



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

IMPACT REPORT

2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR: PROFESSOR MOSA MOSHABELA

At the University of Cape Town, we believe that talent is fairly distributed—but opportunity is not. This truth lies at the heart of the 100UP programme, a flagship initiative aimed at expanding access to higher education for learners from under-resourced communities across the Western Cape.

It is a sobering reality that many of these communities lie within sight of UCT's campus, and yet higher education remains an unattainable dream for too many of their young people. The reasons are complex: ranging from socioeconomic barriers to educational inequalities. Many learners attend schools where the quality of teaching and learning is constrained by limited resources. As a result, they may not initially meet the academic thresholds required for university admission.

This is where the 100UP programme steps in—not merely as an academic intervention, but as a beacon

of hope. Through dedicated academic enrichment, career guidance, mentorship, and psychosocial support, we empower learners with the tools, confidence, and resilience to realise their full potential and gain access to institutions like UCT. Beyond this, we strive to nurture a belief in their own ability to dream, to belong, and to succeed.

The impact of 100UP is profound: it changes the trajectory of individual lives, uplifts families, and strengthens communities. But to continue and grow this life-changing work, we rely on the partnership of visionary donors and supporters. Your investment is more than a contribution—it is a catalyst for transformation, opening the doors of possibility to young minds who might otherwise remain on the margins of opportunity.

Together, we can ensure that proximity to UCT is no longer a barrier, but a bridge.

UCT'S 100UP PROGRAMME IMPACTS COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES, ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

To bridge the gap between underrepresented communities and higher education, the University of Cape Town (UCT) launched the 100UP programme.



The programme emerged from a realisation that despite being close to UCT, many Khayelitsha schools had little to no representation at the institution. “UCT has been keenly aware for many years now that its footprint in local communities is very, very narrow,” explained Ferial Parker, project manager of the 100UP programme. “Because Khayelitsha is a geographically contained community, it seemed like a good place to pilot this initiative.” Designed to support academically promising students from Khayelitsha, Mitchell’s Plain, and Philippi, this pioneering initiative has successfully guided more than 1,000 learners towards higher education.

The 100UP programme began as a pilot project in 2011, identifying five academically strong Grade 10 learners from

each of the 20 high schools in Khayelitsha - hence the name, 100UP. The programme quickly reached capacity, supporting 300 learners annually across Grades 10 to 12. To further expand its reach, an additional group of Grade 12 learners, branded the GILL NET group, is onboarded after June each year, extending further support to matric learners from all 20 Khayelitsha schools, as well as from the 16 schools in Mitchell’s Plain. In 2020, 100UP expanded to Philippi, including top-performing matriculants from five high schools in this underserved community.

The programme includes residential camps, exposure to UCT activities through its enrichment component, and a weekly Saturday school which focuses on mathematics, sciences and language.

The initiative is modelled after Wits University's 'Targeting Talent' programme, which supports students from Limpopo and Mpumalanga. However, UCT's version offers a localised approach. "This is UCT's close-to-home attempt to create opportunities for kids in local communities to attend this institution," said Parker.

More than 80% of 100UP learners have achieved B-degree passes, and over 75% have secured admission to higher education institutions, with many completing their studies successfully. The programme's long-term goal is to contribute to institutional knowledge and inform bridging programmes and school-based interventions at UCT and beyond.

FERIAL PARKER ON 100UP'S IMPACT

Ferial has been involved in the programme from the very first cohort and for her, the 100UP represents more than just academic intervention; it is a platform for true change to take effect and for impact to be made where it is needed the most.

"The magic of 100UP lies in its ability to make learners believe that university is within their reach," says Parker. "Many of our students have the talent and the drive but lack the exposure and resources to navigate the university application process. That's where we come in."

She describes the journey of learners who enter the programme uncertain about their future but leave with a sharp vision and the confidence to pursue higher education. "We take them through rigorous academic support, personal development, and exposure to university life. By the time they reach Grade 12, they do not only have the marks but also the mindset to succeed."

In addition to the core 100UP initiative, UCT has introduced 100UP+ (PLUS), providing continued support for students who enter university. This ensures that students not only gain access but also thrive in their tertiary

education. "Our 100UP+ students often come back to mentor the next generation, creating a cycle of empowerment," Parker adds.

The success of 100UP is rooted in collaboration. The Schools Development Unit (SDU) project team, UCT faculties, departmental staff, and student organisations committed to transformation, work hand in hand to ensure the initiative's sustainability and impact.

"We are building a legacy," Parker reflects. "When you see a student who once doubted their potential walk across the graduation stage, you realise that 100UP is not just changing lives—it's impacting generations."

