

# POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM



**FULL BROCHURE** Check out the digital brochure for each category of support



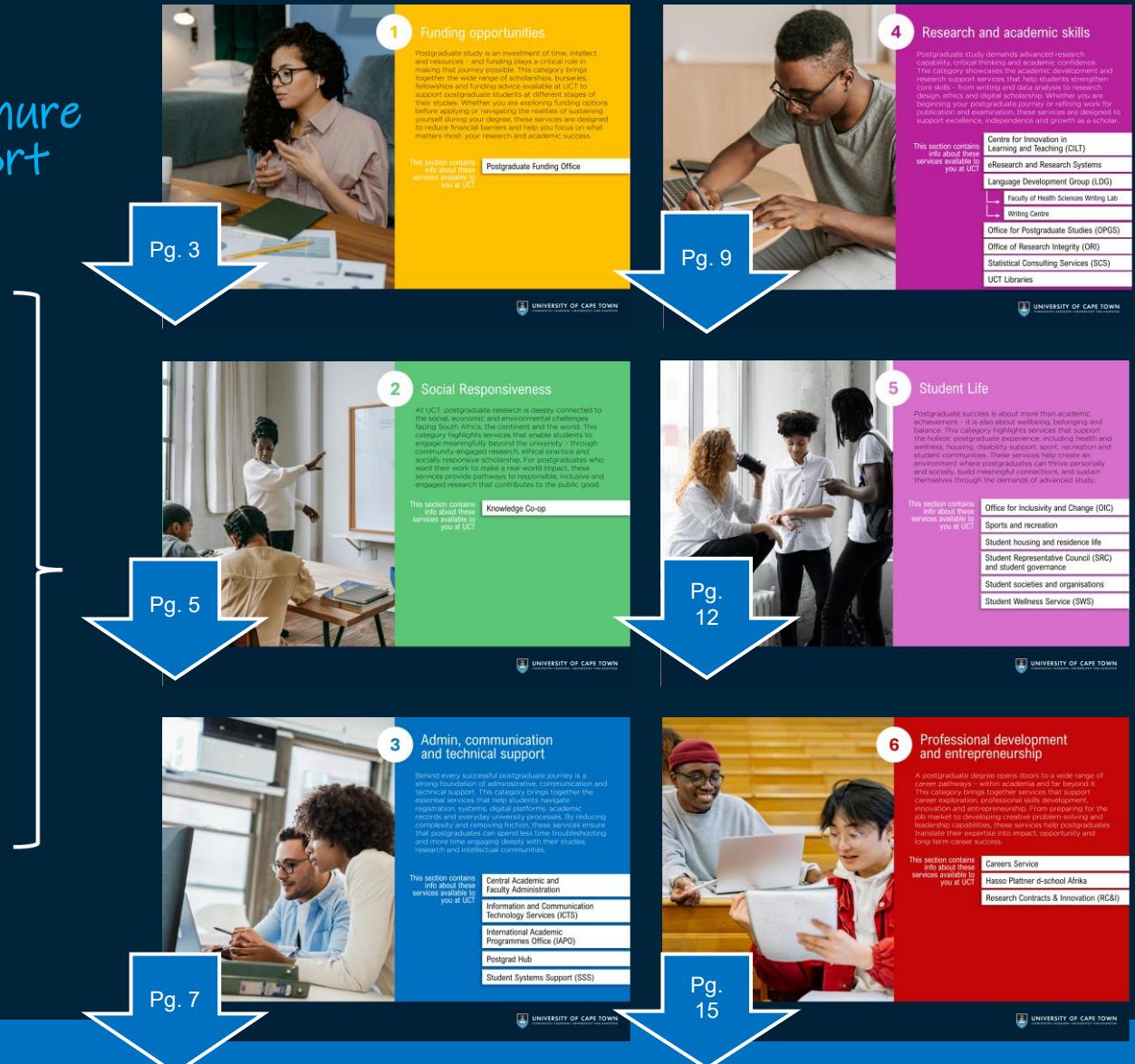
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# OVERVIEW

