# UCT
# *International Office*

# *Welcome* to UCT International Office

The International Office at the University of Cape Town (UCT) is focused on advancing internationalisation through innovation for a better world. Internationalisation activities and inter-institutional relationships offer benefits to our partners but also offer a range of opportunities to local students, staff and researchers to engage in a global world.

"Strengthening international education through global citizenship is critical to unleashing human potential for a fair and just society. UCT, as an international institution in, for and from Africa, ensures that students and researchers are provided with academic and cultural exchange partnership opportunities to become knowledge catalysts that make the volatile, uncertain, changing and ambiguous world better."

*Quinton Johnson, Director :*
UCT International Office

# Student **body**

**International: Africa**
**78** undergraduates
**558** postgraduates
**34** countries

**International: rest of the world**
**272** undergraduates
**602** postgraduates
**63** countries

**SADC Countries**
**743** undergraduates
**1364** postgraduates
**14** countries

**Asylum seekers/refugees**
**25** undergraduates
**27** postgraduates
**12** Countries
***2024 statistics**

## For further information relating to the International Office, please contact us at:


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## Sustainable research partnerships

Taking advantage of its geographical location and position as a leading university in Africa, UCT plays a vital role in connecting institutions in the Global North with its extensive research collaborations across Africa. This allows the university to draw international expertise to the continent, to strengthen collaborations within the continent and to ensure that an African voice is present in global debates. UCT is a member of a carefully targeted number of formal networks:

- The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)
- The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)
- The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)
- The Southern African–Nordic Centre (SANORD)
- The Australia–Africa Universities Network (AAUN).

# Growing African **connections**

UCT fosters a range of partnerships to strengthen capacity across the continent.

**Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program:** The program provides academically talented students who have showcased resilience and persistence with access to quality education, leadership development and career opportunities. The program is designed to support the next generation of transformative African leaders who will drive social and economic change in their communities.

**The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)** is a partnership network of universities across Africa that supports 13 centres of excellence across the continent. UCT hosts two of these centres: The Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (https://arua.org/coe-climate-and-development/) and the African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (https://arua.org/african-centre-of-excellence-for-inequalities-research-aceir/).

**The Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)** is the first international forum dedicated to uniting leading women scientists from both developing and developed countries. Based at the offices of The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) in Trieste, Italy, OWSD aims to strengthen the role of women in science and enhance their representation in scientific and technological leadership.

UCT joined the programme in 2007, when three students from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda were awarded fellowships. Since then, 21 fellowships have been granted for studies at UCT, supporting women in advancing their scientific careers.

# Staff and student **mobility**

Staff and student exchanges with partner universities across the globe allow for the exchange of knowledge, networks and career development.

# Semester study **abroad**

UCT offers a vibrant study abroad programme for students wanting to spend one or two semesters experiencing life in Cape Town while completing a degree elsewhere. SSA students are taught alongside other UCT students and are fully integrated into academic and social life at UCT. Students can take undergraduate and postgraduate courses from across UCT's course catalogue.

# Global Learning Programmes

**Global Learning Programmes** are diverse in both students and curricula and bring together students and faculty leaders from across the globe to experience a dynamic, interactive and memorable academic and cultural immersion in Cape Town.

1. The Global Summer Programme provides short international programme opportunities at 11 prominent research universities to nominated UCT students.

2. The UCT Global Academy is a signature four-week programme on specialised themes in social justice and contemporary South Africa that is offered to students from across the globe.

3. The Society, Language and Arts Programme takes a critical look at some of the vibrant communities in Cape Town. Students experience modern societies first-hand while simultaneously taking a deep dive into South Africa's past.

**The Sustainable Water Management programme** provides a two-week interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach to examine the complexity of the water crisis and trends.

Additional programmes that are offered include faculty-led programmes, customised programmes, standardised programmes, service-learning programmes and island programmes.

Information last updated in March 2025