As the programme hopes to expand and continue its impact, it is running the risk of not going beyond 2025 due to funding challenges, but its influence and impact cannot be denied. The programme unlocks access to higher education for bright, determined students. 100UP is reshaping the educational landscape and redefining what is possible for young South Africans.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND EXPANDING HORIZONS

One of the biggest challenges for 100UP learners is adjusting to a completely different world. Through workshops, mentorship, and peer interactions, students are encouraged to envision themselves in fields such as engineering, commerce, and the sciences.

"UCT is only 30 km away, but it's a world apart," Parker said. "Many of these students had never set foot on UCT's campus before joining the programme. When we brought them to the initial launch, they were amazed by this huge place. We needed them to commit, so they signed a memorandum of understanding agreement. We also had an agreement with the parents to ensure their support over the three years."

"We believe that academics is not the only component to success. You need to have confidence. A lot of these kids have little confidence."

BREAKING BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Financial constraints remain a significant concern for many 100UP learners. "There are some financial problems, so some students don't think they'll make it to UCT," said one participant. "But because of 100UP, I've been told that there are financial aid options available."

Recognising the broader impact of the programme, Parker sees it as a way to inform UCT's overall approach to bridging programmes and school-based interventions and hopes that the funding to continue this programme beyond 2025 will be unlocked.

"Often, the most high-achieving students are the ones who've struggled the most," she said. "It's not just about intellectual ability; it's about having the coping skills to deal with a different environment."





PROJECT OBJECTIVE

**BROADENING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
FOR LEARNERS FROM UNDERSERVED
COMMUNITIES IN THE WESTERN CAPE**



PROJECT IMPACT

Total Learners Reached:

4,125



GENDER BREAKDOWN

Males:

1,718

Females:

2,407



MATRIC COMPLETION

Total Matriculants:

2,137



BACHELOR PASSES

Total:

1,939

Success Rate:

91%



HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS

Entered HEIs:

1,834

Access Rate:

86%



UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT

UCT:

839

(46%)

Other HEIs:

995

(54%)



UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ATTENDED BY ALUMNI OF THE PROGRAMME

- **Universities:** University of Cape Town, University of Western Cape, Stellenbosch University, University of Johannesburg, University of Witwatersrand, Rhodes University, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of the Free State, University of Pretoria, Fort Hare University, North-West University, Nelson Mandela University, Sol Plaatje University, Walter Sisulu University, University of South Africa
- **Universities of Technology:** Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Tshwane University of Technology, Durban University of Technology
- **FET Colleges:** NorthLink College, False Bay College, College of Cape Town
- **Religious Institutions:** International Peace College of South Africa
- **Academy:** Police, Paramedics, First Aid.



COMPONENT	INTERVENTION ACTIVITY	OUTCOME
SATURDAY TUITION AT UCT:	Tuition in gateway subjects: Mathematics, Sciences, Accounting & Language	Improved academic performance leading to meeting tertiary admission criteria.
CAMPS: Residential bootcamp at UCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to university life and studies • Interaction with university staff/ students • Grade 12 revision bootcamp emphasizes NSC exam preparation 	Fostering experiences that motivate and alter mindsets. Improved academic results.
ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES/ WORKSHOPS: Examples include sessions to prepare for NBT assessments, Career Development & Information, introduction to design thinking, assertiveness training, etc.	Engage in UCT staff & student developmental activities/ workshops.	Developed knowledge and skills lead to informed career decision-making.
COACHING, MENTORING & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT:	Ongoing advice, assistance and support to learners by project staff & 100UP+ students.	Improved learner knowledge and confidence.
HEI APPLICATION & SUPPORT: Continuous support in navigating the Higher Education application process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online applications; NSFAS / bursaries applications • Tracking until end of February of following year 	Successful completion of online tertiary applications, bursary applications, scholarships, and NSFAS applications.
100UP+ 1ST year SUPPORT: Face-to-face meetings and counselling support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings to address general challenges • Individual counselling and referrals with vulnerable students 	Enabling student success and ensuring positive learning experiences at UCT.

AWAKHE MGWEBI'S JOURNEY OF GROWTH THROUGH THE 100UP PROGRAMME

For many students in underprivileged communities, university attendance can feel like an impossible dream.. The 100UP programme, designed to bridge this gap, has played a crucial role in enabling learners with the tools, confidence, and support to achieve great success in higher education. Awakhe Mgwebi, a former Thembelihle High School learner and now a proud University of Cape Town (UCT) student, is one of many success stories that highlight the programme's impact.

