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UCT GSB secures global top ten spot for shaping sustainable business leaders

The University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) has reinforced its reputation as Africa's top business school and a global leader in responsible management education, with its Master of Business Administration (MBA) once again ranking seventh in the world in the 2025 Better World MBA rankings released on Thursday, 6 November 2025.

This marks the second consecutive year that the UCT GSB MBA has been recognised among the top ten programmes worldwide for its strong integration of sustainability, impact and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

"At the UCT GSB, our motto is '*we shape the leaders who shape the future*,'" noted Dr Catherine Duggan, Director of the UCT GSB. "There is no question that the future lies in understanding impact, sustainability, leadership and technology – and, most importantly, how these issues intersect in some of the world's most complex and dynamic environments. We are proud to be consistently at the global cutting edge of management education and excited for the future that our graduates will help shape."

Now in its 13th year, the Better World MBA ranking, compiled by Canadian research firm Corporate Knights, evaluates business schools based on their commitment to sustainability leadership. The ranking measures how effectively MBA programmes embed responsible management and sustainability into teaching, research and practice, as well as the influence of their graduates in driving change within purpose-led organisations and major sustainable companies.

Dr Wayne Moodaley, Programme Director for the full-time MBA at the UCT GSB and an expert on the use of AI to improve the credibility and reliability of sustainability reporting, added: "AI and digital technologies are changing how companies measure and manage their impact.

"The real opportunity lies in organisations using these tools to make sustainability part of their core strategy – not as a separate initiative, but as a way of improving how they make decisions, manage risk and create long-term value."

The global business landscape is rapidly evolving, and the demand for leaders who can navigate sustainability and technological transformation is growing. Leading employers worldwide have identified digital access, economic conditions and climate change mitigation

as three of the most transformative forces shaping business through 2030. Yet, while nearly two-thirds (63%) of global MBA applicants seek programmes that focus on sustainability, many still lack access to this kind of learning. In the United States, 42% of business schools offer no engagement with sustainability, and over a third of European MBAs have yet to embed it in their core curriculum.

Associate Professor Caitlin Ferreira, the UCT GSB's Programme Director for the Modular MBA, noted: "Sustainability and responsible leadership are woven through every aspect of our MBA at the UCT GSB – from our core courses to the capstone independent study project and our Responsible Citizenship module. We want to create agile, future-oriented leaders who make decisions with an understanding of the broader implications for both business and society."

This approach has garnered global recognition. In October, Professor Ferreira was [named one of the finalists](#) for the Association of MBAs (AMBA) 2026 MBA Director of the Year award based largely on her work to incorporate sustainability, impact, political economy, innovation and disruptive technology throughout the MBA curriculum.

The latest Better World MBA result continues a year of global recognition for the UCT GSB MBA and its students. The programme was ranked number one in the Middle East and Africa and placed among the world's top 100 MBAs in the 2026 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Global MBA Rankings. UCT GSB students have also excelled internationally: a team of five MBA students won the Geneva Challenge, taking first place among 222 teams from 94 countries, and another student was selected as one of 25 Young Voices to engage with global policymakers at the Berlin Global Dialogues.

These achievements underscore the UCT GSB's commitment to producing leaders who not only excel in business but also drive positive change across industries and communities, advancing UCT's [Vision 2030](#) to unleash human potential for a fair and just society.

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