Check out the digital brochure  
for each category of support

## Categories of support

-  Funding opportunities
-  Social Responsiveness
-  Admin, communication  
and technical support
-  Research and academic skills
-  Student Life
-  Professional development  
and entrepreneurship



# FULL BROCHURE



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A photograph of a young woman with dark, curly hair, wearing glasses and white earbuds. She is sitting at a wooden desk, looking down at her hands which are clasped together. On the desk in front of her is a laptop, a green notebook, a yellow pencil, and some papers with diagrams. The background shows a couch and a lamp.

1

# Funding opportunities

Postgraduate study is an investment of time, intellect and resources – funding plays a critical role in making that journey possible. This category brings together the wide range of scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and funding advice available at UCT to support postgraduate students at different stages of their studies. Whether you are exploring funding options before applying or navigating the realities of sustaining yourself during your degree, these services are designed to reduce financial barriers and help you focus on what matters most – your research and academic success.

This section contains info about the services available to you at UCT under this category

**Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO)**

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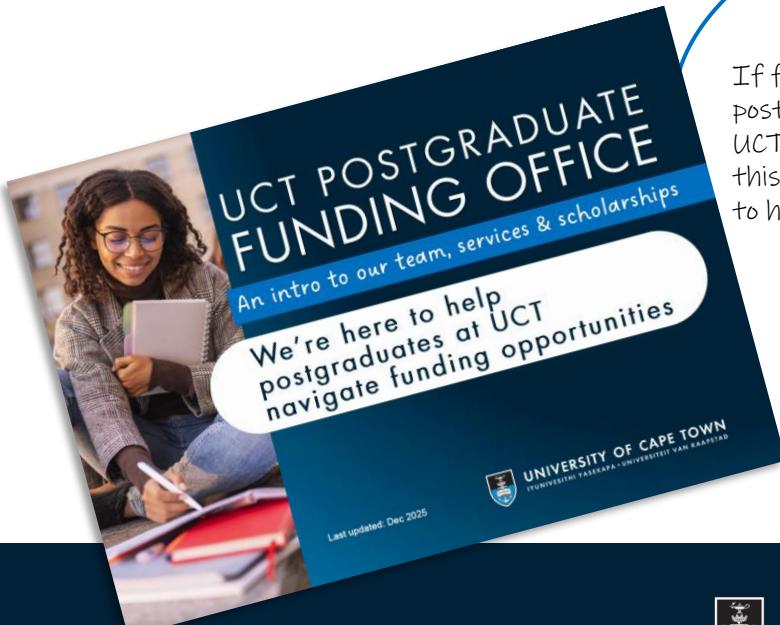


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Helping  
postgrads  
navigate funding  
opportunities

## Postgraduate Funding Office (PGFO)

The PGFO is your first port of call for navigating the complex world of postgraduate student funding. Located in the Otto Beit building, level 3, this service offers advice on scholarships, bursaries, fellowships and funding applications. Providing vital guidance to students who need financial support but don't know how to access it.



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for more info



If finding funding for your postgraduate studies at UCT feels overwhelming, this brochure is designed to help you get started.



## 2

# Social responsiveness

At UCT, postgraduate research is deeply connected to the social, economic and environmental challenges facing South Africa, the continent and the world. This category highlights services that enable students to engage meaningfully beyond the university – through community-engaged research, ethical practice and socially responsive scholarship. For postgraduates who want their work to make a real-world impact, these services provide pathways to responsible, inclusive and engaged research that contributes to the public good.

This section contains info about the services available to you at UCT under this category

## Knowledge Co-op

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Have your  
research make  
a difference in  
communities

## Knowledge Co-op

The Knowledge Co-op connects postgraduate researchers to community partners such as non-governmental organisations, government entities and industry groups with real-world research needs. It supports community-engaged research projects by helping students apply their academic work to urgent societal challenges and offering guidance throughout the collaboration.

