



3 August 2022

Africa's most affordable Cambridge international qualification launched by UCT Online High School

A year since being launched, and some 5 000 CAPS learners later, the University of Cape Town Online High School (UCT OHS) is immensely pleased to be able to offer an additional curriculum in the form of the **Cambridge Assessment International Education** — the most affordable Cambridge International qualification in Africa at R3 300 per month!

Cambridge International is one of the world's most prestigious international curriculums, recognised by over 2 000 tertiary institutions worldwide, including all major local universities.

"With nearly a million learners in 10 000 schools in 160 countries, a Cambridge International qualification is a powerful global passport to the future. As the most affordable fully accredited Cambridge International school in Africa, we are very proud to be able to offer this qualification to learners in South Africa and beyond. Starting with our closest neighbours we aim to expand our reach to the rest of the African continent in the near future," said UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

Yandiswa Xhakaza, UCT OHS Director & Principal, said: "What an honour it is to partner with Cambridge Assessment International Education, one of the world's most prestigious institutions. Together we are providing access to a truly world-class education from the comfort of one's own home — not just to learners in our own country, but to those throughout Africa too."

Christine Özden, Chief Executive of Cambridge Assessment International Education, added: "We are delighted to announce that UCT Online High School has joined our global community of Cambridge schools and we look forward to a long and productive relationship with them."

In a tireless quest to innovate and be at the forefront of creating an equitable and innovative education system on the continent, the UCT OHS also announced the launch of an **Adult Matric programme** delivered entirely online. The Adult Matric programme

provides a second chance for those who were unable, or never given the opportunity, to write their National Senior Certificate.

At any given time, there are about 250 000 people working towards a matric certificate outside the full-time, in-school system. Since an average of 800 000 candidates write matric examinations each year, this means that about a third of the total matric cohort are 'on the fringe' or 'non-traditional' learners. Yet, as second-chancers, the educational journeys of these non-traditional learners often go unrecognised. The UCT OHS serves to support these learners, and the Adult Matric programme offers a viable and affordable alternative for adults to study online, and part-time, towards their matric certificate.

Since being launched in July 2022, the UCT OHS has changed the face of education in South Africa. It is the most affordable online private school in South Africa; and its launch made UCT the first university in Africa to extend its expertise and impact to the secondary schooling market through an innovative online modality. This progressive school is purpose-built to allow South African learners to work towards achieving their National Senior Certificate from anywhere in the country.

The UCT OHS places emphasis on impeccable support, with each learner having access to a support coach throughout their entire school career. The offering is tailored to the learner by providing structured flexibility – a framework which allows learners to work anytime from anywhere, within well-defined boundaries. By placing individual mastery right at the centre of their philosophy, UCT OHS ensures that each learner masters every module before moving on to the next one.

As part of their initial offering, the [UCT Online High School's Free Curriculum](#) was launched with support from the Michael & Susan Dell foundation. This entirely free online school platform allows any guardian, learner or educator to access their full CAPS (National Senior Certificate) curriculum..

A few months after the launch in 2021, the UCT OHS was selected among the 12 Top Innovators in [The WorldClass Education Challenge](#) at the World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Summit 2021.

The UCT Online High School isn't just a school, it's the backbone of an entire ecosystem which has been designed to service learners from a broad range of socioeconomic and academic means.

#LearningLiberated
#UnleashYourPotential
#UCTOnlineHighSchool
#YouAreUCTOnlineHighSchool

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Notes to the media:

UCT Online High School

In July 2021, the University of Cape Town (UCT) launched the UCT Online High School and in doing so became the first university on the African continent to extend its expertise and impact to the secondary schooling market through an innovative online modality.

The UCT Online High School ecosystem was designed to service South African learners from a broad range of socioeconomic means. The UCT Online High School offers a CAPS-aligned curriculum, which enables learners in grades 8-11 in any corner of the globe with the opportunity to study at a monthly fee of R2 195 per month, making it one of the most affordable private schools in the country. Grade 12 will be offered from 2023.

Admissions for UCT Online High School opened on 21 July 2021 and were met with great interest with over 13 000 applications to date. Learners benefit from UCT Online High School's supported self-mastery model, which offers learners structured-flexibility, modernised learning design and impeccable support from support coaches whenever they need it. Learners will also be prepared with a unique range of university and career preparation services and offerings.

Admissions for the UCT Online High School's Cambridge Assessment International Education are now open, with classes commencing in January 2023, after which learners will be able to enrol at any time, from wherever they are in the world. This new curriculum offers the full bouquet of Lower Secondary, IGCSE, AS and A levels at R3 300 per month, but for 2023 the UCT OHS will launch lower secondary and IGCSE, making it the most affordable fully accredited Cambridge International school in Africa. To offer a full break down:

- **Lower Secondary** (years 7, 8 & 9, ages 12-14) provides learners with a broad curriculum, giving them a strong, well-rounded foundation.
- **Upper Secondary otherwise known as IGCSE** (years 10 & 11, ages 15-16) is the most popular international qualification for 15-16 years olds and focuses on core academic and language development. The first set of IGCSE exams will be written in November 2024.
- **Cambridge Advanced, the AS and A levels qualifications** (Years 12 & 13, ages 17-18) is one of the strongest academic high school qualifications one can exit with, streamlining them into a focussed career path. UCT Online High School is set to expand into AS/A levels in 2025.

For full list of FAQs please visit: <https://www.uctonlinehighschool.com/frequently-asked-questions>

For more information on UCT Online High School, please visit www.uctonlinehighschool.com.

