



In 2021 UCT received funding of R1.7 billion for undergraduate and postgraduate financial assistance. On average close to 50% of undergraduate and 35% of postgraduate students receive funding support on an annual basis. In 2021, 265 UCT staff members donated part of their salaries to UCT projects, including student financial aid.

Since 2014 the Motsepe Foundation has assisted 338 students at a cost of R42 million. In addition, the chancellor personally donated R2 million to help 55 students with debt to graduate.

## CONTACT US

### UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID

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Cross Campus Road  
Middle Campus

+27 (0)21 650 3545

[financialaid@uct.ac.za](mailto:financialaid@uct.ac.za)

[www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-funding-administration/financial-assistance/overview](http://www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-funding-administration/financial-assistance/overview)

### NSFAS ONLINE APPLICATION

[www.nsfas.org.za/content](http://www.nsfas.org.za/content)

Share Call Number: 0860 0067 327

Email: [info@nsfas.org.za](mailto:info@nsfas.org.za)

\*Information last updated in February 2022

## POSTGRADUATE FUNDING

# 2021

In 2021, 2 987 postgraduate students (35.24% of all eligible applicants) received a total of 4 882 awards to the value of R350.4 million. With the inclusion of postdoctoral research fellows, the total increased to R443.6 million.

A total of 805 black South African postgraduates (including those with permanent residence) received awards in 2021. In addition, corporate sponsors supported 1 030 postgraduate students.

The university has made provisions for students previously supported by NSFAS at undergraduate level to be covered for the full cost of postgraduate study. This ensures a seamless funding process from undergraduate to postgraduate level.



**FACT** UCT fees may seem higher than most other universities, but they are all-inclusive – “what you see is what you pay”. They include access to UCT’s campus shuttle service, campus-wide Wi-Fi, laboratory fees, computer lab fees, all notes and levies.

## WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

UCT also supports students on financial aid in practical ways:

### 1 Laptop programme

The university runs a Student Laptop Programme to enable students to benefit from the price of bulk buying, and NSFAS-funded students can opt into the programme and receive a laptop that is covered by their learning materials allowance.

1 741  

In 2021, 1 741 students were assisted with laptops, many of whom were NSFAS-funded.

5 983  

Number of students who benefitted from the laptop programme 2017–2021

### 2 Residence and accommodation

Most eligible financial aid students are guaranteed a place in residence at the university.

■ The deadline for applications is on 31 August each year.

### 3 Careers service

UCT’s Careers Service proactively supports the career development journey of UCT students, enabling them to realise their professional potential and contribute meaningfully to society. A diverse range of free career development services are provided to all registered UCT students at any stage of their learning journey from first year up to three years after graduation. Bespoke webinars are regularly hosted where industry experts and recent graduates share their contemporary world of work, insights. Student entrepreneurs are kept informed of institutional, national and international opportunities to compete for start-up funding, mentorship or market-readiness competitions. The MyCareer portal is regularly updated with employment, sponsorship or internship opportunities. The service aligns its offerings with the academic calendar to ensure that students receive relevant support aligned to their interests and needs.



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# Student financial aid 2021



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## Financial aid for eligible students

UCT is committed to helping students who can't afford university fees, as long as they meet the financial criteria and register good academic progress.

Many UCT students receive financial aid from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), from donations and bursaries, as well as from GAP funding from UCT, which funds students who do not qualify for NSFAS funding, but whose families are also not wealthy enough to pay their full fees. Over the years UCT Financial Aid has enabled thousands of young people to pursue their academic goals.

## UNDERGRADUATE FUNDING

In 2021 over 9 000 undergraduate students – nearly half of UCT's undergraduates – received some form of financial support. A total of R1.2 billion was received from various sources, such as NSFAS, UCT funding, government agencies, corporates, foundations, trusts and individuals.

A total of 6 506 students were assisted with financial aid from NSFAS or UCT, while a further 310 students received UCT GAP funding.

External bursaries (corporates, NGOs, foundations and philanthropy) provided funding for 2 237 undergraduate students.

## NSFAS AND GAP FUNDING

All application for financial aid is made to NSFAS on the online applications platform. NSFAS applications for the next academic admission normally opens around September and closes at the end of November. First time entering university students that are South African citizens or Permanent residents and from families where the gross annual income is below R350 000, qualify for NSFAS funding for approved funded programmes.

UCT GAP funding is considered for applicants who applied to NSFAS and did not meet the NSFAS eligibility criteria. Students with an annual gross family income of between R350 001 and R600 000 are eligible for GAP funding.

*\*Information pertaining to 2021 was unaudited at the time of publishing.*



## FUNDING AVENUES

Depending on their financial means, students can apply for funding via the following avenues:

### 1 The National Student Financial Aid Scheme

First-time applications for the NSFAS financial aid (as well as funding renewal for students who already get NSFAS funding) are handled centrally via NSFAS. Students should approach NSFAS directly via their online application system.

- Although the student may have applied at several universities to study, only one financial aid application directly to NSFAS is required.
- UCT co-funds students who receive NSFAS funding to ensure that they can afford UCT's fees and accommodation in residence.

### 2 UCT's GAP funding programme

- GAP funding is a UCT financial assistance programme for the "missing middle" – those students who come from families with an annual income of R350 000 to R600 000.
- All GAP-funding applications are managed via NSFAS, which provides UCT with the data to identify eligible applicants.

### 3 UCT's sibling rebate bursary programme

Tuition cost assistance is available for undergraduate siblings who do not qualify for NSFAS financial aid or the GAP funding programme. This is for students from families with a combined annual household income of up to R750 000 with two or more siblings at UCT at the same time. Qualifying students are eligible for a bursary equivalent to 20% of the tuition fee for the year. The Sibling Rebate Application form is available on the UCT website and applications open in February of the academic year and close in May of the same year.

### 4 The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme

The Ikusasa Student Financial Aid Programme (ISFAP) provides funding for first-year students from families with a combined annual household income of between R122 000 and R600 000.

- UCT is one of six pilot universities selected to determine the feasibility of this scheme. Like all other funding opportunities at UCT, applications for ISFAP funding are on a voluntary basis.
- Students may apply to be part of the ISFAP pilot project.

### 5 UCT scholarships

UCT entrance and faculty scholarships are awarded annually to qualifying students.

- These scholarships are achievement-based and include special achievement scholarships to attract applicants from historically disadvantaged areas and schools.
- These scholarships are also used as a recruitment tool to assist in UCT's transformation.

### 6 The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship

The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship is awarded to top achievers in various categories to attract the best talent to UCT.

IT'S A FACT

Sponsors, foundations, alumni and corporates support student bursaries to the value of approximately R268.6 million.

**90%** (generally) of UCT's financial aid recipients are black students (African, coloured, Indian and Asian).

