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UCT hoping to sustain student food support programme

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has provided food security support to needy students since 2018 and expanded the student food programme over the years.

Since its inception, the programme has been an essential form of support for needy students. In 2022 and in the first half of 2023, UCT provided grocery packs each month and toiletries every second month to needy students.

Given the changes to NSFAS requirements, the programme's coordinators expect that the need will reach 1 000 students per month in 2024.

Having been in place for five years, one of the challenges faced around the programme is insufficient funding. Through the inaugural UCT Day on Friday, 6 October, the university's alumni, friends, staff and students can support the UCT Food Programme, and help eliminate food insecurity on campus by making donations towards the programme.

A donation of R105 per month will provide a student with two days' worth of food, while a once-off donation of R1 570 will feed a student for a month. Donations will ensure the sustainability of the UCT food programme and contribute to the dignity, well-being and success of beneficiary students.

"The programme is the university's response to the growing student hunger on our campus as a result of funding challenges and socio-economic factors that our students are facing. At the moment, our biggest crisis is around insufficient funding to cover all the costs," says Edwina Brooks, director of student development at UCT.

On Friday, 6 October, the day will not only be about celebrations and activities on upper campus and beyond. UCT Day is also about raising funds towards the student food programme as one of the [four student support initiatives](#) – with the other three being around student fees, gender-based violence and student wellness.

Various alumni events have been planned in UCT's four main regions, to coincide with celebrations on campus. In Cape Town, the hub of activity will be on UCT's Upper Campus.

Events start at 12:00 and include live music by UCT Radio; a Zumba session at 12:00; the much-anticipated UCT executive challenge at 15:30, featuring members of the senior

leadership team who will compete in a relay race; wheelchair rugby; and an outdoor movie experience hosted by Sunshine Cinema from 18:00 to 20:00.

UCT Day also features three sports challenges in which teams, drawn from across the university, will compete against each other. These are five-a-side soccer; 5km walkathon; and the UCT Amazing Race powered by BMW.

There will also be the UCT Libraries Tours on 6 October at 12:00, 13:00 and 14:00 (Jagger Library and Birkdale House); and the UCT Campus Sustainability Guided Walking Tours on 6 October from 12:00 to 13:30.

- [Visit the UCT Day events page for the full schedule of exciting activities.](#)
- [Support the UCT Day student fundraising initiatives.](#)

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