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Democratising education – UCT Summer School takes courses to communities

The upcoming [University of Cape Town \(UCT\) Summer School](#) is making its courses more widely accessible in resource-poor communities by livestreaming them to the Isivivana Centre in Khayelitsha and Philippi Hub in the innovative Philippi Village at no cost.

The UCT Summer School is the largest public education programme of its kind in Africa, bringing together academics, industry experts, thought leaders and audiences from around the world.

According to head of the Summer School, Dr Medeé Rall, “it has always been our aim to make learning accessible to everyone and by developing key relationships we have been able to do just that.”

The hybrid event which runs from 10 to 19 January 2022 will offer all courses both in-person and online so participants can access them from the comfort of their homes anywhere in the world and at the university. The courses are open to the general public and no qualifications are required.

According to Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, “The UCT Summer School 2022 programme is designed to immerse you in new ideas, expert insight and creative thinking – to enlighten, entertain and inspire.

“Its offerings address a vast range of interests. Underlying each course and special lecture is the desire to unleash human potential, whether it is in Cape Town, the rest of South Africa, other parts of the continent or the world.”

There is something for everyone from courses on various art forms, conservation and nature to medicine, wellness and health and technology and innovation. Specific course topics range from robotic surgery and rock art of the San, to learning about gardens around the world.

Some courses include a practical art or writing component and there are others for which participants can apply for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. For example, ‘mucus and the gut-brain axis’ and ‘learning from the Veneto: five lessons for the twenty-

first century' which explores the old cities and architecture of the Veneto, primarily Venice but also includes Padua, Vicenza, Verona and Mantua. The university will issue a certificate to participants which they can use to apply for CPD points.

Discounts are available for certain courses and interested parties can also gift a course for another individual. If individuals are interested in learning something new please [visit the brochure](#) to find a course.

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