



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

# COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

Ensuring the safety of staff and students,  
and the resilience of higher education during a crisis

The University of Cape Town has established an Emergency Fund to address urgent student and staff needs during the COVID-19 pandemic

## The Challenge

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has set up a COVID-19 Emergency Fund to assist in the fight against the virus and its impact on the UCT community. The goal is to raise ZAR 20 million towards addressing urgent priorities related to staff and student well-being during and after lockdown. This will assist the university to continue to function effectively, delivering its value to society through quality research and education.

COVID-19 response efforts to date have included activities such as providing transportation for students who needed to return home ahead of lockdown, disinfecting buildings as they were vacated, sourcing laptop computers and arranging their delivery to needy students, providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to essential staff members who needed to remain on campus, and purchasing data bundles for students to enable them to study from home. These responses will continue to evolve once staff and students begin to return to campus.

Urgent investment is required to manage immediate impacts on UCT staff, students, and groups. UCT is seeking ZAR 20 million to address ongoing urgent requirements relating to staff and student safety and wellness. We are grateful to the donors who have already contributed more

than ZAR 7 million towards these efforts. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, demonstrated her personal support by donating 20% of her salary to the fund for a three-month period. Other members of the UCT executive and many members of staff are also supporting the fund.

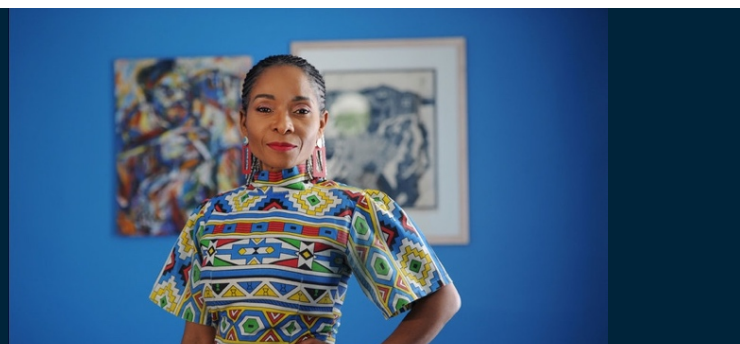
The funding will also be used to support vulnerable departments, including the Baxter Theatre, which is unable to generate income from shows during this time. Other initiatives, such as SHAWCO pop up clinics in vulnerable communities, require support to address the urgent needs of South African society.

**The COVID-19 UCT Emergency Response Fund demonstrates commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of the UCT community**

A donation of any amount will go a long way towards helping our students complete their academic studies so that the UCT community can contribute to the restoration of our country. The university would like to thank our UCT community – alumni, donors, and staff – for the generous contributions already made towards UCT's COVID-19 response measures.

Your support now will help to ensure that this important institution continues to play an important role in the growth of South Africa

Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng,  
Vice Chancellor





## Priorities related to staff and student wellness

### ASSISTING STUDENTS WITH FEE RELIEF

The 'missing middle' are students who don't qualify for either financial aid or student loans. These students are currently the most hard hit by the financial crisis, as many of their families struggle to pay their fees. This is necessitating that UCT provide additional financial aid so that vulnerable students are able to complete their studies.



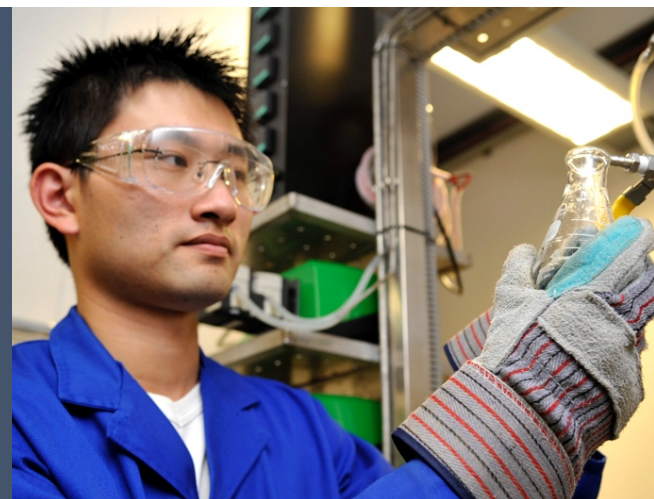
### ENABLING REMOTE LEARNING

UCT has been taking necessary measures to ensure that students can continue with their studies from home. In addition to providing classes online, UCT has also provided students with laptops and data to enable their studies to continue. UCT has been sourcing housing for students, and transporting stranded students home to other parts of South Africa and Africa.



### ENSURING STUDENT AND STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY

Staff and student mental and physical health are a top priority of UCT management. During this challenging time we are taking extra precautions to provide food and student wellness services to vulnerable students. UCT is also providing personal protective clothing to essential staff.







## Priorities related to organisational resilience and community support

### CREATING RESILIENCE FOR THE BAXTER

The Baxter is the most active theatre in the country, presenting over 3 000 performances a year, with a growing international reputation. It is also the most diverse theatre when it comes to programming and audience members. The Baxter achieves this with a small and dedicated staff.

Currently the Baxter depends on the income from ticket sales, donations, and theatre rentals. It requires additional support to adapt to COVID-19, enabling it to remain open beyond this crisis.

