

Welcome to the Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law might be the smallest at UCT, but its footprint is large – whether you're talking about the impact of its staff and students on society, the largesse of its alumni, or the diversity of its research.

The faculty strives to make a significant contribution to legal education and intellectual discourse, both nationally and internationally.



Did you know?

- 1 The faculty is the oldest law school in South Africa.
- 2 It is ranked in the top 100 law schools worldwide.
- 3 The faculty has over 25 international agreements that enable students and staff to pursue exchanges and research relationships elsewhere in Africa and across the world.
- 4 The faculty has students and alumni working across the globe – contributing excellence to the legal profession, the development of law, and research in the field.
- 5 The Faculty of Law runs a funding campaign – Growing a Lawyer – to attract support for student scholarships (among other projects). Approximately R1.5 million in undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships are granted annually. These scholarships are in addition to a range of other faculty scholarships, as well as core university initiatives that provide fee support to students.



“When students come to this university from anywhere in the country, whether it is Mitchells Plain, Winterveld, Gugulethu or anywhere else, they have to feel that this is a place that’s welcoming to them – a place where they can become who they want to become.”

PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG
UCT Vice-Chancellor

How do I apply?

UCT holds an annual Open Day for prospective students to visit the campus and find out more about degree programmes they are interested in. The faculty encourages you to attend the Open Day if you live near Cape Town.

For details on admission guidelines, visit www.law.uct.ac.za/law/prospectivestud/admissions_requirements

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LAW FACULTY ALUMNI

Law alumni are active supporters of the work of our academics, researchers and students. They give not only time and energy to our work, but are also very generous with funding support. Each LLB class that graduates joins our growing network of UCT law alumni.

Our regular newsletter keeps alumni posted on all faculty-related initiatives and we hold regular alumni events. To become a more active member of our alumni network, join UCT Alumni Connect by visiting <https://uctalumniconnect.com/>



09 Faculty of Law



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

The Faculty of Law is home to over 1 000 students, of which:



66%

are women



43%

are master's or doctoral students



49%

are black (African, coloured and Indian)



19%

are international students

Our teaching and research staff are leaders in their fields:

- The first National Research Foundation (NRF) chair in humanities was given to the law faculty, which is now home to four NRF SARChI Chairs.
- Two UCT law professors are NRF A-rated researchers.
- 20 UCT law academics are NRF rated.
- Our academic staff remain among the leading public intellectuals in the country.
- Thanks to the generosity of alumni, the faculty is able to offer financial support to over 30 LLB students, seven master's students and one PhD candidate every year.

The law school recorded a 114% increase in the number of black South African LLB students between 2009 and 2015. At present, black students constitute 40% of the UCT student body as a whole, while 41% are white.



The faculty teaches law courses to over 3 000 students in other faculties.



Careers in law

Just over 50% of our graduates pursue a career in traditional legal practice through corporate law firms. The rich variety of law-based careers, however, also includes career paths in the corporate world, in government service, in the non-profit sector, and in academia.

Commercial Law

The Department of Commercial Law covers a wide range of legal fields. Apart from the core LLB courses – corporation law and business transactions law – the department is also responsible for professional courses in business law, company law and labour law.

Private Law

The Department of Private Law is made up of active researchers whose fields of study cohere closely with our teaching. Key areas of interest include the doctrine and theory of the law of delict; customary law; land law and land redistribution; unjustified enrichment; family law, including Muslim family law; law of contract; law of succession; adjectival law, in particular civil procedure, comparative law and the nature of legal systems; various facets of legal history, including Roman law; the theory of legal education and the jurisprudential context of private law.

Public Law

The Department of Public Law is responsible for undergraduate and postgraduate courses in specialised topics within the broad fields of constitutional law, administrative law, human rights, environmental law, international law and criminal justice.

Within the Department of Public Law several research projects that have significant resonance for our constitutional democracy are currently under way. One project concerns violence against women and especially the issue of rape; another looks at safety and security, particularly within local communities in Cape Town.



Socially responsible graduates

One innovative feature of a UCT LLB is the community service obligation – all students must complete 30 hours of unpaid service. This includes time offering services through one of the two law clinics housed in the faculty – the UCT Law Clinic and UCT Refugee Rights Unit.

In addition, there are a range of other student-led initiatives and societies to get involved in. These include, among others, the Law Students' Council; the UCT branch of Students for Law and Social Justice; the UCT Moot Society; and LAWCO (Legal Welfare Community Organisation), a law-focused society linked to SHAWCO (Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation). A quick search on Facebook provides a view into the extra-curricular work of UCT law students.

Internationally recognised research

The faculty's research is recognised for its great relevance to the national and international needs of industry, as shown by the considerable industrial funding of research programmes and projects.

Apart from the active research members in each department, there are 10 research units based in the departments pursuing specialised areas of research and practice. These include the innovative UCT Law Clinic and UCT Refugee Rights Unit.

In addition to the two clinics, the faculty's eight research units include the Centre for Comparative Law in Africa, the Centre of Criminology, the Democratic Governance & Rights Unit, the Institute of Development & Labour Law, the Intellectual Property Unit, the Centre for Law & Society, the Institute of Marine & Environmental Law, and the Land and Accountability Research Centre.