Teaching and Learning are the core functions of any university.

UCT is constantly striving to improve the experience of teaching and learning for staff and students while working to renew the curriculum, improve access and support the online provision of teaching and learning.

Did you know?

1. UCT boasts a portfolio of 18 massive open online courses (MOOCs) that attract participants from more than 180 countries and over 1 000 new students enter every week.

2. Three MOOCs (Past and Present, What is a Mind? and Understanding Clinical Research) made Class Central’s top 50 courses for 2018. The courses offer flexibility and are accessible at a nominal fee for some, or free of charge for others.

3. The 2018 Teaching and Learning Conference was host to more than 322 individuals, including 254 UCT staff, 61 UCT students, and 7 colleagues from associated institutions.

Teaching and Learning Charter

Central to UCT’s commitment to student learning is the Teaching and Learning Charter. We are committed to creating a constructive and supportive environment where both students and staff participate fully in academic activities. We affirm our commitment to developing the capacity to support student learning with enthusiasm, creativity and rigour, and in a manner that reflects and interprets the research-led identity of the institution.

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The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) is committed to a higher education environment that fosters transformative and reflexive practices in learning and teaching. We strive to create a socially responsive and contextually relevant environment that embraces openness. Our key focus areas include staff development, curriculum and course design, and educational technologies. CILT responds to teaching and learning challenges at UCT and the broader higher education environment through:

- promoting learner-centred teaching practices
- advocating critical engagements with staff and students
- undertaking curriculum initiatives underpinned by values and skills ranging from graduate attributes and digital literacies to community engagement and social justice.
- building capacity to produce online programmes, courses and materials

Key activities and programmes hosted by CILT include:

- lecture recording across the university
- VULA - the institutional learning management system
- staff development activities and grants
- curriculum transformation support
- online course and materials development

The Curriculum Change Working Group, commissioned by former UCT Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price, concluded its university-wide engagements in 2018 to facilitate critical discussions on the decolonisation of the curriculum. The outcome of this process, the CCWG Framework Document, was released in July 2018 and was informed by student needs and lens. The framework is an invitation to faculties and departments to embark on a process of change relative to their assessment and related practice, using a decolonial approach and lens. The framework proposes, suggests and recommends a range of theorised strategies to decolonise teaching, learning, assessment and related practice, using a decolonial approach and lens. The framework is an invitation to faculties and departments to embark on a process of change relative to their staff and students’ needs and curriculum imperatives.

The First-Year Experience (FYE) is a collective, campus-wide initiative to help first-year students make a successful transition into university life and develop a strong sense of belonging at UCT. FYE prioritises an integrated approach to student development, linking initiatives that respond to students’ academic, affective, social, and material needs.