Welcome to the Faculty of Humanities

With close to 7,000 students, the faculty is the second largest at the University of Cape Town. It comprises 17 vibrant academic departments located in three main clusters: the Arts, the Social Sciences, and the Performing and Creative Arts. Common to all is a focus on the human condition in all its dimensions.

Did you know?

1. The faculty has produced a number of world-renowned graduates, including Breyten Breytenbach (author), Philip Miller (international composer and sound artist), Roger Ebert (Pulitzer Prize winner), Richard E Grant (actor), Pretty Yende (opera singer), Akin Omotoso (film-maker) and two Nobel Prize winners – Emeritus Professor JM Coetzee (Literature) and Ralph Bunche (Peace).

2. The present faculty was formed in 1999 as a result of a merger of the faculties of Arts, Social Sciences, Education, Music and the Michaelis School of Fine Art.

3. The faculty offers 30 academic majors as well as the opportunity to choose from 21 majors offered through other faculties. This flexibility enables students to tailor their academic experience.

How do I apply?

If possible, come to UCT’s annual Open Day exhibition and explore all that is on offer from the Faculty of Humanities. Alternatively, you can contact the faculty to arrange a visit.

For details on the admission guidelines, visit www.humanities.uct.ac.za/hum/apply/overview

“In the humanities, we teach our students to be analytical, to question, to engage in out-of-the-box thinking, to ask the difficult questions and to use their imagination in solving real world problems. If this sounds exciting, then you will definitely thrive in this environment and you will enjoy your time with us.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
HARRY GARUBA
African Studies

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In the humanities, first-year students are paired with senior students who have been carefully selected and trained. These mentors are closely supervised throughout the year. Mentors and mentees meet on a weekly basis in the first semester, either as a group with other mentees or on an individual basis.

Rewards for academic excellence

- Faculty scholarships are awarded annually at the faculty’s discretion to students who do well in the end-of-year examinations. The current value of the Faculty Scholarship Award is R20 000.
- A Fee Waiver for Enriched Curriculum can be granted to top-achieving undergraduate students in their final year of study.
- The Dean’s Merit List is an award given in recognition of consistent academic excellence. Nominations for the Dean’s Merit List are based on above average academic performance and take into consideration individual programme load as well as the total duration of the degree.
- Class Medals are awarded by departments to top-performing students in the academic classes.