A CHALLENGING MATRIC YEAR

Awakhe's matric year was anything but smooth. Despite the struggles, Awakhe credits two key aspects of the 100UP programme for his ultimate success, namely workshops and tuition support. More than just academic guidance, the workshops instilled confidence and a roadmap for success.

"My marks were dropping after the first term due to personal challenges. With all that stress, I managed to cope and never lost hope because of the motivation we were getting in every workshop.

"Workshops gave me hope and showed me that my dream is not past but the future. In those workshops, I got to know what marks to aim for, to get into UCT, how to apply to UCT, and how to achieve those marks," he explains.

The second pillar that contributed to his achievements was the tuition provided by the programme. "I benefited a lot from those sessions because we had great teachers and lecturers who were always willing to go the extra mile for us to pass. For me specifically, when I came to 100UP, I was struggling with Physical Science and English. In those subjects, I couldn't get above

69%, but after 100UP, I managed to improve, and for my final exams, I achieved a Code 6% in both."

ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL GROWTH

Beyond academics, the programme helped Awakhe develop meaningful friendships that supported him along the way. His biggest challenge was improving in Physical Science, but with the assistance of tutors and his friends, he gradually overcame it. The mentorship component of the programme played an essential role in preparing Awakhe for university life.

"Academically, 100UP provided me with tutors and useful resources to study. Personally, 100UP got me good friends who helped me a lot in my academic journey. I didn't have major challenges, but improving in Physical Science was tough. With the help of tutors and my friends, I managed to improve. Mentors helped me prepare for varsity by giving me tools that I might need to survive at UCT."

A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY

For Awakhe, the familiarity he gained through 100UP made the process of transition from high school to University seamless. "I feel that 100UP got me ready for UCT because, for me, unlike other first-years, this place is like home. I'm familiar with everything

here, so I never get lost when looking for a venue."

Having spent time at UCT during workshops and tuition sessions, he entered university with confidence and already knew the environment, the expectations, and the level of discipline required to succeed.

NO EXCUSES

Awakhe is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting, following the Chartered Accountant (CA) stream. His choice of study is a reflection on his ambition to excel in the world of finance and business while using his knowledge to inspire and uplift others. Accounting is not just about numbers; it is a means of creating financial literacy and opportunities for those who might otherwise believe success is out of reach.

Growing up in a township, he witnessed firsthand how limited access to resources and opportunities can shape a young person's aspirations. However, he refuses to accept the narrative that one's background defines their future.

"I hope to bring change in the trapped mindsets of underprivileged learners, making them believe that 'impossible is nothing. Kids from townships are brainwashed into



thinking that it's impossible to get out there and become something different from what is expected of you. I want to make them see that their visions are the goals they have already achieved, even if they will come to reality in the next four to eight years."

This 100UP alumni envisions a future where today's underprivileged youth become tomorrow's leaders in various fields. "I hope that in the future, I will be negotiating business with those kids who are underprivileged now, as they will be doctors, actuaries, accountants, and CEOs and CFOs by then. My dream is to witness the full-circle effect of empowerment, where those who once saw barriers now see nothing but possibilities."

ADVICE TO FUTURE 100UP LEARNERS

Understanding the value of the opportunity, Awakhe has strong words of encouragement for students currently in the programme. His passion for the programme extends beyond his own experiences, and he believes it has the potential to reach even more students.

"You are privileged to be part of 100UP. Don't take this opportunity for granted. Please grab it with both hands and never let go of it. This is your chance to improve and reveal the best version of yourself. I would like to see 100UP expanding to other provinces and taking learners from Grades 10 to 12. It should also teach Life Sciences."

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROGRAMMES LIKE 100UP

Awakhe believes that initiatives like 100UP are crucial in changing the trajectory of students from underprivileged backgrounds. The impact of the programme goes beyond academics; it fosters resilience, self-belief, and a vision for success. For many learners, it serves as the bridge between potential and opportunity, turning aspirations into reality.

"These programmes are important because they do not only teach, but they get to show underprivileged students that there's a better life and that there's something special within them beyond just being from eKasi (the township) with no hope for the future. 100UP brings that hope."

PAYING IT FORWARD

Now that he has experienced firsthand the benefits of the programme, he is eager to give back. His desire to mentor the next generation of 100UP learners reflects the full-circle impact of the programme. By creating a cycle of mentorship and support, 100UP not only uplifts individual students but also strengthens entire communities by ensuring that those who succeed help others do the same.

KIM LEWIS'S JOURNEY BEYOND UCT

Kim Lewis, a current Bachelor of Education student at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), shares how the University of Cape Town (UCT) 100UP Programme impacted and influenced her journey, preparing her for the challenges of university life.

