be:

- located within the Greater Cape Town area
- community groups
- NGOs
- local government
- small and medium enterprises (SMME)
- trade unions



How the process will work

When community ideas are submitted to the UCT Knowledge Co-op, we will search for suitable partners in the University and connect staff members and/or students with the community partner. In some cases the requests may be broken down into components for different disciplines. These ideas may constitute the topics for student theses, they could develop into research themes for staff, or may be suitable for service learning opportunities. The UCT Knowledge Co-op will mediate between the partners to determine if there is a fit between the needs for both parties and clarify the objectives, methodology, respective responsibilities as well as a time frame.

Mutual benefits

The obvious benefit to the community partners is balanced with equal benefits to participating students, who:

- will gain experience working with a community group as part of their degree;
- will be able to show that they have carried out research for a real client, which is good for their CV;
- will receive help in making their project suitable for curriculum or dissertation requirements.

Academics will also benefit by being able to contribute to the University's social responsiveness goals.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Register your discipline and any specific skills on the database by submitting the information to: know-op@uct.ac.za

Information on existing partnerships may also be submitted for addition to the Knowledge Co-op database to be displayed on the website.

Once the website is fully operational, it will be possible to submit this information directly via the website.