

Research

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

12% of SA's NRF-rated scholars

The National Research Foundation (NRF) allocates ratings based on a researcher's recent research outputs and impact, as perceived by international peer reviewers. UCT maintains a very high participation rate in the rating system with 500 of UCT's academic staff rated by the NRF.



25% of SA's A-rated scholars
Thirty of the country's NRF A-rated researchers, who are international leaders in their fields of research, are at or affiliated to UCT.

17% of SA's SARChI chairs

A total of 42 of the country's SARChI chairs (South African Research Chairs Initiative) are held by researchers at UCT.



Research and innovation in numbers

R1.5 billion value in external research contracts approved in 2021

R30 million in accumulated income since 2002 from intellectual property commercialisation

164 active inventions, with 40 patent applications filed and 23 patents granted in 2021

>R100 million of equity in spin-off companies in 2021

1 793 research contracts signed in 2021

UCT today



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.

7 400 students lived in UCT's 39 catered or self-catering student residences in 2021. The university's Avenue Road Residence in Mowbray provided 500 additional student beds since it opened in 2021.

>9 000 undergraduates - nearly half of UCT's undergraduates - received financial support in 2021.

Massive open online courses (MOOCs)
23 MOOCs are currently running at UCT and have, since 2015, attracted more than 680 000 participants from over 180 different countries across the globe.

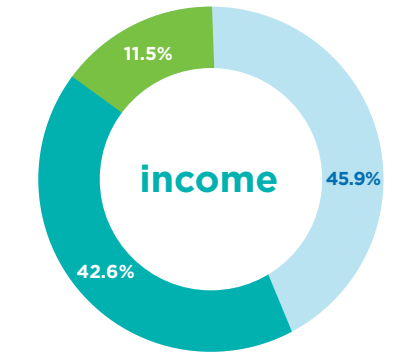
>1.2 million print volumes and an estimated 54 km of shelf space are available at UCT Libraries (before the 2021 fire).

30 392 students and 4 984 staff
In 2021 UCT was home to 30 392 students (18 154 undergraduates, 11 880 postgraduates, 358 occasional) and 4 984 staff (1 264 academic, 3 698 professional, administrative support and service, and 22 external). Over the course of the year, anywhere between 100 and 1 000 students are employed by the university.

100+ student societies are active on campus, divided into five categories: academic, national/cultural, faith, special interest and political. Students can choose to participate in almost 40 sporting codes, including such diverse sports as jiu jitsu, fencing, rowing and rugby.

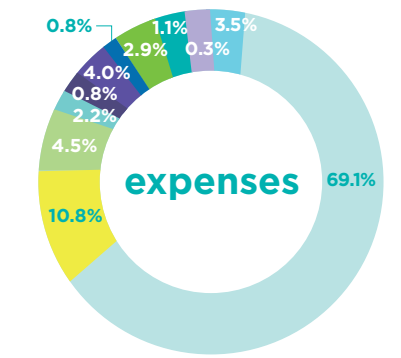
25 km²
The total size of the UCT campuses, including its satellite campuses in Observatory, home to the Faculty of Health Sciences; Gardens, where the Hiddingh campus for fine art, film, media, and drama studies is located; and the Atlantic Seaboard, where the Graduate School of Business' Breakwater campus is located.

General operating budget 2021



INCOME 2021
3 904 million

■ State subsidy ■ Tuition fees ■ Other



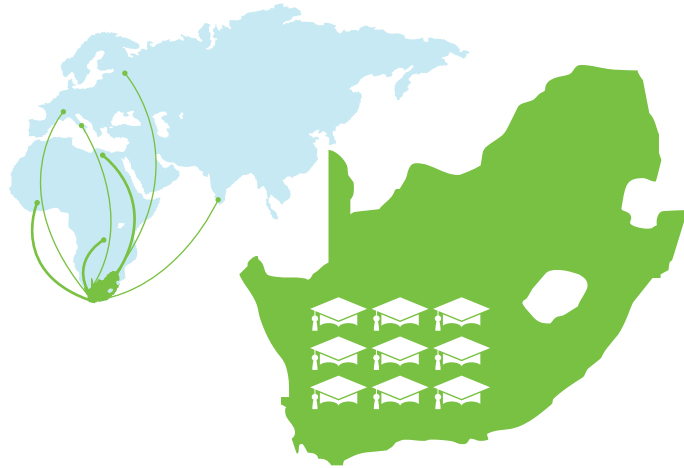
EXPENDITURE 2021
R3 780 million

■ Staff and related costs ■ Administration and operating expenses
■ Financial aid and scholarships ■ Library acquisitions, books & journals
■ Maintenance ■ Rates and utilities ■ UCT Shuttle
■ Computers, furniture and equipment
■ Grants to Research Enterprise ■ Grants to student housing and the Baxter Theatre
■ Other costs (incl. depreciation)



01 About UCT

Where do our students come from?