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for more info





3

## Admin, communication and technical support

Behind every successful postgraduate journey is a strong foundation of administrative, communication and technical support. This category brings together the essential services that help students navigate registration, systems, digital platforms, academic records and everyday university processes. By reducing complexity and removing friction, these services ensure that postgraduates can spend less time troubleshooting and more time engaging deeply with their studies, research and intellectual communities.

This section contains info about the services available to you at UCT under this category

Central Academic & Faculty Administration

Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS)

International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO)

Postgrad Hub

Student Systems Support (SSS)

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Postgrad  
administrators  
offer guidance  
on anything  
admin-related

## Central Academic & Faculty Administration

Admin is an ever-present and inescapable part of one's postgraduate degree experience. UCT's administrative backbone assists with academic records, registration, programme progression, examination procedures and compliance with postgraduate requirements, ensuring your academic journey runs smoothly from enrolment to graduation. Especially useful to this cohort are the designated postgraduate administrators within each faculty whose job it is to help postgraduates figure out the administrative requirements associated with their degree programmes.

Solving all your  
internet and  
computer-  
related issues

## Information and Communication Technology Services (ICTS)

As a student at UCT, you can access a wide range of information and communication technology services to support your academic endeavours. ICTS ensures you have the digital tools and infrastructure needed to optimise your postgraduate studies – from campus Wi-Fi and email systems to software licenses and tech support. It underpins your access to online learning, research platforms and digital collaboration tools. All first-time entering students are eligible to receive a laptop from UCT at a reduced cost from ICTS, but you can only opt-in for a UCT laptop during the registration process.

For our  
international  
students and/or  
an international  
experience

## International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO)

This office supports international postgraduates by advising on visas, immigration and study-abroad opportunities. Whether you're coming to UCT from abroad or planning research time overseas, IAPO offers specialist guidance to help you navigate logistics and opportunities.



Online info  
hub about  
your degree  
journey from  
start-to-finish

## Postgrad Hub

A central information portal for prospective and current postgraduates, the Postgraduate Hub consolidates vital resources on funding, academic administration, career support, wellness and postgraduate-specific events. It also hosts an events calendar with workshops, webinars and networking opportunities tailored to postgraduate needs.



The team  
behind UCTs  
online student  
admin systems

## Student Systems Support (SSS)

This team assists students with using PeopleSoft self-service, UCT's online student administrative system for registration and student records, helping students efficiently resolve technical issues and manage their academic journey from registration through to graduation.





# 4

# Research and academic skills

Postgraduate studies demand advanced research capability, critical thinking and academic confidence. This category showcases the academic development and research support services that help students strengthen core skills – from writing and data analysis to research design, ethics and digital scholarship. Whether you are beginning your postgraduate journey or refining work for publication and examination, these services are designed to support your excellence, independence and growth as a scholar.

This section contains info about the services available to you at UCT under this category

**Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT)**

**eResearch and Research Systems**

**Language Development Group (LDG)**

- Faculty of Health Sciences Writing Lab
- Writing Centre

**Office for Postgraduate Studies (OPGS)**

**Office of Research Integrity (ORI)**

**Statistical Consulting Services (SCS)**

**UCT Libraries**

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Digital tools that enable your academic studies

Transform your research with advanced tools for data analysis, data management and support in research software

Opportunities enabling knowledge-making through language

## Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT)

Focusing on digitally-enabled education, CILT utilises AI tools and EdTech to create flexible, student-focused learning experiences. It also provides guidance on UCT's digital learning platforms and resources to help you thrive in both online and face-to-face academic environments.



## eResearch and Research Systems

UCT's eResearch Centre accelerates data-intensive enquiry, supporting you through the full research lifecycle from Advanced Research Computing and Research Data Management to Research Software Engineering and Open Science. Complementing this, the Research Systems unit streamlines your administrative workflows, supporting essential platforms like REDCap (secure data collection), and iThenticate (originality checking), ensuring you have the technological foundation for high-impact research.



