



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

12 October 2022

UCT leaps up 23 places in international rankings

The University of Cape Town (UCT) climbed 23 places and retained its top spot on the continent in this year's World University Rankings published by Times Higher Education (THE) on Wednesday, 12 October 2022.

The university now sits at 160th globally, up from 183rd place in 2021.

The latest ranking means that in all five major international university rankings, UCT is ranked best in Africa. This year, UCT took the continent's top place in the [Centre for World University Rankings](#), [Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings](#) and [ShanghaiRanking's Academic Ranking of World Universities](#).

UCT is also Africa's top university in the US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings, the most recent of which was issued in 2021. A new release is expected later this month.

"We are deeply proud of our academics and the wider UCT community for the hard and excellent work they do that has led to this result," says UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng. "UCT competes globally with institutions that have considerably more resources than we do, which makes this result all the more remarkable."

"As a university in the Global South, we are particularly pleased to retain our standing internationally while at the same time prioritising and serving the critical needs of the Global South and the people living here – priorities which are not usually recognised in global rankings."

This year, THE World University Rankings assessed 1 799 institutions across 13 performance indicators in five areas: citations (30%), research (30%), teaching (30%), international outlook (7.5%) and industry income (2.5%).

Breaking down UCT's performance

UCT's strongest performance was in citations – or research influence – which measures the number of times a piece of research is cited. In this area, the university ranked 172nd globally.

In the area of research – its volume, income and reputation – UCT also ranked in the top 200 globally. The university's performance improved for two indicators: the research reputation survey and the ratio of papers to academic staff. The former demonstrates UCT's growing positive reputation among leading international academics.

UCT's scores increased in four of the five indicators for teaching (the learning environment): the teaching reputation survey, the ratio for doctorate degrees awarded to academic staff, the ratio of students to academic staff and the ratio of institutional income to academic staff. UCT's score in the fifth indicator – ratio of doctorates to bachelor's degrees awarded – dropped only slightly, by 0.1 points.

Despite a drop back in the position of the other two categories – industry income and international outlook (international staff, students and research collaborations) – UCT's score for co-authorship improved slightly, evidence that UCT's collaboration with international partners continues to grow.

"It is gratifying to see UCT's reputation in both research and in teaching and learning grow, which is recognition of the important role African institutions are playing in the global knowledge project as institutions the world over address the grand challenges," adds Phakeng.

- [View the complete THE World University Rankings 2023.](#)
- [Read more about the THE World University Rankings 2023 methodology.](#)

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Elijah Moholola

Spokesperson
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: 021 650 5674
Cell: 083 981 7770
Email: elijah.moholola@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za