APPLYING TO UCT

Before you apply
It’s a good idea to have a clear idea about:
• what you would like to do at UCT
• what programmes UCT offers that match what you want to do
• what admission requirements are relevant to you, and how you will meet them

Register for the National Benchmark Tests
Before applying to UCT you must register for the NBTs. Please refer to page 11 for information about registration for NBTs.

Admission requirements
Let’s start with these. In order to be admitted to UCT you must:
• have met the statutory minimum requirements for admission
• be proficient in English
• have met the minimum requirements in your school performance
• have met the minimum subject requirements for admission
• have written the applicable National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) by no later than 13 October 2013.

Meeting these requirements does not guarantee you admission. However, unless you meet these requirements, we cannot consider you for admission.

More information about the various requirements

Statutory Requirements
• If you are writing the National Senior Certificate (NSC) in South Africa in 2013, you must meet the minimum requirements for admission to bachelor’s degree study, or diploma study (if appropriate) before we can consider you for admission.
• If you wrote the Senior Certificate examinations in South Africa, you must have achieved matriculation endorsement in your final examination.
• Should you hold a non-South African school-leaving certificate, you must qualify for a matriculation exemption certificate. There are various types of exemption certificates, and we accept certificates of complete exemption, and generally do not accept certificates of conditional exemption. Please refer to www.hesa-enrol.ac.za/mb for more information about eligibility for matriculation exemption certificates.

English Proficiency Requirements
You must submit evidence of proficiency in English as part of your application to study at UCT. These include any of the following:
• for South African applicants, either:
  – a pass in English Home Language or First Additional Language if you hold the NSC, or
  – 40% In English on the Higher Grade (first or second language). If you hold the Senior Certificate...
• a recent TOEFL score (obtained within 3-5 years before application for admission) of at least
  – 570 for the paper-based test or
  – 230 for the computer-based test or
  – 88 for the Internet-based test
• 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 NBT.

The Admission Points Score and the Faculty Points Score
For applicants writing the National Senior Certificate and, in some cases, for those writing non-South African school-leaving examinations, we use an Admission Points Score (APS) and a Faculty Points Score (FPS) to assess your performance at school. The APS and FPS are described in detail below.

Calculation of Admission Points Score (APS) for the National Senior Certificate
The percentages achieved in National Senior Certificate examinations (preliminary and final examinations) will be allocated an admissions score equal to that percentage.

To calculate the APS, the sum of six best subject percentages, excluding Life Orientation, but including English and any other required subject(s) for the relevant programme, is considered when deciding on admission. (In other words, for a programme where Mathematics and Physical Sciences are required, we will take the scores for English, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and the next best three subjects other than Life Orientation to compute the APS.) Results below 40% for any subject do not attract a score.

To calculate the FPS, the APS will be adjusted as described below. Three faculties at UCT adjust the APS when calculating the FPS. For the rest (Commerce, Humanities and Law), the APS equals the FPS.

In the Faculties of Engineering & the Built Environment, and Health Sciences, the NBT score forms part of the FPS. In the Faculties of Engineering & the Built Environment, and Science, the Mathematics Paper 3 contributes to the FPS.

EXAMPLES OF FPS CALCULATIONS FOR NSC APPLICANTS
Faculties of Commerce, Humanities and Law
(Six best subjects, including compulsory subjects count)
English Home Language 75% = 75 pts
Afrikaans/isiXhosa First Additional Language 70% = 70 pts
Mathematics 84% = 84 pts
Life Sciences 86% = 86 pts
Geography 79% = 79 pts
Accounting 69% = 69 pts
Life Orientation 80% = 0 pts
Mathematics P3 70% = 0 pts

Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment
The EBE FPS is a score out of 100, with the NSC and NBT results making equal contribution. To calculate the EBE FPS score, first calculate the APS and divide the result by 12. Second, add the percentages obtained for the three NBTs and divide the result by 6. Add the two results together. If Mathematics Paper 3 was also passed, a bonus of up to 3 points is obtained by multiplying the percentage obtained by 0.03 and adding to the previous total.