## Language Development Group (LDG)

Supporting postgraduate research capacity development through reading and writing across disciplines, the LDG offers students a range of targeted opportunities to use language to build and communicate research knowledge.



## Faculty of Health Sciences Writing Lab

At the Writing Lab you will find a supportive, collaborative space where you can meet with trained consultants to brainstorm and discuss ideas and challenges related to any aspect of your academic reading and writing. Our team is also specially trained to help you identify challenges in your reading and writing, and to teach you about the strategies you can use to develop as an academic writer. All our services are completely free-of-charge.



## Writing Centre

UCT's Writing Centre provides free, one-on-one consultations for all students and staff, helping you sharpen academic writing skills – from brainstorming and structuring ideas to refining arguments and citation practices. It's a valuable resource for thesis chapters, grant proposals, conference abstracts and more.



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Fueling  
academic  
success through  
holistic support

## Office for Postgraduate Studies (OPGS)

The OPGS drives postgraduate academic success through targeted skills development. It goes beyond the thesis, offering dynamic workshops and resources that build core competencies for high-impact research and the establishment of a sustainable career. The office connects students with a full network of support to master their academic journey – from research design and writing to self-management and personal effectiveness.

Keeping you  
informed about  
all things  
ethics-related

## Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

The ORI advocates for research being conducted ethically and with integrity. This office serves to guide, train and support the research community, especially UCT's postgraduate students, with respect to the responsible conduct of research, ethics, biosafety and compliance. This is facilitated with the highest national and international standards applicable to scholarly and scientific work.

Get the help you  
need for research  
design, data  
analysis  
and interpretation

## Statistical Consulting Services (SCS)

UCT's Department of Statistical Sciences offers professional SCS to postgraduate students. The SCS provides expert support across all stages of the research process, including study design, data analysis and interpretation of results. Through this service, postgraduate researchers are assisted in selecting appropriate statistical methodologies, analysing data accurately, and ensuring methodological rigour in theses and scholarly publications. The SCS operates on a partial cost-recovery basis. All billable consulting work is charged at an hourly rate.

Consult our  
faculty liaison  
librarians who  
offer specialised  
research-related  
guidance

## UCT Libraries

UCT Libraries is the heart of academic research support, with expansive print and electronic collections, subject-specialist resources, research guides and designated study spaces for postgraduates. Librarians can help you access scholarly materials, manage citations and navigate research databases critical to your postgraduate work.





# 5

## Student Life

Postgraduate success is about more than academic achievement – it is also about wellbeing, belonging and balance. This category highlights services that support the holistic postgraduate experience, including health and wellness, housing, disability support, sport, recreation and student communities. These services help create an environment where postgraduates can thrive personally and socially, build meaningful connections, and sustain themselves through the demands of advanced study.

This section contains info about the services available to you at UCT under this category

**Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC)**

**Sports and recreation**

**Student housing and residence life**

**Student Representative Council (SRC) and student governance**

**Student societies and organisations**

**Student Wellness Service (SWS)**

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Focuses on  
student cultural  
inclusion and  
capacity  
development

## Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC)

This office focuses on staff and student cultural inclusion and capacity development. Disability Services, Employment Equity and Discrimination and Harassment services are offered through the OIC in addition to training, education and capacity development for staff and students.

Stay active,  
destress and build  
community  
beyond the  
academic sphere

## Sports and recreation

Inclusive sport and recreation offerings promote holistic wellbeing, recognising the intensity of postgraduate research. By supporting balance, resilience and embodied health through competitive and recreational sporting codes, these codes contribute to rehabilitating stress and sustaining vitality, reinforcing the intersection of excellence, transformation, social sustainability, and the human-centred ethos of the Department of Student Affairs (DSA) Framework 2035.



