



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD



INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE APPLICANTS  
**Frequently Asked Questions**



## **Dear international undergraduate applicant,**

The International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) thanks you for considering the University of Cape Town (UCT) as a possible study destination. This booklet is designed to answer frequently asked preliminary questions about the application process for international undergraduate applicants.

A prospective undergraduate applicant should obtain UCT's undergraduate application package which contains a comprehensive undergraduate prospectus, the application forms, and directions for completing the forms. The undergraduate application package is available from UCT's Admissions Office, or can be accessed via UCT's website at:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/>

There is also an option of applying online at <https://applyonline.uct.ac.za>

Should you have any queries, you may contact the Admissions Office at any time before or during the application process: Email [admissions@uct.ac.za](mailto:admissions@uct.ac.za)

Listed at the back of this booklet are contact details of the faculties and other offices at UCT which may also provide information or assistance in applying to the University.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q When does UCT's undergraduate student application cycle begin?**

**A** The application cycle begins in April of every academic year.

### **Q How is UCT's academic year divided?**

**A** The academic year is divided into two semesters. The first semester runs from February to June while the second runs from July to December. There is only one intake for undergraduate students in February each year.

### **Q How do I apply?**

**A** You are required to complete the standard application form for applicants who wish to study at the University of Cape Town (UCT Application form 1) and submit certified copies of your school-leaving certificates and statement of results with the completed application form. If your school leaving qualifications are in a foreign language they must be translated into English by a sworn translator and certified before submission to UCT.

## Q Is there an application fee?

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A Yes, there is a non-refundable application fee. The application fee can either be paid by cheque, postal order, electronic funds transfer (EFT) or credit card. Proof of payment must be attached to the completed application form otherwise it will not be processed by the Admissions Office. For the relevant application fee for the current year please access: <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/fees/structure/> Payment of the application fee does not mean that you will be offered a place of study. Your application will still need to be assessed by your prospective faculty.

## Q What are the admission/academic requirements?

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A Undergraduate applicants are assessed individually as there is a wide variety of international school-leaving certificates. Some of the more common foreign school-leaving examinations submitted by international applicants include A and O-levels, HIGCSES and IGCSES, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE). **Please note that these are not the only school-leaving certificates recognised for consideration to study at UCT.**

Applicants who have written only the O-level or an equivalent examination, and who are not writing any other school-leaving examination are not eligible for admission to UCT. The International Baccalaureate Certificate is not sufficient for admission while the International Baccalaureate Diploma can be considered by an academic faculty.

Guidelines for admission to UCT can be accessed at <Http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/criteria/intlugapps/> Applicants are advised to read through the undergraduate prospectus carefully on receiving the prospectus as various faculties have entered information on their degrees and school-subject requirements. Further questions about admission and course requirements should be directed to the faculty of interest.

## Q Can international undergraduate applicants apply for Health Sciences undergraduate programmes?

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A The Health Sciences Faculty considers SADC citizens or permanent residents from countries where there are no medical schools or whose medical schools do not offer the Health Sciences programmes they wish to study. The Faculty of Health Sciences currently considers applications for the BSc (Audiology) and BSc (Speech-Language Pathology) programmes from international applicants

other than SADC applicants if the demand from South African applicants is not high in a particular admissions cycle. You are advised to confirm admission eligibility for international students applying for undergraduate health sciences programmes directly from the Faculty of Health Sciences.

## **Q What is required of applicants intending on transferring to UCT?**

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**A** Applicants who wish to transfer to UCT will be assessed on the basis of their school-leaving results and tertiary academic transcripts results. The faculty will assess your application and decide whether to offer a place of study or not. Although an applicant may receive a study offer, the transfer of credits is not automatic nor is it guaranteed. All requests for credit and/or exemption are considered on an individual basis just prior to registration and not during application. Further questions on transferring credits should be directed to the faculty concerned.

