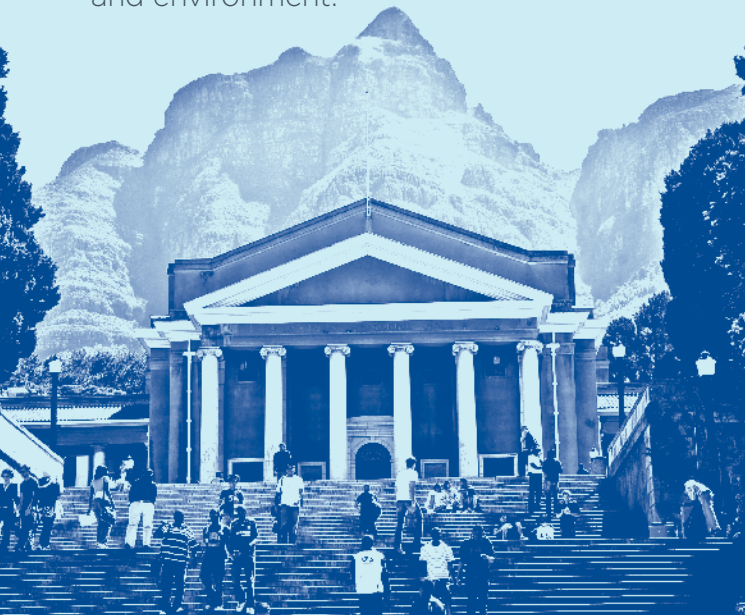


Research at UCT

Taking advantage of expanding global networks and our distinct vantage point in Africa, UCT is committed to grappling with the key issues of our natural and social worlds through innovative research and scholarship. The university is committed to encouraging and protecting curiosity-driven research as well as research that has a real impact on our communities and environment.



“The world is wobbling on its axis, and the old certainties – good and bad – are unravelling. To cope with the uncertain future we face, we are going to need three things: an unrelenting commitment to excellence, an exceptional focus on transformation and the courage to do things differently. Among all these uncertainties, I am sure of this: the research community at UCT is up to the challenge.”

PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG
Vice-Chancellor

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 UCT is ranked 9th in the world in development studies according to the 2019 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- 2 UCT has been awarded almost a fifth of the country's South African Research Chairs, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology's National Research Foundation (NRF).
- 3 UCT boasts about 30% of South Africa's NRF A-rated researchers, who are considered international leaders in their field.
- 4 UCT received the second most funding from the US NIH (National Institutes of Health) direct awards in 2018 compared to other higher education institutions outside the US.

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UCT aims to bring Africa to the world and to draw international expertise to the continent as a whole. The university is currently a member of the following university networks:



The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) forms a hub that supports indigenous research excellence, enabling the continent to take control of its future and assert itself as a global force.

The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU), a network of 11 research-intensive universities, including the universities of Oxford, Tokyo and Yale, allows its members to address the major challenges of our time.



The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) is a leading global higher education and research network made up of 23 universities.



The Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) comprises institutions of higher education and research for all Nordic countries and southern Africa.

The Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN) connects researchers and academics through institutional partnerships in order to address common challenges.

In 2018 UCT was ranked the best university in Africa

(Quacquarelli Symonds, Times Higher Education, Center for World University Rankings, US News Best Global Universities Rankings).

In 2018

2 226
research contracts signed

R1.6 billion
in external research income generated

60 patent applications filed

11 008 postgraduates registered at UCT, including 1 891 from 39 African countries.



UCT provides focused support to areas of research that address these critical challenges:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Astronomy, cosmology and gravity | Drug discovery | Neurosciences |
| Biodiversity | Future water | Poverty and inequality |
| Catalysis: accelerating chemical change | High-energy physics | Preserving our African heritage |
| Climate and development | Human-wildlife conflict | Safety and violence |
| Data-intensive research | Infectious diseases and molecular medicine | Schools |
| Democracy, public policy and citizenship in Africa | Marine research | Urban Africa |
| | Mineral beneficiation | |

UCT's research is committed to enabling Africa to solve its own Africa-specific problems. To achieve this, many of our researchers have established extensive networks across Africa. These are three examples:

Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions and well-being in African countries. Seven rounds of surveys have been completed since 1999. Findings are disseminated for use by policymakers, civil society, media, scholars and development partners, and are widely used to produce regional and global governance indicators.

H3ABioNet

H3ABioNet is a UCT-led pan-African bioinformatics network that comprises 28 research groups distributed among 16 African countries and one partner institution in the United States. The network supports H3Africa researchers (a network of research sites funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust via the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa) and their projects while developing bioinformatics capacity within Africa. At the time of going to press, more than 1 000 participants had been trained at workshops across Africa.

Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

The SKA project is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope. The telescope will be co-located in Africa and Australia. UCT is playing a leading role in a flagship programme that will create data science capacity for leadership in the MeerKAT SKA precursor survey projects, other global precursor and pathfinder programmes, and SKA key science.



SKA South Africa