EBE FPS = APS / 12 + NBT total / 6 + 0.03 x % Maths 3

Where:
APS = sum of the percentages obtained for the six qualifying subjects (600 maximum)
NBT total = sum of the percentages obtained for the three NBT subjects (300 maximum)
% Maths 3 = the percentage obtained for Mathematics Paper 3 (100 maximum)

English Home Language 75% = 75 pts
Afrikaans/isiXhosa First Additional Language 70% = 70 pts
Mathematics 84% = 84 pts
Physical Sciences 86% = 86 pts
Geography 79% = 79 pts
Accounting 69% = 69 pts
Life Orientation 80% = 0 pts
Mathematics P3 70% = 0 pts

APS = Total = 463/600
NBT Scores of:
AL: 55%
QL: 60%
MAT: 50%

Therefore, NSC score is 38.6 (463/12 = 38.6), NBT score is 27.5 (165/6), and Maths P3 score is 2.1 (70 x 0.03).

FPS = 68.2

PLEASE NOTE: Application to the Bachelor of Architectural Studies programme requires a prescribed portfolio which will constitute 50% of the overall BAS FPS.

Faculty of Health Sciences
English Home Language 75% = 75 pts
Afrikaans/isiXhosa First Additional Language 70% = 70 pts
Mathematics 84% = 84 pts
Life Sciences 86% = 86 pts
Physical Sciences 79% = 79 pts
Accounting 69% = 69 pts
Life Orientation 80% = 0 pts
Mathematics P3 70% = 0 pts

APS = Total = 463/600
NBT Scores of:
AL: 55%
QL: 60%
MAT: 50%

Make a total 165/300, added to 463

FPS = 628/900
An additional 10 points are added if you have passed a third official South African language at Home or First Additional Language Level.

**Faculty of Science**
If Mathematics Paper 3 is passed with at least 40%, then 20% of the final mark will be added to the FPS total (max of 20 bonus points). Therefore, the following example:

- **English Home Language**
  - 75% = 75 pts
- **Afrikaans/isiXhosa First Additional Language**
  - 70% = 70 pts
- **Mathematics**
  - 84% = 84 pts
- **Life Sciences**
  - 86% = 86 pts
- **Geography**
  - 79% = 79 pts
- **Accounting**
  - 69% = 69 pts
- **Life Orientation**
  - 80% = 0 pts
- **Mathematics P3**
  - 70% = (20% x 70) = 14 pts
  - **APS** = 463/600
  - **PLUS 14 = 477**
  - **FPS = 477**

**Calculation of APS for selected non-South African examining authorities**

| ADMISSION POINTS TABLE FOR A, AS, GCSE/OL, HIGCSE, IGCSE AND IB DIPLOMAS |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| APS                             | O LEVEL   | GCSE    | IGCE    |
|                                 | HIGCSE    | AS LEVELS | IB SL | IB HL |
| 10                              | A         | 7       |
| 9                               | B         | 6       |
| 8                               | 1         | A       | C      | 7     | 5     |
| 7                               | 2         | B       | D      | 6     | 4     |
| 6                               | A         | 3       | C      | E     | 5     | 3     |
| 5                               | B         | D       | 4     |
| 4                               | C         | E       |

**GLOSSARY**
- **A** Advanced Level
- **APS** Admissions Points Score
- **AS** Advanced Subsidiary Level
- **FPS** Faculty Points Score
- **GCSE** General Certificate of Secondary Education
- **OL** Ordinary Level
- **IGCSE** International General Certificate
- **HIGCSE** Higher International General Certificate of Secondary Education
- **IB SL** International Baccalaureate Standard Level
- **IB HL** International Baccalaureate Higher Level

**Additional requirements**
For admission to certain programmes, there are additional requirements. For example, the Creative & Performing Arts programmes in the Faculty of Humanities will require auditions or a portfolio of creative work.

**How to apply**
Apply online at http://applyonline.uct.ac.za. Alternatively, contact the Admissions Office for an application form. You will get directions on how to complete the form. You must submit only one application. Your application allows you to choose two programmes. It is in your interest to seek advice about your programme choices, since this selection may affect your chances of admission.

When you apply to UCT, your application will be dealt with by the Admissions Office and by the Faculty that offers your choice of study. You can contact the Admissions Office at any time before or during the application process, and we will be happy to give you help or advice.