## **Q Who should present proof of English proficiency?**

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**A** English is the medium of instruction at UCT, thus applicants whose home language is not English are required to show proof of English proficiency. Applicants are required to present one of the following as evidence of English proficiency:

- a recent score (obtained within 3–5 years before application for admission) of at least 570 (for the paper-based test) or at least 230 (for the computer-based test) or a score of 88 (internet-based test) in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- a recent overall band score of 7.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with no individual element of the test scoring below 6.0
- a score of 65% or more for the Academic Literacy component of the National Benchmark Test
- a pass in English language at A-level, As-level, IGSCCE, GSCE, O-level or International Baccalaureate

An applicant should ideally submit evidence of proficiency in English as part of the application to study. However, if an applicant is unable to present the proficiency score at time of submitting the application then they can submit the score later in the year of application.

## **Q What are the National Benchmark Tests?**

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**A** The National Benchmark Tests consist of three tests written as a combined Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy test and a separate Mathematics test. Applicants to all programmes are required to write the Academic and Quantitative Literacy test and applicants to Commerce, Engineering & the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Science faculties are required to write the Mathematics test as well.

## **Q Who writes the National Benchmark Tests?**

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**A** Any applicant who resides in South Africa at the time of applying to UCT may write the tests offered by the Alternative Admissions Research Project (AARP) at UCT. Applicants to the Health Sciences Faculty must write the National Benchmark Tests and those who are outside South Africa should contact the Health Sciences Faculty for guidance. It is important to note that passing the AARP test does not guarantee an offer of an academic place. For further information on the AARP test access the AARP website: [www.aarp.ac.za](http://www.aarp.ac.za) or email: [adp@aarp.ac.za](mailto:adp@aarp.ac.za)

## **Q What is UCT's closing date for international undergraduate applicants?**

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**A** An application must be submitted to the Admissions Office before 30 September of the year preceding the academic year for which you are applying. For example, if you wish to apply for the 2012 academic year, your application must reach the Admissions Office before 30 September 2011.

## **Q Can I apply for a place in UCT residence?**

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**A** International students may apply for accommodation in a UCT residence by indicating on the application form that they wish to be considered for a place. However, due to limited space, no applicant is guaranteed a place in residence. Should you be offered a place in residence, please notify the UCT Housing Office immediately if you wish to take up the offer. Note: IAPO does **not** allocate places in UCT residences or negotiate on behalf of students for a place in a UCT residence. Applicants who have been offered an academic place but could not be offered a place in a UCT residence should contact IAPO's International Student Administrator (email [cornelia.williams@uct.ac.za](mailto:cornelia.williams@uct.ac.za)) or refer to IAPO's accommodation information webpage for further information: <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/degree/services/offcampus/>

## Q Where do I submit my application?

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A Your application should be posted to the Admissions Office (see contact details on last page). If you are physically in Cape Town, you may deliver it personally to the Admissions Office. An applicant may not email or fax an application to the Admissions Office. Please note that **IAPO does not process applications**, therefore applications should **not** be submitted to IAPO.

## Q What happens with the application after submission?

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A The Admissions Office will enter your information into the applicant information system of the University and thereafter send you an acknowledgement of receipt letter. **The letter of acknowledgement of receipt is not an offer to study.** The acknowledgement letter will have your applicant number and you are requested to use the applicant number in your subsequent communication with the University. Your intended faculty will then assess your application and subsequently advise you of the outcome of your application. Should you be offered a place of study and you accept it, please inform the faculty of your decision to accept the offer as soon as possible.

## Q Can I check my applicant status online?

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A Yes, you can check the status of your application online at <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/undergraduates/status/>

## Q Why do I need to obtain a Matriculation Exemption Certificate?

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A As an international undergraduate applicant who has written a foreign school-leaving examination, you are required to have your foreign school-leaving certificates evaluated by the South African Matriculation Board. The Matriculation Board will evaluate whether you meet the minimum requirements for degree study in South Africa. Access the Matriculation Board website for further information at: <http://www.hesa-enrol.ac.za/mb/>

## Q When do I apply for the Matriculation Exemption?

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A Before making a study offer, the faculty will assess whether you are eligible for a matriculation exemption. Once you have been registered in your first year of study, you will need to apply through your faculty office to the Matriculation Board for a certificate of exemption. When you obtain the exemption certificate, you must submit it to your faculty office.

