



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2022, UCT received funding of R1.93 billion for undergraduate and postgraduate financial assistance. On average, close to 50% of undergraduate and 35% of postgraduate students receive funding support annually. In addition, there are UCT staff members who donated part of their salaries to UCT projects, including student financial aid.

In 2022, NSFAS assisted 6 168 students with DHET and prefunder partner funding valued at R873 million.

CONTACT US

UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

Student Financial Aid Office
Level 3, Kramer Law Building
Cross Campus Road
Middle Campus

+27 (0)21 650 3545

financialaid@uct.ac.za

www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-funding-administration/
financial-assistance/overview

NSFAS ONLINE APPLICATION

www.nsfas.org.za/content

Share Call Number: 0860 0067 327

Email: info@nsfas.org.za

*Information last updated in May 2024.

POSTGRADUATE FUNDING

2024

In January 2024, the minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande launched a funding programme for the missing middle to be managed by NSFAS. Students from households with an income of between R350 001 and R600 000 can apply to NSFAS for loan assistance towards tuition and accommodation. Funding for the NSFAS “missing middle” includes some postgraduate programmes. Information on NSFAS funding and their application process is available at www.NSFAS.org.za.



FACT UCT fees may seem higher than most other universities, but they are all-inclusive – “what you see is what you pay for”. They include access to UCT’s campus shuttle service, campus-wide Wi-Fi, laboratory fees, computer lab fees, all notes and levies.

WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

UCT also supports students on financial aid in practical ways:

1 Laptop programme

The university runs a Student Laptop Programme to enable students to benefit from the price of bulk buying, and NSFAS-funded students can opt into the programme and receive a laptop that is covered by their learning materials allowance.

1 482   **7 465**  

In 2022, 1 482 students were assisted with laptops, many of whom were NSFAS-funded.

Number of students who benefitted from the laptop programme 2017–2022.

2 Residence and accommodation

Most eligible financial aid students are guaranteed a place in residence at the university.

- The deadline for applications is on 31 August each year.

3 Careers Service

UCT’s Careers Service proactively supports the career development journey of UCT students, enabling them to realise their professional potential and contribute meaningfully to society. A diverse range of free career development services are provided to all UCT students at any stage of their learning journey up to three years after graduation. Bespoke webinars are regularly hosted where industry experts and recent graduates share their contemporary world of work. Student entrepreneurs are kept informed of institutional, national and international opportunities to compete for start-up funding, mentorship or market-readiness competitions. The MyCareer portal is regularly updated with employment, sponsorship or internship opportunities. The service aligns its offerings with the academic calendar to ensure that students receive support aligned to their interests and needs.



20

Student financial aid



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UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING

In 2022, over 9 000 undergraduate students – nearly half of UCT’s undergraduates – received some form of financial support. A total of R1.93 billion was received from various sources, such as NSFAS, UCT funding, government agencies, corporates, foundations, trusts and individuals.

About 14 733 students received 21 176 bursary/scholarship awards from NSFAS, sponsors, NGOs, university scholarships and other funders.

Financial aid for eligible students

UCT is committed to helping students who can’t afford university fees, as long as they meet the financial criteria and register good academic progress.

Many UCT students receive financial aid from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), from donations and bursaries, as well as from GAP funding from UCT, which funds students who do not qualify for NSFAS funding, but whose families are also not wealthy enough to pay their full fees. Over the years UCT Financial Aid has enabled thousands of young people to pursue their academic goals.

NSFAS AND GAP FUNDING

All applications for financial aid is made to NSFAS on the online applications platform. NSFAS applications for the next academic admission normally opens around September and closes at the end of November. Students entering university for the first time and who are South African citizens or permanent residents and from families where the gross annual income is below R350 001 qualify for NSFAS funding for approved funded programmes.

UCT GAP funding is considered for applicants who applied to NSFAS and did not meet the NSFAS eligibility criteria. Students with an annual gross family income of between R350 001 and R600 000 are eligible for GAP funding.

*Information pertaining to 2023 was unaudited at the time of publishing.



FUNDING AVENUES

Depending on their financial means, students can apply for funding via the following avenues:

1 The National Student Financial Aid Scheme

First-time applications for the NSFAS financial aid (as well as funding renewal for students who already get NSFAS funding) are handled centrally via NSFAS. Students should approach NSFAS directly via their online application system.

- Although the student may have applied at several universities to study, only one financial aid application directly to NSFAS is required.
- For 2023, NSFAS funded accommodation which was capped at R50,000. Applicants are advised to seek additional funding from other sources in case of a shortfall.

2 UCT GAP funding programme

GAP funding is a UCT financial assistance programme for the “missing middle” – those students who come from families with an annual income of R350 001 to R600 000.

- All GAP-funding applications are managed by NSFAS. Those who are not eligible for NSFAS “missing middle” funding can apply for funding through UCT.

3 UCT sibling rebate bursary programme

Tuition cost assistance is available for undergraduate siblings who do not qualify for NSFAS financial aid or the GAP funding programme. This is for students from families with a combined annual household income of up to R750 000 with two or more siblings at UCT at the same time. Qualifying students are eligible for a bursary equivalent to 20% of the tuition fee for the second sibling. The Sibling Rebate Application form is available on the UCT website and applications open in February of the academic year and close in May of the same year.

4 The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) provides funding for first-year students from families with a combined annual household income of up to R600 000.

- ISFAP runs an online application programme.
- ISFAP funds mainly STEM study programmes at UCT.

5 UCT scholarships

UCT entrance and faculty scholarships are awarded annually to qualifying students.

- These scholarships are achievement-based and include special achievement scholarships to attract applicants from historically disadvantaged areas and schools.
- These scholarships are also used as a recruitment tool to assist in UCT’s transformation.

6 The Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship

The Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship is awarded to top achievers in various categories to attract the best talent to UCT.



IT'S A FACT

Sponsors, foundations, alumni and corporates support student bursaries to the value of approximately R378 million.

90% (generally) of UCT’s financial aid recipients are black students (African, coloured, Indian and Asian).

