

**URC CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**2026 UCT BOOK AWARD AND MERITORIOUS BOOK PRIZES**

**Submission deadline: Wednesday, 15 April 2026.**

Please send all queries to Zam Ndzotyana ([zam.ndzotyana@uct.ac.za](mailto:zam.ndzotyana@uct.ac.za))

**1. PURPOSE OF THE AWARDS**

To give recognition for outstanding and/or influential books written by staff members of the University, and thereby to encourage creativity and scholarship. The award/prize may be made to one-single or multiple-authored book. Books in hard copy and electronic form will be considered. Academic books of any category (including fiction, poetry, artists' books, manuals, textbooks\*, and popularization of academic work) will be considered. No restriction is placed on the language in which the book is written. Normally, one award is made in any one year. However, if no book of sufficient merit is nominated, no award will be made.

*\*Textbooks that are eligible for the UCT Open Resource Textbook Prize will not be considered for the UCT Book Award.*

**2. VALUE**

The Book Award carries a purse of R 30 000; up to two Meritorious Book Prizes of R15 000, each, may be awarded.

**3. Eligibility criteria for nominees:**

To be considered for the Book Award or Meritorious Book Prize:

- The book must have been written by staff members of UCT;
- The book must have been published within the last five years;
- Most of the work should have been done during the author(s) employment at UCT; and
- In the case of multi-authored works, the UCT author(s) should have made the most significant contribution to the work. Evidence of this should be supplied with the nomination.

**4. Nomination process:**

- Please complete the application form, which can be downloaded from <http://forms.uct.ac.za/ri35.docx>
- Nominators must be staff members of the University and may nominate their own work.
- Nominations need not be endorsed by the person who produced the book.
- Books previously nominated (except winners) may be re-nominated.

**Each nomination must be seconded and should include the following:**

- A letter of nomination stating why the nominator(s) thinks that the book should be considered for the award;
- A minimum of three independent, substantive, **published** scholarly reviews. For works of fiction, reviews by literary critics and nominations for prestigious literary awards or prizes will be considered;
- A hard or electronic copy of the book.

**Submission requirements:**

Completed nominations must be emailed to [researchfunding@uct.ac.za](mailto:researchfunding@uct.ac.za). Where an electronic copy of the book is not possible, two hard copies must be submitted to the Research Support Services Cluster (for attention: Ms Zam Ndzotyana), Research Office, 2 Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray, by or before the deadline (**Wednesday, 15 April 2026**).

**Please note:** URC has decided to hold the call for the Book Award every two (2) years after the 2026 cycle.