## **Q What is the tuition fee structure for international students?**

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**A** SADC citizens and permanent residents pay the sum total of the individual courses taken towards tuition costs. SADC students are charged the same tuition rates as South African students. Citizens of non-SADC countries and the rest of the world are charged an international term fee (per annum) plus the sum total of the individual courses taken in that particular year. Refugee and asylum-seeker students pay the same tuition rates as local students. You can access UCT's Fees Booklet for further guidance on applicable tuition fees per year at <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/fees/>

## **Q Is there funding / financial assistance for international undergraduate students?**

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**A** UCT is not able to provide any form of financial assistance to international undergraduate students. Should an international student be offered a place of study and accept the offer, the student must ensure that they have a secure source of funding prior to taking up studies at UCT.

## **Q When do I apply for a study permit?**

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**A** Should you be offered a place of study and accept the offer then you ought to begin the process of applying for a study permit for purposes of studying at the University of Cape Town. You need to make the application to the South African Embassy in your home country. International undergraduate applicants who are resident in Cape Town at the time of receiving their study offer should seek guidance from the local Department of Home Affairs. Refugee students should always ensure that the official Refugee status document, allowing them to study, is valid at all times. For further information on applying for a study permit access: <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/degree/permits/requirements/>

## **Q Can an international student work in South Africa?**

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**A** Yes, an international student who holds a valid study permit and has registered for studies at UCT may work for a restricted period during term time and full-time during vacation. A student must obtain a "permission to work" letter from IAPO before taking up employment.

# CONTACTS

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Listed below are contact details of the six faculties (Commerce, Engineering & Built Environment, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law and Science) and other offices at UCT you may need to contact for further information and assistance in applying to the University.

If writing to any office at UCT, you should address your correspondence by stating the name of the office (e.g. Faculty of Law, Admissions Office) followed by:  
University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa

## International Student Advisor (Undergraduate)

International Academic Programmes  
Office  
Student Administration Building  
Middle Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 2822  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 5667  
Email: [Nosizwe.Mgudlwa@uct.ac.za](mailto:Nosizwe.Mgudlwa@uct.ac.za)

## Admissions Office

Student Administration Building  
Middle Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 4556  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 5189  
Email: [admissions@uct.ac.za](mailto:admissions@uct.ac.za)

## Faculty of Commerce

Level 5, Leslie Social Science Building  
Upper Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 4375  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 4369  
Email: [com-faculty@uct.ac.za](mailto:com-faculty@uct.ac.za)  
[www.commerce.uct.ac.za](http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za)

## Faculty of Engineering & Built Environment

Level 6, Menzies Building  
Upper Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 2699  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 3782  
Email: [ebe-faculty@uct.ac.za](mailto:ebe-faculty@uct.ac.za)  
[www.ebe.uct.ac.za](http://www.ebe.uct.ac.za)

## Faculty of Health Sciences

Room 1, Barnard Fuller Building,  
Health Sciences Campus  
Anzio Road, Observatory  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 2368  
Fax: +27 (0)21 404 7652  
Email: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
[www.health.uct.ac.za](http://www.health.uct.ac.za)

## Faculty of Humanities

Room 107, Beattie Building  
Upper Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 2717  
Fax: +27 (0)21 686 7469  
Email: [hum-ugrad@uct.ac.za](mailto:hum-ugrad@uct.ac.za)  
[www.humanities.uct.ac.za](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za)

## Faculty of Law

Level 4, Kramer Law Building  
Middle Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 3086  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 5608  
Email: [law-studies@uct.ac.za](mailto:law-studies@uct.ac.za)  
[www.law.uct.ac.za](http://www.law.uct.ac.za)

## Faculty of Science

Room A200, PD Hahn Building  
Upper Campus  
Tel: +27 (0)21 650 2712  
Fax: +27 (0)21 650 2710  
Email: [sci-science@uct.ac.za](mailto:sci-science@uct.ac.za)  
[www.science.uct.ac.za](http://www.science.uct.ac.za)