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

In 2021, 30 392 students were registered for studies at UCT, including 26 614 South African students, 2 479 SADC students, 747 students from the rest of Africa and 552 students from elsewhere in the world.



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

After graduating, UCT students take up positions in every sector of the economy, around the world. UCT's Development and Alumni Department is in contact with over 170 000 alumni in 164 countries, some 120 000 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 All four executive leaders of the academic enterprise at UCT are women, including the vice-chancellor and three deputy vice-chancellors, which is rare in higher education institutions around the world.
- 2 The university is alma mater to five Nobel laureates: Max Theiler (Medicine), Ralph Bunche (Peace), Sir Aaron Klug (Chemistry), Allan McLeod Cormack (Medicine) and JM Coetzee (Literature).
- 3 In 2021 UCT was ranked the best university in Africa. (Quacquarelli Symonds, Times Higher Education, Center for World University Rankings, US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings).
- 4 Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe took up her office as the university's sixth chancellor on 1 January 2020. She is the second black woman to hold the position, having taken over from Mrs Graça Machel, who served the institution from 1999 to 2019.
- 5 UCT is a member of a number of global university networks, including the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).

A brief history

The boys' high school that became Africa's top-rated university.

- 1829 The South African College (SAC), UCT's predecessor, started as a private secondary school for boys in 1829.
- 1873 The University of the Cape of Good Hope opened, and the SAC began preparing its pupils for tertiary education, moving its junior classes to the newly created South African College School (SACS).
- 1887 Along with the country, the SAC grew steadily and admitted women for the first time.
- 1900 The SAC transferred all of its school pupils to SACS, in effect becoming a university college under the University of the Cape of Good Hope.
- 1918 The new University of Cape Town (UCT) made teaching its first priority with the establishment of five new faculties.
- 1928 The bulk of UCT's campus moved to the Grooten Schuur Estate, and its student body swelled by 65% to over 4 200 students.
- 1950 While UCT gave increasing support to teaching and research, the apartheid regime barred black students from enrolling without government permission.
- 1968 The number of black students at UCT fell to 411, from 552 just 10 years earlier. When UCT revoked the appointment of a black lecturer, Archie Mafeje, student outrage boiled over, resulting in a nine-day sit-in at the Bremner building.
- 1969–1985 UCT students increasingly opposed apartheid policies, clashing more directly with police both on and off campus. Despite this turbulent environment, UCT strengthened teaching and research by providing more facilities and new buildings to house them.
- 1985–2020 The waning of apartheid opened the way for increasingly rapid transformation of the campus community, even before the first democratic elections in 1994. Making a sustainable, positive impact in higher education and society now drives the university's vision. This is supported by three pillars that are the very foundations of the academic project: excellence, transformation and sustainability.

Transformation

Sarah Baartman Hall

Memorial Hall, previously Jameson Memorial Hall, has been renamed the Sarah Baartman Hall to lift her up as a potent symbol of the new campus community we are building.

83% of UCT staff were from designated groups (ie black people, women and people with disabilities) of which 71% were black South Africans.

OIC The Office for Inclusivity & Change (OIC) provides institutional responses to transformation, sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), disability and cultural change.

Social Responsiveness

Social Responsiveness Award

The 2021 Social Responsiveness Award was presented to Associate Professor Gina Ziervogel, who was part of a multi-disciplinary team who raced to find solutions for the Western Cape's water crisis.

100UP Each year, the UCT 100UP programme prepares 100 grade 10, 11 and 12 learners from township schools in the Western Cape for higher education.

Teaching and Learning

State-of-the-art classrooms

Close to 100 of UCT's teaching venues include document cameras, data projectors, customised lecterns, and built-in PCs - enabling flexible delivery of course content. Lecture recording and a comprehensive learning management system provide further tools to optimise teaching and learning at UCT.

MOOCS

23 massive open online courses are currently running at UCT and have attracted more than 680 000 participants from over 180 different countries across the globe.



"I believe that this is a great time to be at UCT. Across South Africa and even the world, the higher education sector is seeking ways to be more inclusive, to fund students so that its opportunities are available to everyone with high academic potential, irrespective of their background. This is a time that brings the prospect of making real change happen, of contributing to solutions that might guide other institutions and organisations across our nation to do the same. UCT's place in the world is to be at the cutting edge, to forge into the unknown and the unfamiliar."

**PROFESSOR
MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG**
Vice-Chancellor

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*Information last updated in April 2022