**You can contact us:**
By post: The Admissions Office
The University of Cape Town
Private Bag X3
7701 Rondebosch
By telephone: 021 650-5988
By fax: 021 650-5189
By email: admissions@uct.ac.za
On the UCT website: www.uct.ac.za
In person: Admissions Office, Level 4, Masingene Building, Middle Campus, UCT

You may change choices, as you wish, until 31 October 2013. After this date your programme choices may only be changed with the prior permission of the faculty to which you wish to apply.

**When to apply**
We begin processing applications in April 2013 for 2014. Early application will increase your chances of receiving an early offer of admission. Applications for undergraduate study must be received by 30 September 2013, as must applications for:
- Student Housing
- Financial Aid

If all necessary additional supporting documents have not been received by 15 December 2013, your application will be cancelled. NBTs must be written no later than 13 October 2013. International applicants must submit predicted or interim school results by 31 October 2013 and final 2013 school leaving results by 15 December 2013.

Transferring applicants must submit interim transcripts by 30 September 2013, and final or year-end results by 15 January 2014.

**What is the application fee?**
South African and SADC applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of R100. International students are required to pay an application fee of R300. Application fees will not be refunded under any circumstances. Paying your application fee does not mean you will be offered a place to study at UCT.
What happens when your application has been submitted?
If you apply online you will get an email acknowledgement setting out what you have to do next. If you apply by completing a hard copy application form we will write to you acknowledging receipt, asking you to check the data we have captured from your form. If you apply for financial assistance from UCT, and/or a place in student housing, check to see that this application has been recorded. Once we have your application our faculties will consider it.

If we have all the necessary information we will make a first decision (offer you a place, offer you a conditional place, waitlist you, or let you know that you do not qualify). If we are still waiting for information (eg. current school results) we will defer consideration of your application until we receive the necessary information.

At any stage you will be able to track the status of your application, using the password and your application number on our website. When we acknowledge receipt we will give you your applicant number. Please use this number when you contact us as it will help us track your application. The site at which you can check the status of your application is: www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/undergraduates/status

Transferring applicants and applicants who already have school-leaving certificates
Applicants who have attended a higher education institution will be assessed on the basis of their higher education results and school-leaving results. Applicants who rewrite one or more school subjects will be assessed individually.

PLEASE NOTE:
The Faculty of Health Sciences does not generally accept results of re-written NSC/grade 12 subjects, but further information is available in the faculty entry in this prospectus.

Mature Age Exemption
If you do not meet the minimum requirements for university admission but you are 23 years or older and have a Grade 12 (school-leaving) certificate, you may qualify for a mature age exemption. If you fall into this category, you should discuss the possibility of conditional exemption with the relevant faculty office. Applicants with mature age exemption are not considered for programmes offered in the Faculties of Health Sciences and Law.

Transferring Students
If you are studying at another higher education institution, you will be considered on the basis of your school-leaving results and your higher education results. To be considered for admission, you must have met the school-leaving requirements and have a good academic record.

You will need to submit an interim academic transcript and a certificate of good conduct with your application, or as soon as they are available, and your final, year-end transcript by no later than 15 January 2014.
Admissions and placement tests have been used at UCT for over 30 years. The National Benchmark Tests are developed and administered by the UCT Alternative Admissions Research Project (AARP).

All undergraduate applicants who are normally resident, or at school, in South Africa must write NBTs, and all applicants to programmes in Health Sciences must write the NBTs wherever they reside.

All applicants write the Academic and Quantitative Literacy test (described below) and all applicants to Commerce, Engineering & the Built Environment, Health Sciences, and Science faculties also write the Mathematics test (described below). Information regarding the use of the test scores in each faculty can be found in the faculty pages.

What are the National Benchmark Tests?
The National Benchmark Tests are three multiple-choice tests written as a combined Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy test and a separate Mathematics test. The Academic and Quantitative Literacy Test (AQL) is a three-hour test which consists of an Academic Literacy (AL) section and a Quantitative Literacy (QL) section. The results of the two sections of the test will be reported separately. The Academic Literacy (AL) Test tests your capacity to engage successfully with the demands of academic study in English.

