“The creation of new knowledge is a global project: the challenge for Africa is that our voice in this area is all too often missing, yet that voice is critical to the solution of the world’s wicked problems. UCT can play a vital role, through our strategic formal networks and partnerships, in ensuring that our students and researchers are exposed to opportunities around the world so that they can play their part on the global stage.”

PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG
Vice-Chancellor
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.

To further these ends, 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 (MCFS)
The MCFS Program allows UCT to recruit, educate and mentor talented students who are overcoming hardships and are committed to changing the world around them.

Carnegie Project: Growing the Next Generation of Academics for Africa
This programme runs at UCT, the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa), Makerere University (Uganda) and the University of Ghana. It aims to train a community of future academics.

The Universities Science, Humanities, Law and Engineering Partnerships in Africa (USHEPIA)
USHEPIA aims to build institutional and human capacity at African universities by promoting collaboration among African researchers, and the generation and dissemination of knowledge among African universities.

The Africa Regional International Staff/Student Exchange: Food Security and Sustainable Human Wellbeing (ARISE)
ARISE aims to increase access to quality education in Africa by promoting postgraduate studies, student retention and staff mobility.

Staff and student mobility

UCT exchanges students and staff with partner universities across the globe to expand knowledge networks and change lives and careers.

Semester study abroad

UCT hosts the largest study abroad programme in South Africa, bringing international students to UCT for a semester. To ensure that financial need doesn’t limit access, UCT works to negotiate scholarships at partner institutions wherever possible.

Short courses

International short courses at UCT are diverse in both students and curricula, and bring together students and teachers from across the globe.

1. The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) 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 short-term international programme on specialised themes offered to students from across the globe.

3. The London School of Economics–UCT July School is a two-week intensive summer-school-style programme that offers a range of exciting university-level courses.