

# Research at UCT

We are committed both to protecting and encouraging curiosity-driven research that has a real impact on our communities and environment.

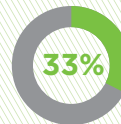
## 15% of SA total

The National Research Foundation (NRF) allocates ratings based on a researcher's recent research outputs and impact, as perceived by international peer reviewers. Nationally, UCT has more NRF-rated researchers than any other university in South Africa.



## 33% of SA total

A-rated researchers are international leaders in their fields. A third of the country's A-rated researchers are at UCT.



## 18% of SA total

The Department of Science and Technology and the National Research Foundation fund research positions (called SARChI Chairs) at universities across South Africa in order to strengthen the country's ability to produce high-quality research, innovation and students. 18% of the country's SARChI Chairs are at UCT.



**R1.49 billion** in external research income in 2016



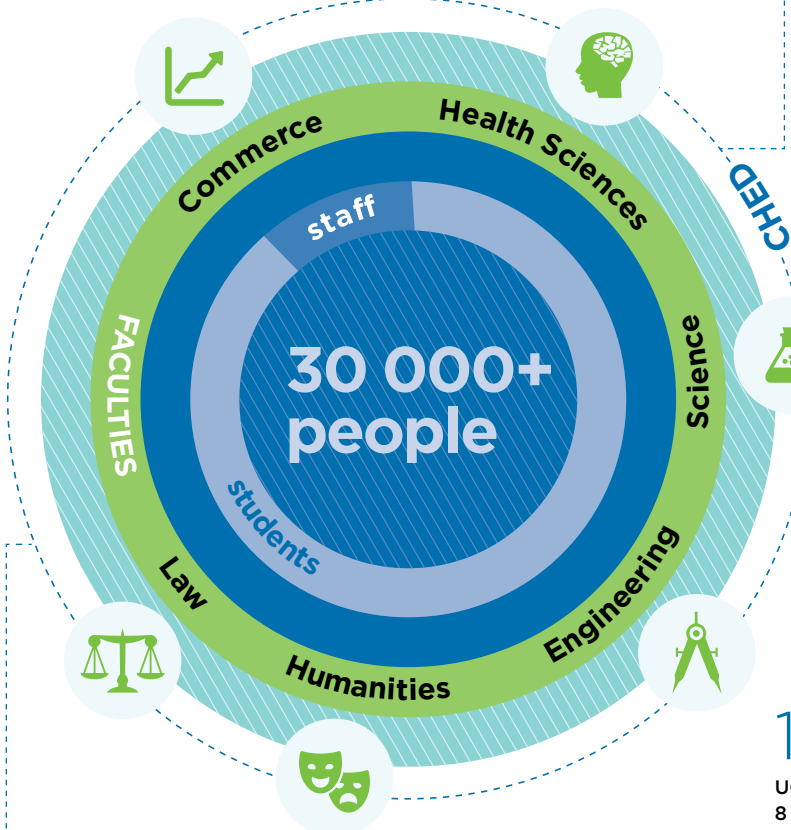
**R15.2 million** earned from the commercialisation of intellectual property in 2016

**67 patents** filed in 2016

## Leading fields of study currently include:

- 1 Astronomy, cosmology and gravity
- 2 Climate and development
- 3 Drug discovery
- 4 Infectious diseases and molecular medicine
- 5 Marine research
- 6 Mineral beneficiation
- 7 Poverty and inequality
- 8 Preserving our African heritage
- 9 Safety and violence
- 10 Schools
- 11 Urban Africa

# UCT today



## 29 074 students and 4 542 staff

In 2016 UCT was home to 29 074 students (18 421 undergraduates and 10 653 postgraduates) and 4 542 staff (1 179 academic and 3 363 professional, administrative, support and service staff). Over the course of the year, anywhere between 100 and 1 000 students are employed by the university.



**194 671**

The number of trips the Jammie Shuttle, UCT's free transport system, makes each year

**100+**

student societies are active on campus and students can choose between such diverse sports as jiu jitsu, rowing and rugby.



The Centre for Higher Education Development partners with the six faculties to ensure students don't just gain access to UCT, but also succeed here. They work to improve UCT's teaching and learning environment.



**+/- 6 800**

Students live in any one of UCT's 32 catered or self-catering student residences. UCT's largest residence, Obz Square in Observatory, opened its doors in 2012 to accommodate 880 students.