UCT Online High School Contact details:

Email: admissions@uctohs.valentureonline.com | Call: +27 21 140 1792

UCT Online High School social media links:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uctonlinehighschool/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UCTOnlineHigh>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uctonlinehighschool/>

About Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge Assessment International Education prepares school learners for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. We are part of the University of Cambridge.

Our Cambridge Pathway gives learners a clear path for educational success from age 5 to 19. Schools can shape their curriculum around how they want learners to learn – with a wide range of subjects and flexible ways to offer them. It helps learners discover new abilities and a wider world, and gives them the transferable skills they need for life, so they can achieve at school, university and work.

Visit www.cambridgeinternational.org to find out more.

Quotes from the media conference:

UCT Vice Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng

Media images: http://mediaportfolio.uct.ac.za:8085/vc_additional_pics/#/

"A year, and some 5 000 CAPS learners later, we are immensely pleased to be able to offer an additional curriculum in the form of the Cambridge Assessment International Education. This curriculum will be the most affordable Cambridge International qualification in Africa.

*"In our tireless quest to innovate and be at the forefront of creating an equitable and innovative education system on the continent, we are pleased to announce that we are launching an **Adult Matric program** delivered entirely online. Our adult matric provides a second chance for those who were unable, or never given the opportunity, to write their National Senior Certificate when they were young — because it's never too late to enable a better future for you and your family.*

*"The **UCT Online High School** isn't just a school, it's the backbone of an entire ecosystem which has been designed to service learners from a broad range of socioeconomic and academic means. We believe in a brighter future for all, and we're doing everything that we can to make it happen."*

UCT Online High School Director & Principal, Yandiswa Xhakaza

Media Images:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Wp8g19tZ7cmfzOQfuxfzDQDjmo3pxCJ1?usp=sharing>

*"What an honour it is to partner with **Cambridge Assessment International Education**, one of the world's most prestigious institutions. Together we are providing access to a truly world-class education from the comfort of one's own home — not just to learners in our own country, but to those throughout Africa too. Our current cohort of learners will continue to spread across Africa into the world, taking advantage of this global network and expanding their worldviews through friendships they would have never been exposed to in their own immediate communities.*

*"We're also very pleased to announce that we will soon be launching **Adult Matric**. Almost a third of all people working toward their matric certificate do so outside the full-time, in-school system. We wish to celebrate those learners.*

*"Rest assured that as we continue to grow, we'll continue to reflect. We'll continue to refine our product. We'll keep engaging with our learners and our guardians and the wider community, most importantly we'll keep on listening to what you have to say, because at the end of the day **you are UCT.**"*

UCT Online High School Deputy Principal, Siphso Mpisane

Media Image: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Okukl-MAY_xaneGzYZMyw7IEVwD3sqsK/view?usp=sharing

*"Our incredible team of **support coaches** are dedicated entirely to learner well-being. We refer to them quite passionately as our superheroes. They may not wear capes but they're available daily to learners for check-ins, keeping them on track with their coursework and caring for their holistic needs. Based on guardian and learner feedback, they've been one of our biggest successes — and a service that we're going to continue to build upon going forward. Coinciding with our commitment to learner wellbeing are our counselling and career guidance services, ensuring that our learners are nurtured outside, and beyond, the school environment.*

*"A keystone of UCT Online High School life has been our fresh take on weekly assemblies, using them as a creative platform for us to engage with our school community, while maintaining connection and being informative on important updates. They allow us to shape the **culture of UCT Online High School** by flashing our values and showcasing the amazing things that our learners archive on a weekly basis.*

*"It's been an honour to lead such **profound industry change** and I take my hat off to the parents and learners who can see their place in the future and are trusting us to transport them there."*

Cambridge Academic Consultant, Tessa Venter

*"In many ways, I think the name speaks for itself. As one of the most **renowned educational institutions** on the planet, Cambridge has a proud history of excellence and innovation — and has been refining its school curriculum for the past 160 years.*

*"Currently, the Cambridge Assessment International Education is offered in over 10 000 schools in more than 160 countries with more than 8 million learners writing their Cambridge examinations every year. The reason UCT Online High School has chosen to partner with Cambridge International is multifold, but begins with an **alignment of teaching values**. The key attributes of a Cambridge Learner are: Confident, Responsible, Reflective, Innovative and Engaged.*

*"The curriculum takes a spiral approach to learning. A spiral curriculum is one in which there is **an iterative revisiting of topics, subjects or themes throughout the course**. A spiral curriculum is not simply the repetition of a topic taught, it also requires a deepening of it — with each successive encounter building upon the previous one.*

*"**Recognized by over 2000 tertiary institutions worldwide**, our learners will automatically be eligible to apply to any university in the United Kingdom, over 800 universities in the US, and many other learner destinations, including Canada, Australia, Singapore, Germany and the Netherlands. I do also want to stress that this offering is not only for learners wishing to study and work overseas, with all major South African tertiary institutions accepting learners with their AS-Levels."*

Video links:

- UCT Online High School 'We Are UCT' announcement video [3 August 2022]: <https://youtu.be/yvzfVIenrnk>

- UCT Online High School launch video [21 July 2021]:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9A3GOqzN3A>
- UCT Online High School Official School Song Music Video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra6PcW_NiUU (Written and produced by multi-award-winning artists GoodLuck, YoungstaCPT, Shekhinah and Msaki)

Image links:

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_F5W93iDM8-AM_w2bp8pG6lH_gZ5pxx8?usp=sharing

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