While most 100UP participants aim to study at UCT, the programme's impact extends beyond its namesake institution, equipping students with skills and experiences that shape their futures regardless of where they pursue their studies.

AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY

Kim's introduction to the 100UP programme came as a surprise. Hearing about the focus of the programme - providing tutoring in subjects like Pure Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Accounting, and English - she embraced the opportunity. The programme quickly changed the way Kim saw education.

"After receiving my June results in matric, three other students and I were called into the principal's office, who informed us about the UCT 100UP programme. My initial reaction to being summoned to the office was dread because I thought I was in trouble, only to find out that I'd been offered a spot.

"The workload of these subjects had become more challenging in Grade 12, so I was excited to attend the tutoring classes and experience the UCT campus. During my UCT 100UP journey, I realised how desperately I wanted to experience university life; not just academically but also socially. The discussions we had in class, with different perspectives and opinions, left me in awe."

As an introvert, Kim was initially hesitant to engage in class discussions, but observing the exchange of ideas among her peers made her anticipate university with excitement rather than fear.

"It made me look forward to my university journey in a good way."

SUPPORT SYSTEM AND CHALLENGES

Kim credits much of her success to the support she received from 100UP mentors and her family.

While 100UP is designed to prepare learners for UCT, its impact extends far beyond. Kim, who ultimately chose to study at CPUT, still found the experience invaluable in her transition to university life.

"Mrs. Ferial Parker and Shireen Gamielidien ensured we were always up to date with 100UP matters and even made sure we were well-fed. My mother and brother also played a huge role, waking up early every Saturday to drop me off at my pickup point.

"My biggest challenge was time management. The workload from school and the programme itself became overwhelming at times. There were days when I felt I wasn't capable of keeping up. It gave me a sense of organisation and helped me feel more in control.

"The transition from high school to university was overwhelming but exciting at the same time. Sitting in lecture halls made me feel like a real university student." Though she struggled with self-doubt in class discussions, she took comfort in listening and learning from others.

"Even though I didn't actively participate at first, I observed my fellow 100UP classmates and gradually gained the confidence to engage. This experience helped me develop skills that I use today still.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE 100UP STUDENTS

Kim urges new 100UP learners to embrace the opportunity fully. She places an emphasises on the importance of planning and making sure you know how you want to get there, and leaving room for the inevitable and uncontrollable.

"It's okay to be nervous during this temporary transition from high school to university. Manage your time properly and simply embrace the experience; you'll love it. 100UP taught me that time management is essential for academic success. 'If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.'"

Now in her second year at CPUT, Kim is studying to become a teacher, a path inspired in part by her experiences in the 100UP programme. For her, tutoring is not just about giving back; it's also an opportunity to refine her own teaching skills.

"I have already created an initiative offering tutoring classes to students in my community. Whether it's explaining a term, helping with complex subject topics, or guiding them through homework, I want to provide support to those who may not have it at home.

"Even though I am not a UCT student, the 100UP programme equipped me with valuable life lessons and made the gateway to applying to a tertiary institution so much easier."

LISO NYANDU BREAKING BOUNDARIES WITH THE 100UP PROGRAMME

The 100UP programme at the University of Cape Town (UCT), designed to bridge the financial and social divide, has played a pivotal and successful role in changing lives through academic support, mentorship, and exposure to university life. One such success story is that of Liso Nyandu, a former 100UP learner whose journey from Khayelitsha to earning a Master's degree stands as a testament to the programme's life-changing impact.

A LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY

Liso first heard about 100UP in Grade 10 through Mr Lusu, the programme coordinator at his school. As one of the top ten learners in his class, he was invited to take the selection test at Luhlaza in 2014. "When I found out the programme was connected to UCT, I was really excited; especially about going to Saturday classes and workshops on campus," Liso said. "After writing the test, I waited anxiously for the results. When Mr Lusu told me I'd been selected, my mindset completely changed, and I immediately started picturing myself studying at UCT."

This selection marked a turning point in Liso's life. The programme not only provided additional academic support but also exposed him to a world of possibilities he had never imagined.

A DEFINING MOMENT

One of the most significant moments for Liso was attending orientation at UCT. Hearing the experiences of those who had come before him gave Liso the motivation to push himself academically. The rigorous standards of the programme pushed him to aim higher, shaping his work ethic and determination.



"Former 100UP learners, who were then studying at UCT, came to share their stories. They were so inspiring. Ferial Parker stressed that we needed to keep at least a 70 per cent average every term to stay in the programme. Right then, I promised myself I would do everything possible to meet that requirement and make sure I could study at UCT."

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND ADVERSITIES

Being part of the 100UP programme came with its own set of challenges. The social pressure was real, but Liso remained focused on his goals. Another major psychological hurdle

came in Grade 10 when he realised that all 100UP learners were top performers at their schools.