Managing your  
living space on  
and off campus

## Student housing and residence life

Postgraduate housing support acknowledges diverse living contexts, including residence and off-campus accommodation. In alignment with the DSA 2035 Framework grounded on the 3Ps; Humanising Pedagogy, Pedagogy of Discomfort and Pneumatological Pedagogy and the 3Rs; Rekindle Dying Embers of the Soul, Rehabilitate the Soul so that the Soul can Radiate, once the Soul Radiates students Flourish Ad Infinitum. Hence the DSA motto: 3R=F Ad Infinitum. These environments are intentionally shaped as living-learning ecosystems that Rekindle scholarly purpose, Rehabilitate wellbeing through stable and respectful spaces and enable students to Radiate intellectual contribution. Guided by the Humanising Pedagogy, residences foster academically focused communities that balance independence, quiet study, and relational belonging.



Peer-led  
leadership is a  
vital part of the  
postgrad  
community

## Student Representative Council (SRC) and student governance

Postgraduate students are represented within the SRC and institutional governance structures that advocate for research conditions, funding access, supervision quality and academic progression. Through the Pedagogy of Discomfort, governance engagement strengthens critical voice and ethical agency, while advancing the 3Rs by cultivating accountable participation that enables postgraduates to Radiate leadership within complex academic systems.



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for more info

Encouraging  
spaces for  
intellectual,  
cultural, social  
and advocacy  
engagement

## Student societies and organisations

Over 100 student societies and organisations offer spaces for intellectual, cultural, social and advocacy engagement. These peer-led groups provide opportunities to build leadership skills, pursue passions and make connections across disciplines. Student Societies and Development Agencies create interdisciplinary spaces for intellectual exchange, leadership formation and collegial connection. These platforms reflect the Pneumatological Pedagogy, nurturing meaning, identity, and purpose beyond formal curricula while Rekindling community and enabling postgraduates to Radiate scholarship within and beyond the university.



Supporting your  
physical and  
emotional  
wellbeing

## Student Wellness Service (SWS)

This service provides confidential, professional support attuned to the distinctive pressures of postgraduate study, including research intensity, isolation and academic uncertainty. Anchored in the 3Ps, this support affirms dignity, restores equilibrium, and strengthens the capacity of students to Rekindle inner resources and Radiate sustained scholarly engagement. The SWS supports your physical and emotional wellbeing with clinical consultations, counselling, health advice and a toll-free 24-hour care line (call: 0800 24 25 26). Whether you're dealing with stress, acute or chronic health issues or just seeking preventative support, SWS is a confidential and professional resource.





6

## Professional development and entrepreneurship

A postgraduate degree opens doors to a wide range of career pathways – within academia and far beyond it. This category brings together services that support career exploration, professional skills development, innovation and entrepreneurship. From preparing for the job market to developing creative problem-solving and leadership capabilities, these services help postgraduates translate their expertise into impact, opportunity and long-term career success.

This section contains info about the services available to you at UCT under this category

**Careers Service**

**Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika**

**Research Contracts & Innovation (RC&I)**

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Career-planning  
tools, industry  
insights, job-  
search support  
and more

## Careers Service

This service equips postgraduates with career planning tools, industry insights, job-search support, CV and interview coaching and networking platforms. Through career events, personalised consultations and the MyCareer portal, you'll be better placed to transition from postgraduate study to fulfilling professional pathways.



Equipping students  
to tackle complex  
challenges through  
design thinking

## Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika

The Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika fosters creative and design-led thinking, equipping postgraduate students to address complex challenges through human-centred innovation. Its programmes develop analytical ideation and prototyping skills valued by employers and highly applicable across academic, research and professional contexts.



The guidance you  
need to translate  
your research into  
commercial  
outcomes

## Research Contracts & Innovation (RC&I)

RC&I helps postgraduates negotiate contracts, protect intellectual property, manage compliance and support the translation of research outcomes into commercial, social or policy impact – helping you maximise the value of your research.