The Quantitative Literacy (QL) Test targets your ability to manage situations or solve problems in a real context that is relevant to higher education study, using basic quantitative information that may be presented verbally, graphically, in tabular or symbolic form. The Mathematics, or Cognitive Academic Mathematics Proficiency Test (CAMP) is a three hour test which targets a writer's ability related to mathematical concepts formally regarded as part of the secondary school curriculum (Mathematics Papers 1 and 2) relevant for Higher Education studies.

Who writes what?
Most applicants to the Faculties of Humanities and Law write the Academic and Quantitative Literacy test only. Some Humanities programmes require NBT Mathematics test. Applicants to Commerce, Engineering & the Built Environment, Health Sciences and Science, write the Academic and Quantitative Literacy test as well as the Mathematics test. The completion of the Mathematics syllabus is not a prerequisite for writing the Mathematics Test.

How are the test results used?
The test results are used in addition to school-leaving academic performance and do not replace the use of school-leaving results. In the case of Engineering & the Built Environment and Health Sciences, the National Benchmark Test results make up a specific proportion of a school-leaver's overall Faculty Points Score. (See the Faculty specific section in this prospectus for more information). The NBT results may also be used to decide admission to an extended or foundation programme.

Registration to take the tests
It is necessary to register for the National Benchmark Tests.

You must
• register for the NBTs before you apply, whether (online /or before you submit a paper application form);
• include your NBT registration number in your application;
• have written the NBTs by 13 October 2013.

If you think you have valid reasons for not writing the NBTs by 13 October 2013 you may apply before 30 September
2013 to the Admissions Office, admissions@uct.ac.za for permission to write the NBTs later. Permission will only be granted if there is a valid reason as to why you will not be able to write the NBTs before 13 October 2013.

Please note (1) that NBTs can be written outside SA; and (2) that your application may be denied if you do not write by 13 October 2013 unless you have applied for and obtained permission to write at a later date.

How to register for NBTs
1. You may register online or by telephone.
2. Register online at www.uct.nbt.ac.za. After reading the general information and the FAQs, select the ‘Register to Write’ tab and follow all instructions. Note that you will need your SA identity number or passport number in order to register.
3. If you encounter problems during the registration process, call 021-650-3523 or send an email to nbt@uct.ac.za for assistance. The NBT Project is staffed from 08:00 to 18:00 weekdays and from 07:30 to 11:30 on national test days.

If you do not have access to the internet, call 021 650-3523 to register. The NBT Project is staffed from 08:00 to 18:00 weekdays and from 07:30 to 11:30 on national test days. The tests begin at 08h00 at many venues throughout South Africa. The Academic and Quantitative Literacy test is written in the morning session and the Mathematics (CAMP) test in the afternoon. If both tests are written, you will probably complete them at about 16h00. They must also be written at the same sitting. Testing dates and venues are available on the NBT web site at www.nbt.ac.za Alternatively please call the number shown below.

May I write the NBTs more than once?
You may attempt the NBTs more than once. Yes. But:
• you will have to register for each attempt;
• you will have to pay the NBT test fee each time you do so;
• you will get a new NBT registration number for each attempt, and you must let the admission office (admissions@uct.ac.za) have each NBT registration number and your applicant number;
• if you write a second time and you are doing all three tests, you must rewrite all three tests;
• we will use your best NBT results for each of AL, OL and Maths.

What must you take to the tests?
• your allocated UCT applicant number, if you have received one
• your identity book or passport
• lunch (not all centres are close to shops)
• HB pencil and eraser
• bus/train/taxi fare for returning home
• please note that you will not be allowed to use calculators in any of the tests.

Venues for the tests for admission to UCT in 2014
Please check & confirm venues on the website at www.nbt.ac.za. The testing venues will be clearly sign posted on the days the tests are written. The NBT Project reserves the right to change the venue as circumstances require.

How do you get your test results?
About two weeks after writing, you may access your results on the NBT website. Log on using your unique NBT reference number or your South African ID number. Your scores will also be sent to UCT for use in processing your application.

NBT contact information
website: www.nbt.uct.ac.za, email: nbt@uct.ac.za or tel: 021 650-3523.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benchmark Performance Levels</th>
<th>ACADEMIC LITERACY</th>
<th>QUANTITATIVE LITERACY</th>
<th>MATHEMATICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Upper</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Lower</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scores are reported as a whole number percentage.