"One big challenge was living in the township and having to attend classes every Saturday. People thought it was strange that I spent weekends at school instead of relaxing. I also knew if I skipped classes, I could be kicked out of the programme.

"The competition was tough. By Grade 11, I had adjusted and ranked third among my 100UP peers, and in Grade 12, I was at the top. It took time, but the competition really pushed me to do better."

IMPACT ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Liso's family, though supportive, did not fully understand the impact of 100UP at first. Despite their initial uncertainty, Liso's achievements through 100UP soon made his family proud. This success not only impacted his household but the wider community as well. Through them seeing him gain access to UCT and later pursue a Master's degree shattered preconceived notions about what was possible for students with his background.

"To be honest, my family didn't fully understand what 100UP was about. They just saw me going to camps and classes on weekends. Financially, it didn't impact them because the programme covered transport costs. They were supportive, but they sometimes wondered what exactly I was doing and how it would affect my future."

TRANSITIONING TO UNIVERSITY

Moving from high school to university is daunting, but for Liso, 100UP eased the transition. "Spending three years visiting UCT for workshops meant I was already familiar with the campus and had a support system. There were times I doubted myself, but I reminded myself of all the work I had done to get there. Having the 100UP community and mentors around me gave me the confidence to keep going."

The exposure he received through the programme made him feel less out of place. It also provided him with strategies to

cope with the increased academic demands at university. The support network he built through 100UP continued to be a source of encouragement throughout his studies.

Liso strongly believes that learners should take full advantage of the opportunities that 100UP provides. He acknowledges that many students in communities like his may struggle with self-doubt. His message is clear: the programme is a stepping stone to breaking cycles of poverty and limited opportunities.

"It's an amazing opportunity—make the most of it. You'll have moments when you feel unsure or overwhelmed but keep going and remember your goal. Aim even higher than the 70 per cent requirement; try to exceed everyone's expectations. Use all the mentorship you can get and don't hesitate to ask for help when you need it.

"100UP played a huge part in shaping my ambitions. It showed me what was possible, both academically and professionally. Seeing how education opened doors for me, I now have bigger goals—pursuing a PhD, starting my own projects, or taking on leadership roles.

"I want to give back by being a tutor and mentor. By sharing my story, I hope to show other learners that success is possible no matter where you come from. I want to create opportunities—through workshops, study sessions, or personal guidance—so future 100Uppers can see the same possibilities I did."



100UP PROGRAMME, A 'PRICELESS' EXPERIENCE FOR ONGA MABUSELA

Onga Mabusela, a proud 100UP programme alumna, reflects on how the programme shaped her journey and prepared her for the challenges of university life. Matric was anything but easy for Onga, but her determination to secure a brighter future kept her motivated.

"Matric was tough, but the most important thing was how determined I was about my future," Onga said. "The support I got from my family kept me going, and the weekend lessons gave me the boost I needed."

For students from disadvantaged backgrounds, studying beyond matric is a distant dream and often an uphill battle. Limited resources, financial struggles, and lack of access to quality academic support can make universities seem unattainable. The 100UP programme exists to change that narrative, providing learners with the guidance, exposure, and support needed to turn ambition into reality.

For Onga, the additional lessons provided by 100UP were a game-changer. "If the week was a little challenging at school, I knew that at 100UP I would get clarity on the points I did not understand. The structure of the programme, combined with the dedication of the educators, ensured that students could reinforce what they learned during the week.

More than just academic support, it provided a much-needed sense of stability and encouragement."

THE POWER OF RESOURCES AND EXPOSURE

One of the greatest advantages of 100UP is the access to high-quality study materials and expert guidance. This academic enrichment, however, was only one part of the programme's impact. The exposure to university life and expectations helped Onga and her peers mentally prepare for the next step.

"The material we got was a lifesaver because it saved me the time to look for it myself, and the teachers gave us invaluable information on the different ways to problem-solve."

"As a first-year student, the exposure we got on how varsity operate was priceless. I can gladly say that adapting to the lifestyle and knowing what to expect; I had already gotten that from 100UP."

ADVICE FOR FUTURE 100UP LEARNERS

Reflecting on what it takes to succeed, Onga emphasises the importance of discipline and consistency. The programme, in her eyes, is much more than just academic preparation—it is a tool for transformation.

"To the matric learners, consistency is key. You have to plan so much that you know how many times you breathe per minute. This level of preparation, I believe, is what makes the difference between students who struggle and those who excel. The programme gives hope to learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, like me. The information they gain, and all the exposure allows them to survive in this day when knowledge and experience are power."