**>96%**

In 2016 the Faculty of Health Sciences enjoyed an undergraduate pass rate of 96.13% in all courses.



**140 000**

UCT is currently running 8 MOOCs (massive open online courses), which have attracted more than 140 000 people from over 150 countries since the first course was launched in 2015.

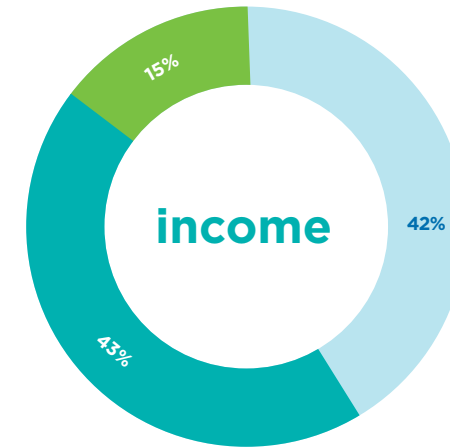
**1.3 million**

print volumes and 53 349 linear metres of shelves are available at UCT libraries.

**25 km<sup>2</sup>**

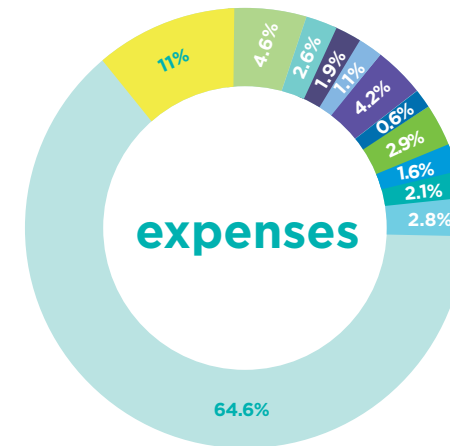
The total size of the UCT campuses, including its satellite campuses in Observatory, home to the Faculty of Health Sciences; Gardens, where the Hiddingh campus for fine art, film, media, and drama studies is located; and the Atlantic Seaboard, where the Graduate School of Business' Breakwater campus is located.

# General operating budget 2016



**INCOME 2016**  
**R2.975 billion**

■ State subsidy ■ Tuition fees ■ Other



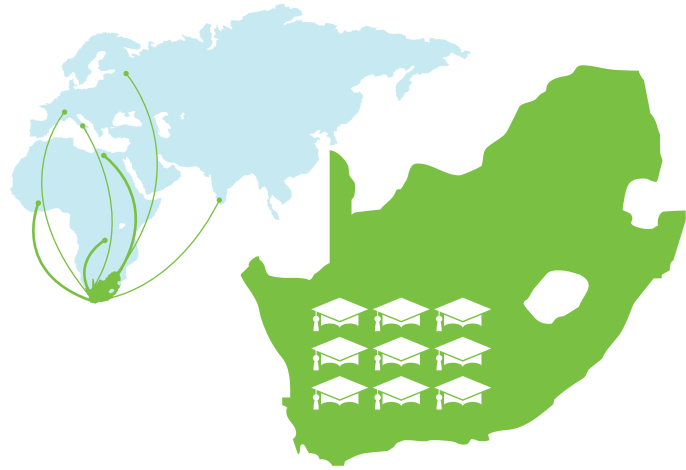
**EXPENDITURE 2016**  
**R2.936 billion**

■ Staff and related ■ Admin and operating expenses ■ Financial aid and scholarships ■ Library acquisitions, books and journals ■ Maintenance ■ Cleaning and gardens ■ Rates and utilities ■ Jammie Shuttle ■ Computers, furniture and equipment ■ Security ■ University research and equipment committees ■ Other costs



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

## Where do our students come from?



### Students come to UCT from all over Africa and the world ...

In 2016, 5 278 international students studied at UCT from 112 countries (39 of them African). Of the total student population, 2 661 are from SADC countries: Angola, Botswana, Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



### ... and when they graduate they are welcome anywhere.

After graduating, UCT students take up positions in every sector of the economy, around the world. We are in contact with over 162 600 alumni in 158 countries, some 111 440 of whom live in South Africa.

## Welcome to UCT

UCT aspires to become a premier academic meeting point between South Africa, the rest of Africa and the world. Taking advantage of expanding global networks and our distinct vantage point in Africa, we are committed, through innovative research and scholarship, to grapple with the key issues of our natural and social worlds.