To support the Baxter, please contribute via the UCT COVID-19 Emergency Fund, or donate directly to the Baxter “Cup of Coffee” campaign [here](#).



### ENABLING SHAWCO TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

SHAWCO student leadership is committed to supporting the response to COVID-19. Donations via the COVID-19 Emergency Fund will enable the SHAWCO team to scale up the services to especially vulnerable communities via ‘pop-up’ mobile clinics. These clinics will offer primary care services, psychiatric support and, potentially, sexual and reproductive health services.

Support is also required for the purchase of appropriate protective equipment for SHAWCO student and medical volunteers, to enable them to work directly with vulnerable beneficiaries.



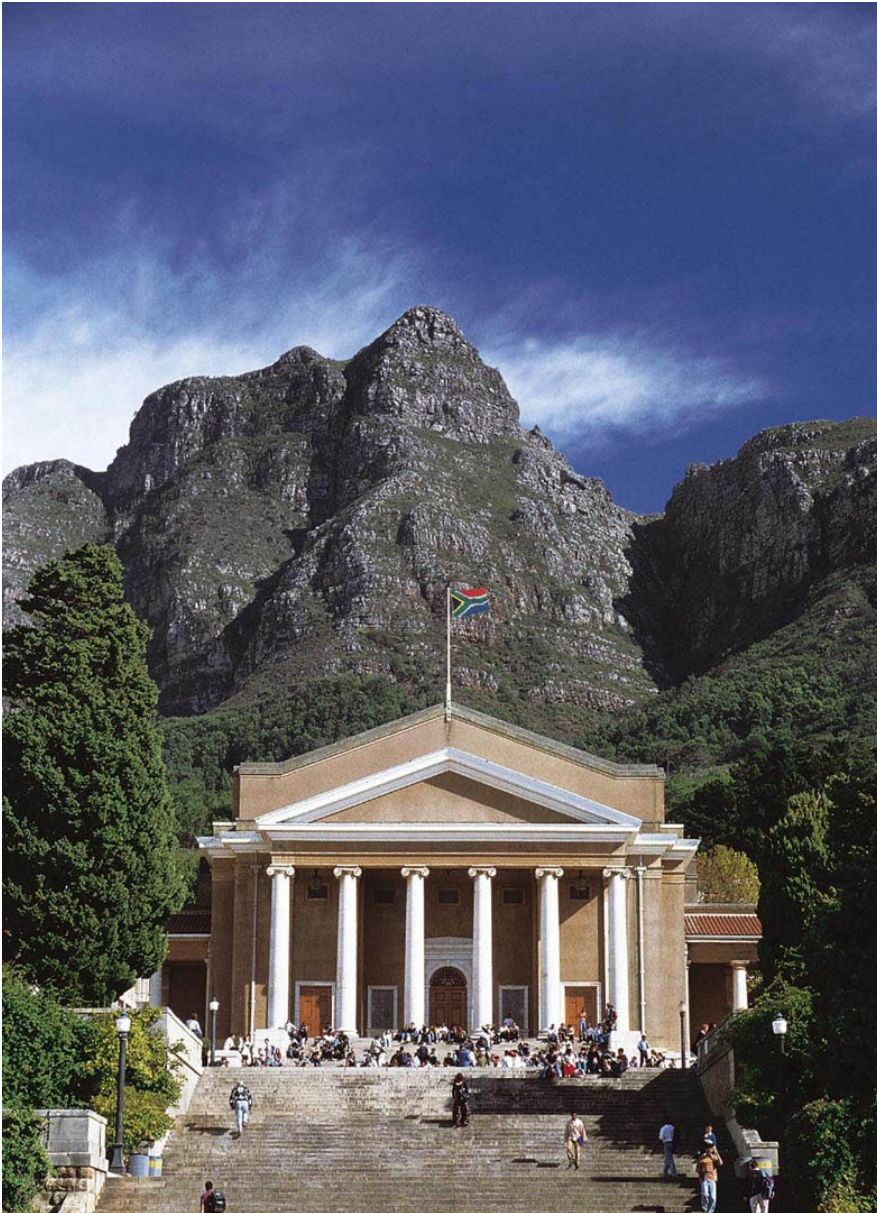




## Financial request

The university is currently seeking funding to assist with the significant costs associated with managing the fallout of COVID-19 on the institution, with a key focus on staff and student health and wellness.

Please help us to reach our goal of ZAR 20 million in emergency funding, joining the kind donors and alumni who have donated more than ZAR 8.2 million over the past few weeks. The university welcomes once-off donations and longer-term pledges – no matter how big or small.



**COVID-19 UCT Emergency Fund donations can be made to the following account:**

Bank name: Standard Bank of South Africa Limited  
Account name: UCT Donations Account  
Branch name: Rondebosch  
Branch code: 025009  
Branch address: Belmont Road Rondebosch 7700 Cape Town South Africa  
Account number: 071522387  
Type of account: Current  
Swift address: SBZAJJ

Please forward proof of payment to [giving@uct.ac.za](mailto:giving@uct.ac.za)

Donor Relation Manager: Sidney van Heerden  
Head of Fundraising  
Development and Alumni Department  
Tel: +27 21 650 5458  
Email: [sidney.vanheerden@uct.ac.za](mailto:sidney.vanheerden@uct.ac.za)

