

University of Cape Town
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Universiteit van Kaapstad



Undergraduate Student Admissions





Welcome to Undergraduate students admissions



The University of Cape Town (UCT) is renowned for the quality of its teaching and learning and for its commitment to engaging with society's challenges through research and active citizenship. UCT attracts talented students, particularly those who value social justice and engaged citizenship. In our commitment to transformation and social justice, UCT aims to mirror the country's racial and socio-economic diversity.

Handy facts for first-time applicants



1 UCT's undergraduate applications cycle starts in April and closes on 31 July.

2 Available undergraduate funding includes merit-based entrance scholarships (criteria available at www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-funding-administration/financial-assistance/overview) and need-based financial assistance. Apply directly to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme at www.nsfas.org.za.

3 After applying, applicants can track their application status and update their details, including capturing interim results, through UCT's online self-service portal, using their student number and password.

4 An application for student accommodation is not a separate application but is incorporated into the application for admission.

5 Current learners should ensure that examination results from Grade 11 until September of Grade 12 (or equivalent) are submitted.

6 Applicant resources such as the Undergraduate Prospectus and Directions for Undergraduate Applicants are available at www.students.uct.ac.za/students/applications-apply/forms.

7 UCT's Admissions Office hours are from 08:30 to 16:30 Monday to Friday (from 09:30 on Thursdays).



Did you know?

1 You may book your free interview with a Student Recruitment Officer by calling +27 (0)21 650 4556.

2 UCT will host an open day for prospective students. Please monitor our website for details.

UCT's admissions policy balances merit, disadvantage and diversity

Our current admissions policy is located within the contexts of these objectives. Our system for admission is based on five principles:



1 Identifying applicants with the highest potential, recognising that they may not have achieved the highest marks in the National Senior Certificate or National Benchmark Tests due to the quality of their schooling or home environment.



2 Attracting the highest-performing students nationally, regardless of their race or degree of disadvantage.



3 Increasing the number of black and coloured students.



4 Reflecting a wider diversity of social class in first-year classes by increasing first-generation university students, students from under-resourced schools and those from lower income households.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ADMISSION TO UCT, VISIT: www.students.uct.ac.za/students/applications/apply/undergraduate

5 Giving students the necessary support to ensure a high probability of graduating





What data helps us achieve these goals?



The admissions application process asks questions that are aimed at developing an applicant's 'disadvantage factor'. These include details of the school they attended, their parents' and grandparents' level of education, their mother's home language, and their financial background. UCT uses the computed 'disadvantage factor' to weigh applicants' scores. Admission to each academic programme is achieved by using the three bands described below.

Snapshots of UCT Students

Approximately 29 396 students are enrolled to study at UCT each year

17 518 undergraduates
11 439 postgraduates
439 occasional).

Students by faculty (undergraduate and postgraduate) in 2024:

7 464 Commerce
(including the Graduate School of Business)

4 355 Engineering & the Built Environment

5 201 Health Sciences
7 690 Humanities
1 289 Law
3 397 Science

Over 8 300 students can be accommodated in UCT residences

Many more are accommodated privately off campus.



Demand vs availability of places

BAND A

Guaranteed offers based on Faculty Points Score (FPS)

BAND B

Offers based on Weighted Points Score (WPS)

BAND C

Redress offers based on Faculty Points System (FPS)



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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)

Numbers

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

