In 2017, 3,038 postgraduate students (65% of all eligible applicants) received a total of 4,658 awards to the value of R267 million. A total of 1,022 black South African postgraduate students (including those with permanent residence) received awards in 2017. When postdoctoral research fellows are included, the total amount disbursed in 2017 increases to R350 million.

Funding for eligible postgraduate students comes from many sources, including UCT’s own funds, academic department allocations, the National Research Foundation (NRF), donated funds and postgraduate bursaries linked to research programmes. For 2018, postgraduate funding has already been committed to 3,841 students. UCT’s postgraduate task team has ensured that from 2018 students previously supported by NSFAS at undergraduate level are provided with the full cost of study at postgraduate level. This ensures a seamless funding process from undergraduate to postgraduate level.

**WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT**

UCT also supports students on financial aid in practical ways:

1. **Free laptop programme**

   UCT’s financial aid policy ensures that free laptops are issued annually to qualifying financial aid students so that they can access teaching and learning materials and resources to meet academic requirements.

   In 2017 UCT supplied laptops to 964 first-time entering undergraduate financial aid students. In 2018, 1,036 financial aid students received laptops.

2. **Residence and accommodation**

   Most eligible financial aid students are guaranteed a place in residence at the university. The deadline for applications is on 30 September each year.

3. **Free careers service**

   UCT’s Careers Service offers a free advisory and networking service to all registered UCT students to prepare them for the world of work. The careers team also puts students in touch with recruiters looking to connect with UCT students.

**FACT**

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

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In 2017 a total of 290 UCT staff members donated part of their salaries to UCT projects, including student financial aid. UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng donates 10% of her annual net salary to the VC’s Student Support Fund. The fund supports South African black postgraduate students in need, as well as providing an annual award for the best South African black female master’s and PhD students in mathematics education.

**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.nfafs.org.za/content
Share Call Number: 0860 0067 327
Email: info@nsfas.org.za
www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-funding-administration/
financial-assistance/financial-aid

Although applications for NSFAS funding usually open on 1 August each year, NSFAS applications for 2019 opened on 3 September, 2018.

“For 2018, postgraduate funding has already been committed to 3,841 students. UCT’s postgraduate task team has ensured that from 2018 students previously supported by NSFAS at undergraduate level are provided with the full cost of study at postgraduate level. This ensures a seamless funding process from undergraduate to postgraduate level.”
**UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING**

In 2017 a total of 3,407 students were assisted with financial aid from NSFAS, while a further 1,134 students received UCT GAP funding.

External bursaries (corporates, NGOs, foundations and philanthropy) provided funding for 2,923 undergraduate students. A total of 8,480 (49%) full-degree undergraduate students received financial support in 2017.

In 2018 an estimated 8,062 undergraduate students – nearly half of UCT’s undergraduate students – received some form of financial support.

**3,856** students are currently being assisted with financial aid from NSFAS.

**1,011** students are being assisted with financial aid from corporate bursaries.

**3,195** students are receiving funding from external bursaries, donors, corporate funding, UCT staff, alumni and other funders.

**NSFAS AND GAP FUNDING**

NSFAS uses a national test to determine eligibility for financial aid, as well as the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is the only amount that the student and their family/guardian need to contribute towards the approved cost of attendance. Disadvantaged students at UCT pay an annual family contribution of as little as R100 towards the cost of study.

GAP funding is considered for applicants who don’t meet the NSFAS eligibility criteria but still need some financial assistance towards their study costs. Students with an annual gross family income of less than R600,000 are eligible for GAP funding.

**FUNDING AVENUES**

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

1. **The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)**
   - First-time applications for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (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).
   - UCT co-funds students who receive NSFAS funding to ensure that they can afford UCT’s fees and accommodation in residence.

2. **UCT’s 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 R350,000 to R600,000.
   - All GAP-funding applications are managed via NSFAS, which provides UCT with the data to identify eligible applicants.

3. **UCT’s 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 year. 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 between R122,000 and R600,000.
   - UCT is one of six pilot universities selected to determine the feasibility of this scheme. Like all other funding opportunities at UCT, applications for ISFAP funding are on a voluntary basis.
   - Students may apply to be part of the ISFAP pilot project.

5. **The DHET grant system for 2018**
   - The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) grant is a non-repayable grant from government to subsidise annual fee increases (to a maximum of 8%) for all qualifying students with gross family incomes up to R600,000 per annum.
   - This grant becomes available once students have registered at UCT. The DHET grant covers only tuition fees and university-managed accommodation (including operational leases for student accommodation between the university and a service provider).
   - Students with internal university merit bursaries will be eligible for the 8% grant funding if they fall within the R600,000 family income cap. Students supported through university trust funds or other forms of donor funding are not eligible for this grant.

6. **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.