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## **UCT joins global network of leading universities to reach the most marginalised communities**

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is one of the first two African institutions of higher learning to sign up as partners in the [Reach Alliance](#). This global initiative brings together students and practitioners from across disciplines and around the world to accelerate the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals.

Founded at the University of Toronto's [Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy](#), in partnership with the [Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth](#), the Reach Alliance is a global research and leadership initiative investigating how critical interventions reach those who are hardest to reach. The Alliance then partners with cross-sectoral organisations to translate actionable research insights for impact.

Other leading universities new to the partnership include Ashesi University (Ghana), Singapore Management University (Singapore) and the University of Melbourne (Australia). This scale up sees the Alliance grow from four to eight major global universities, with original partners including the University of Toronto (Canada), Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico), University College London (UK), and the University of Oxford (UK).

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng said: "The Reach Alliance is a brilliant concept that aligns closely with the mission of the university to ensure that our research meets the needs of even the most marginalised communities in Africa, that it has real impact, and that we produce the leaders of tomorrow who are committed to social justice."

Sentiments were shared by Ashesi University's Provost, Professor Angela Owusu-Ansah: "Engaging students in research of the lived experiences of marginalised groups is likely to amplify students' ethical, entrepreneurial, and critical thinking; their concern for others and the courage to act for change."

"The work of the Reach Alliance can only be done by strengthening international partnerships to achieve global reach," adds Marin MacLeod, Executive Director at the Reach Alliance.

To date, the Reach Alliance has published 30 [case studies](#) spanning 20 countries. Actionable research insights have informed practitioners and policymakers – accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and establishing the next generation of global

leaders. Reach findings have been [published](#) in leading outlets, such as The Lancet, Stanford Social Innovation Review and World Health Organization (WHO) Bulletin.

"The Reach Alliance enables a global network of partner universities to collaborate on research and develop interdisciplinary solutions", says Professor Elvin Lim, Dean, College of Integrative Studies, Singapore Management University. "Through student research and faculty mentorship drawn from the Alliance, we aim to deepen our engagement with the city and to create meaningful impact for communities around the world."

Professor Adrian Little, Pro Vice Chancellor (International), University of Melbourne highlights the university's social mission as a key reason for joining the Alliance, "by engaging with the Reach Alliance, we can tackle problems within Australia and in the wider Asia-Pacific region in collaboration with an outstanding group of university partners."

***ENDS***

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