PAYING IT FORWARD, SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE

Now that she has experienced the benefits of 100UP firsthand, Onga is eager to give back and help future learners on their journey. "I would like to be a mentor to current high school learners as they are the other versions of me. To assist them on their journey to become even greater than I was and possibly go to the national NSC awards."

"My vision is that the 100UP Programme leaves a lasting impact; not only does it uplift individual students, but it creates a cycle of mentorship and empowerment. By ensuring that those who succeed continue to support those still on the journey, the programme strengthens communities and creates new pathways for future generations."

100UP'S IMPACT TAKES PHAKAMANI NTENTEMA ON A FULL-CIRCLE JOURNEY

When Phakamani Ntentema first heard about the University of Cape Town's (UCT) 100UP programme at Esangweni High School, it was from his Life Sciences teacher, Ms Moseko. Although he had been a strong student throughout high school, he was not selected for the programme in Grade 10. But when the opportunity finally came in Grade 12, it was a moment that he will remember for an extraordinarily long while. His defining moment in the programme came when he first set foot on the UCT campus.

"I felt so acknowledged, so proud of myself," he said. "Moving from Khayelitsha to UCT, the first university in Africa, was overwhelming. The architecture, the scale; it was a dream come true. Before that visit, university felt like an unattainable goal. But once I saw myself in that space, everything changed. I started envisioning a future I hadn't thought possible before."

Phakamani credits many mentors with shaping his journey, but one in particular stood out, Ms Ferial Parker. Adjusting to UCT came with challenges, particularly in integrating with students from diverse backgrounds. The transition, however, was made easier by the fact that he had already spent time on campus through 100UP.

"She was always motivating us, reminding us why we were there and why we couldn't waste the opportunity. Without a family member who had attended university before me, I leaned heavily on the support of the 100UP community to navigate this new world.

"Coming into this space, surrounded by sharp-minded students, was intimidating. But over time, I built



friendships, gained confidence, and learned to compete in a positive way. It felt familiar. I had a circle of friends and an understanding of the space before I even officially started."

For his family, the programme was a financial and emotional relief. "We didn't have to pay anything. It was all covered, from food to transport. That took a huge burden off my family. But beyond the material support, it was the sense of pride and visibility that meant the most. Coming from a struggling background, being in a space that acknowledged my intelligence, and hard work was life changing."

Phakamani went on to complete his undergraduate degree, Honours, and Master's at UCT, and he is now a PhD candidate in the African Languages and Literature section, while also lecturing at the institution. His journey has come full circle.

"100UP was more than just a programme. It was an opportunity to interact with university leadership, to see ourselves in spaces we never thought we belonged."

Giving back has always been part of his journey. In 2016, he co-founded an initiative called Ikhaya, which provided students from townships with access to computers and university registration support. Although the initiative eventually folded due to funding, his commitment to mentorship remains. "Many of us have joined student movements focused on helping township students integrate into university life. We know the struggles firsthand, and we want to make the journey easier for others.

"Don't take this opportunity lightly. Be disciplined, be resolute. This programme is life-changing, and if you embrace it fully, it will open doors you never imagined."



TARGETED ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE PROVED GAME-CHANGER WITHIN THE 100UP PROGRAMME

Qaanitah Petersen, a beneficiary of the programme, reflects on the resounding impact it has had on her academic journey, personal growth, and decision-making skills since being part of the programme. The path to higher education can seem daunting for many, needless to say adding financial restrictions to this scenario can compound matters for any student.

Limited access to resources, unfamiliarity with university systems, and a lack of academic support often pose significant barriers. The 100UP programme is designed to bridge these gaps and has played a crucial role in empowering students with the tools, confidence, and guidance needed to transition from high school to university successfully.

A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Support, both at home and within the 100UP framework, was instrumental in Qaanitah's success. Her family's encouragement and access to additional online resources provided her with the necessary foundation to excel. Yet, it was the targeted academic assistance from 100UP that truly made a difference, particularly in her English Home Language Paper 1 and Physical Sciences.

"The extra lessons helped me refine my understanding of subjects that I initially struggled with," she said. "It allowed me to pick up on things I had missed during school hours and gave me the confidence to improve my performance. Beyond academics,

the programme offered opportunities for personal development. For me, one of the most meaningful aspects was the chance to form new friendships. Connecting with peers who shared similar aspirations and challenges helped create a supportive network that eased the pressure of the matric year."

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES ONE STEP AT A TIME

The road to success was not without its hurdles. One of the biggest challenges Qaanitah faced was receiving a lower-than-expected Mathematics mark during her preliminary exams. However, rather than letting this setback define her, she used it as motivation to push herself harder.

