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Yet another international ranking body places UCT top in Africa

READ: The full communication by UCT VC, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.	LISTEN: Short audio recording by UCT spokesperson Elijah Moholola.
VIEW: The results of the THE World University Rankings 2022.	READ: More about the THE World University Rankings 2022 methodology .

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has retained its top spot in Africa on the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings released on Thursday, 2 September.

UCT continues to be the continent's top university, tying with the University of Notre Dame (US) at 183rd. More than 1 600 institutions were ranked in the 2022 THE rankings.

This came just over two weeks after UCT moved one spot up to be ranked highest in the continent in the ShanghaiRanking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021. UCT was ranked in the 201–300 band in the ARWU rankings, published on 15 August 2021.

The THE and ARWU rankings confirm UCT as the highest ranked university in Africa on all five major world university rankings, including Quacquarelli Symonds (released in June 2021), Center for World University Rankings (released in April 2021) and U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings (released in October 2020).

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said: "Although the rankings are but just a gaze which does not fully indicate the impact of the university in other crucial areas such as social responsiveness, we are pleased to note that UCT continues doing well on the international arena while remaining the best for Africa.

"The high spots that UCT continues to occupy on the various top-ranking bodies are a testament to the work done by our researchers, to the support staff and to each and everyone at UCT who works tirelessly to continue elevating this university to greater heights. Many staff members contribute in countless different ways to ensure that the university's ship continues sailing in a sea of excellence."

She further noted that the attainment of being top on the continent in all five rankings came during a particularly challenging period, with the obvious COVID-19 pandemic and the most recent #UCTFire being but a few of what the university had to navigate.

The THE World University Rankings assess institutions worldwide across 13 performance indicators in five areas: teaching (30%), research (30%), citations (30%), international outlook (7.5%) and industry income (2.5%).

UCT's performance improved in the teaching category (the learning environment), jumping 23 places compared to the previous year. Good increases were achieved in the scores of the ratios of doctorate to bachelor awarded, doctorate awarded to academic staff and in the institutional income to academic staff.

Despite a drop in the positions of the other categories compared to last year, some indicators performed well.

In the research category (volume, income and reputation), scores increased for papers to academic staff and research income to academic staff, confirming UCT's continued contribution to local and global knowledge through innovative research.

UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Internationalisation, Professor Sue Harrison, noted: "We have continued producing cutting-edge research, across particularly challenging years, in our endeavor to keep contributing to finding solutions to complex problems and building a sustainable future. The performance in the rankings is a reflection of the commitment to excellence that our research community continues to show while at the same time being strongly focused on impact in our local context. These strengths have been clearly shown in the response of UCT researchers to COVID-19."

In the international outlook category (international staff, students and research collaborations), the co-authorship score held steady, highlighting that UCT has sustained its collaborations with international partners.

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