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**12 December 2018**

## **UCT ceremonies to take graduands tally to over 7000**

### **VC robing ceremony, special graduation ceremony and five graduation ceremonies make it a special period at the university**

Approximately 1885 students – including 118 Doctoral and 780 Master's graduands – are scheduled to graduate during the ceremonies to be held in the Memorial Hall at the University of Cape Town from 13-14 December. This will take the total number of students who graduated at UCT this year to over 7000.

The June ceremony had 350 graduands, including almost 60 PhDs. In April, just over 5200 students graduated at 14 graduation ceremonies. Included among these were 67 doctoral graduands.

The December graduation season will commence with an official robing ceremony – to be hosted by the UCT Chancellor Mrs Graça Machel – for the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng following her appointment to the position in July 2018.

Since her appointment, Professor Phakeng has shared her vision for UCT, which is centred around the three pillars of transformation, excellence and sustainability.

Some of the work undertaken by students who will be receiving PhD qualifications in these ceremonies exemplify her vision, with research on, among others, the life cycle sustainability assessment of next generation energy infrastructure in Africa; the response of southern African vegetation to droughts in past and future climates; and the impact of sovereign credit rating changes on financial market returns in Africa.

Following her robing, there will be a special graduation ceremony for students who previously could not graduate due to outstanding fee debt but are now able to do so after once-off donor funding was secured by the university.

Two further graduation ceremonies following the special ceremony will be held on 13 December at 14:30 and 18:00, and three will take place on 14 December at 09:00, 14:00 and 18:00.

Some of the students graduating have had remarkable stories en route to attaining their degrees. These include social and political analyst [Professor Raymond Suttner finally](#)

[receiving his Master of Laws \(LLM\) degree](#) almost 50 years after withdrawing his thesis from examination in the UCT law faculty; and Mabuyi Mhlanga, who channelled her grief at the tragic death of her daughter in an car accident into identifying positive solutions to road safety, [receiving a Master's degree](#).

Gugulethu-born Sonwabo Ngcelwane has seen education as the key to rising above one's circumstances and will receive a [master's degree in Sociology with distinction](#) – his third degree and fifth tertiary qualification.

### **December Graduation Schedule**

DATE AND TIME	FACULTY
13 December 2018 at 10:00	VC Robing and Special Graduation
13 December 2018 at 14:30	Humanities
13 December 2018 at 18:00	Health Sciences 1; and Law
14 December 2018 at 09:00	Commerce
14 December 2018 at 14:00	Health Sciences 2
14 December 2018 at 18:00	Engineering & the Built Environment; and Science

***ENDS***

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