“That experience forced me to put in extra effort during my final exams. The discipline I developed during that period is something that continues to serve me well in university.”

100UP encourages dedication and resilience within each student by teaching them that setbacks are temporary, and that persistence is key. By providing a space where students can learn, fail, and try again, the 100UP programme instils a mindset of continuous improvement—one that remains valuable beyond high school.

EASING INTO THE UNIVERSITY TRANSITION

For many first-generation university students, navigating campus life can be overwhelming. The 100UP programme helps to demystify this transition by familiarising students with university environments before they officially enrol.

“The programme made finding buildings on campus so much easier,” Qaanitah said. “It also reassured me that I wasn’t alone when I struggled.”

ADVICE FOR FUTURE 100UP STUDENTS

For those considering joining the programme, Qaanitah has one key piece of advice: consistency is crucial. She also believes that small adjustments could enhance the programme’s impact. She suggests starting classes earlier in the academic year, introducing more venue changes on campus for better exposure, and ensuring that Saturday sessions end earlier to accommodate students’ schedules.

“Be consistent, remember the end goal is to matriculate and don’t give up. These programmes provide exposure to environments that many learners don’t have access to. They help students understand what is possible if they work hard and persist in their education.”



THE 100UP PROGRAMME'S IMPACT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Initially for Spine High Road alumnus, Allen Toyer, the 100UP programme from the University of Cape Town (UCT) was a foreign concept: one that he nearly stopped even before giving it a proper go. It all started for Allen when his high school principal informed him that he had been selected to attend Saturday classes due to his academic performance.

"Initially, I was confused and unsure about what the programme entailed," said Allen. "If it weren't for my mother's encouragement, I might not have attended, as I was reluctant to take on additional schoolwork. Looking back, I'm incredibly grateful that I did, because it impacted my perspective and realigned my goals and dreams toward greater things.

"Before this [the 100UP Programme], I was set on finding casual work after matric, unaware of the power of [higher] education. The programme exposed me to a world beyond the gangsterism and alcohol that were deeply ingrained in my community. It allowed me to dream of a better life."

MENTORSHIP AND GUIDANCE KEPT TOYER ENGAGED

The support of key mentors, particularly Mrs. Ferial Parker and Mrs. Ilhaam, played a vital role in keeping him on track. Despite the pressures from friends who were involved in gangsterism, Allen remained committed to his studies.

"There were times when I skipped Saturday classes, but instead of giving up on me, they reached out to understand why and continued to motivate me. My mother also played a crucial role.

"When I missed the bus from Spine Road High School, she would give me taxi fare to travel from Mitchells Plain to UCT, ensuring I didn't miss out on the programme. Their support was



vital during moments when I doubted whether I wanted to continue."

"The biggest challenge was the influence of my friends, many of whom were involved in gangsterism and had no interest in studying. I overcame this with the support of my teachers, the 100UP team, and my mother, who constantly reminded me of the better life I could achieve through education. Hearing stories from former 100UP students and experiencing the

university environment during lectures also reinforced my determination to stay on the right path."

LIVING WITH NO REGRETS

Reflecting on where he might have ended up without 100UP, Allen acknowledges the programme's life-changing impact. The programme also influenced his family, particularly his mother who had held her son accountable for



remaining committed as she could see the dramatic impact the 100UP programme was having on Allen.

Despite having the pressure of needing to provide some form of income and to contribute to the family's daily needs, Allen could have easily slipped into becoming a statistic, which many of his peers sadly have fallen prey to. However, he kept on pressing towards his goal and never regretted a single moment of sticking to the course.

"I try not to dwell on this, but I believe I might have ended up as a gangster or worse, a drug addict. Growing up in a community where gangsterism, call centre jobs, or working for family were and to some extent are the norm, education wasn't a priority. "My family's financial struggles made the gang lifestyle seem like the only way to bring wealth into our home. Without 100UP, I likely would have made life-altering decisions I'd regret

today. My mother was incredibly proud, and it brought her happiness to see me succeed. However, the dynamics within my extended family shifted, as some relatives treated us poorly out of envy that their children didn't have similar opportunities.

Thankfully, my aunt and uncle, who we lived with, remained supportive. Financially, the programme didn't burden my mother, though I felt guilty when I had to ask for taxi fare after missing the bus."

COMING FULL CIRCLE AS A MENTOR

Transitioning to university was made easier by his experience with 100UP. The transition was seamless because the programme had already exposed him to campus life. By the time he started university, Allen felt more prepared than most of his peers. The support network he had through 100UP, including access to mentors, made the process much easier. His

advice to young learners entering the programme is simple but powerful.