We aim to produce graduates whose qualifications are internationally recognised and locally applicable, underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice.

### Did you know?

- 1 UCT is the South African university with the longest history.
- 2 It is alma mater to five Nobel laureates.
- 3 UCT is the highest-ranked African university in both the Times Higher Education and Quacquarelli Symonds world university rankings.
- 4 It is home to the most top-rated researchers of all South African universities.
- 5 In 2012 UCT was voted as one of the three most beautiful universities in the world by British newspaper *The Telegraph*.

## The story of UCT

What began as a humble high school has evolved over the course of three centuries to become Africa's top-rated university.

### 1829–1873 An unsteady start

Starting in 1829 as a private secondary school for boys, UCT's predecessor, the South African College (SAC), waxed and waned for over 40 years until 1873. The establishment of the subcontinent's first university, the University of the Cape of Good Hope, in that year gave SAC the incentive to prepare its senior boys for post-matriculation study and eventually for a degree for the first time. This put it on stable footing and prompted it to shed its more junior classes to the newly created SA College School (SACS).

### 1873–1918 Higher aspirations

Fuelled by the transformation of southern Africa through the discovery of diamonds and gold in the interior, SAC grew steadily. In 1887 it admitted women for the first time. By 1900 it had transferred the remainder of its school pupils to SACS, in effect becoming a university college under the University of the Cape of Good Hope. After the South African War (1899–1902), it set its sights on independent university status, free of the constraints of the University of the Cape of Good Hope.

### 1918–1950 A teaching university on the Groote Schuur Estate

Elevated into a fully fledged university with its own charter in 1918, the new University of Cape Town made teaching its first priority. To meet the needs of emerging professions in the country, it created five new faculties. In 1928–1929 it also moved the bulk of its campus to two sites on Cecil Rhodes' Groote Schuur Estate. As a result of these burgeoning facilities, its student body swelled by 65% in this period to 4 258 students, though this number fell slightly in the early 1950s when the ex-service contingent which had flooded into UCT after World War II graduated.

### 1950–1968 Passive protest amid active research and teaching

During these years UCT began to give active support to teaching and research in the fields of medicine, engineering and science. At the same time a gradual imposition of apartheid took place on student admissions, barring black students from enrolling at UCT except with government permission. The formal public opposition which this policy elicited from many students and staff had little effect. By 1968 the number of black students at UCT had fallen to 411, from 552 ten years earlier. When UCT, under pressure from the government, agreed to revoke the appointment of a black lecturer in 1968, student outrage boiled over, producing a nine-day sit-in at UCT's administrative headquarters, Bremner building.

### 1969–1985 Active protest amid hyperactive research and teaching

Parallel to the rising tide of resistance to apartheid across the country, a growing number of UCT students raised the level of their opposition to the policy barring black students from being admitted without special government permission, clashing more and more directly with police as they did so, both on and off campus. Notwithstanding this turbulent environment, UCT went on strengthening its commitment to research and teaching by providing more facilities and new buildings to house them.

### 1985–2017 An unfinished revolution

The waning of apartheid removed racial restrictions on student admissions and staff appointments even before democratic elections in 1994. This opened the way for an escalating transformation of the student body and, belatedly, of the staff profile, so as to increase the number of black South Africans on campus. In 2015, 42% of UCT's student population was black, along with 22% of its permanent academic staff and 74% of its professional, administrative and support staff. Since 1963, when the university's first computerisation programme started, UCT has also undergone a technological metamorphosis, utterly changing the way teaching, research and studying is conducted. These twin revolutions are set to continue changing the face of UCT.



"The capacity of the country to imagine the future depends on the capacity of that country to nurture imaginative thinking from the beginning of a child's life right up to the end of life."

#### **NJABULO NDEBELE**

Former vice-chancellor and emeritus professor, speaking on the occasion of Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday



"Our answer is the world's hope; it is to rely on youth. The cruelties and obstacles of this swiftly changing planet will not yield to obsolete dogmas and outworn slogans. It cannot be moved by those who cling to a present which is already dying, who prefer the illusion of security to the excitement and danger which comes with even the most peaceful progress."

#### **ROBERT KENNEDY**

Former US attorney general and senator, NUSAS "Day of Affirmation" speech at UCT, 6 June 1966

## CONTACT US

General enquiries: +27 21 650 9111

Admissions office: +27 21 650 2128

uct.ac.za

