

Dear staff and students

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS FOR THE UCT'S DISTINGUISHED SOCIAL RESPONSIVENESS AWARD (2025)**

*Social responsiveness* is core to the work of UCT as an engaged institution. In the context of UCT's Vision 2030, social responsiveness shines a bright light on our transformative agenda which supports staff and students to "unleash human potential for a just and fair society". As is embedded in research, teaching, and service to society, social responsiveness invites staff and students to engage deeply in the challenges of our time. Considering the above, it is therefore appropriate that social responsiveness receives institutional support and recognition to encourage staff and students to play an active role in grappling with the challenges that afflict our country, continent, and the world.

UCT's 'Distinguished Social Responsiveness Award' provides a clear institutional signal to members of the University that social responsiveness is an important core institutional activity.

The recipient(s) of the award will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Activities that have resulted in demonstrable mutual benefit to the academic enterprise and an external non-academic constituency (What has been the **impact** in the community?)
- Evidence of how the initiative has enhanced teaching/learning or research purposes.
- Evidence of knowledge co-production, dissemination, integration, and/or application privileging/including non-academic partners.
- Evidence of Knowledge Translation (Effective communication of research findings to non-academic audiences.)
- Evidence that the activity has a **demonstrable impact** (awareness, change in practices, behaviour, policy impact, etc).
- Evidence of Reach and Significance (The breadth (who was affected) and depth (how much they were affected) of the impact.)
- Evidence of sustained collaboration with stakeholders
- Evidence of sustainability of impact (Evidence that the impact is ongoing or has led to long-term transformation.)
- Evidence of Ethical and Responsible Conduct (Adherence to ethical standards, inclusivity, and responsible research practices.)
- Evidence of the applicant's commitment to social justice and transformation

Depending on the nature of the activity (research, teaching/learning, service, and innovation) the following criteria may be considered:

- Contribution to brokering and facilitating relationships that have enhanced the University's engagement with local, regional, national, or continental challenges.
- Contribution to the emergence of new notions of professional practice designed to meet the needs of the South African context.
- Evidence of sustainability of the initiative. How will the partners continue to

work together or determine when the partnership is concluded.

- Evidence of activities that have positive and inclusive impacts on youth and females to promote agency.

### **Eligibility**

The award is open to individual staff and formal or informal groupings within the university. Staff must be employed either on a permanent basis or under a limited-term contract of at least two years and must have been employed for not less than 12 months prior to the date of nomination.

### **Nomination procedures**

The nominations/applications should include the following:

1. A narrative (no more than 1000 words) describing how the nominee/applicant fulfil(s) the stated criteria. The narrative should include: a brief outline of the history, aims, scope, and outcomes of the SR initiative, its methodology, and the nature of partnerships involved.
2. A letter of commendation/reference from an external constituency commenting on the nature of the SR activity in which the candidate(s) has/have excelled, the impactful and reciprocal nature of the initiative, and the nature of the partnership.
3. A letter of commendation from a university referee commenting on how the initiative has enhanced knowledge production, the curriculum/pedagogy, knowledge dissemination, or knowledge application.
4. For socially responsive teaching, comment will be invited on structure according to sound educational principles, to supplement and complement the theoretical components of the curriculum; demonstration of adequate supervision of participants; thorough training/preparation for the project or programme, and the regular and adequate assessment thereof.  
Documentation is to be submitted as a single PDF.
5. The Committee may invite those unsuccessful candidates whom it considers to be at the appropriate level to remain on the list for two years after the year of nomination. Any nominee whom the Committee considers to be at the appropriate level will receive feedback related to areas to be reworked for an updated application.
6. The award can be awarded posthumously.

### **Selection Committee**

A selection committee will consider nominations and make recommendations to the USRC in relation to granting the award.

### **Value of award: R50 000**

### **Use of award**

The award may be used to further social responsiveness or can be used for any legitimate project expenses, including equipment, running expenses, travel, or a combination of these.

Nominations and applications for the Distinguished Social Responsiveness award should be submitted to Sonwabo Ngcelwane, email address: [sonwabo.ngcelwane@uct.ac.za](mailto:sonwabo.ngcelwane@uct.ac.za), no later than **WEDNESDAY 31 December 2025**.

Regards

Sonwabo Ngcelwane