Allen concluded: "Stay committed, even when it feels overwhelming. Being part of 100UP is a privilege; take full advantage of it. Attend every session, absorb as much as you can, and remember that this programme opens doors to universities beyond UCT. Your future is in your hands.

"Having completed my studies, I still carry the lessons and values I learned from 100UP. They have guided me to want to pursue a PhD and advance my professional career at UCT. I've had the opportunity to mentor 100UP students, which was a rewarding experience. Now, working in the Financial Aid Office at UCT, I hope to continue guiding students who need support. I also aspire to contribute financially or through volunteering to improve the programme for future generations."

THE POWER AND IMPACT OF A RESOURCEFUL MOTHER

The transition from high school to university can be daunting, particularly for students from underprivileged backgrounds. Limited access to resources and support can make higher education seem unreachable, but programmes like the University of Cape Town's (UCT) 100UP programme bridge the gap, providing students with invaluable assistance. 100UP alumni, Unam Hobo, now a second-year chemical engineering student at Wits University, reflects on how the programme shaped her journey and gave her the tools to succeed.

THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING SELECTED

Unam first heard about 100UP when it selected its initial group of students in Grade 10.

"I wasn't part of those students, but the ones who were first selected were talking about how helpful it was," she said. "By Grade 12, I was invited to join the programme. I was excited since I had heard that it is a very helpful programme for students."

Joining 100UP at a crucial time in her high school career gave her access to much-needed academic support, resources, and mentorship that would prove invaluable as she prepared for her final exams.

A DEFINING MOMENT OF SUPPORT

One of her biggest realisations was how much easier 100UP made her matric year. With access to extra lessons, guidance on study techniques, and structured academic support, Unam saw firsthand how the right tools can help students reach their full potential. She credits much

of her success to her mother, who was her biggest supporter.

She continues by acknowledging the teachers who went the extra mile to ensure students felt comfortable and confident in their learning.

"My defining moment in 100UP was realizing how 100UP made my matric easier because of the resources it had.

My mom was extremely supportive of me attending this programme. "She would ask people to accompany me to the pick-up point since it was not safe to walk alone in my neighbourhood in the morning. Her support pushed me to give my all.

"I didn't really have any challenges because the teachers there created a safe space for students to not be scared to say they didn't understand certain topics."

LIFE WITHOUT 100UP AND FACING VARSITY

While Unam believes she would have found a way to succeed without 100UP, she acknowledges that the programme made a significant difference. The structured lessons, additional learning materials, and exposure to a university environment helped her navigate matric with more confidence and preparedness.

Adjusting to university life was not easy, but Unam's determination helped her push through.

"It was difficult, but I managed to push through because I kept reminding myself I did not work hard to pass matric just to give up when I am getting closer to my dreams. The resilience and discipline I developed

through 100UP played a key role in helping me adjust to the demands of university life."

ADVICE FOR FUTURE 100UP LEARNERS

She has a simple yet powerful message for current 100UP students: "Listen to your 100UP teachers. I know motivational talks bore most teenagers, but those teachers know what they are doing, and they know what they are talking about. Some of them have been in your shoes before."

Though she is still in university, the lessons she learned from 100UP continue to shape her academic journey.

"Whenever it gets hard, I just remember that I was once a 100UP student. I am capable of anything, and that makes me believe I can achieve every goal. The confidence and self-belief instilled by the programme remind me that I have overcome challenges before and can do so again."

PLANNING TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Unam hopes to one day give back to the programme that helped her, though she is still figuring out how. "I hope one day I can also tutor students, but I am terrible at explaining concepts, so I haven't figured out plan B on how to give back to the next generation of 100Uppers."

Despite this uncertainty, her desire to support future students is a testament to the lasting impact 100UP has on its learners. Many alumni, like Hobo, feel a deep sense of gratitude and responsibility to uplift the next generation.



FAITH AND FAMILY KEY FOR 100UP ALUMNI

Zeenat Grey started her NSC final exams with a mixed plethora of emotions most of which were excitement and anxiety. Balancing the pressures of matric while managing personal struggles was no easy feat, but it was the impact and support that the 100UP programme offered that helped Zeenat traverse the challenging waters of one of the most important exams of her life.

“Learning how to manage my time, trying not to pressurise myself too much whilst trying to get the matric experience everyone spoke about, and handling personal things I was going through was tough,” Zeenat said. “Despite these challenges, I found strength in my faith, the unwavering

support of my family, and the encouragement of my teachers.” When she joined the 100UP programme, she experienced a shift in both her academic performance and personal confidence. More than just academic growth, the programme provided her with a community of like-minded peers who motivated and supported one another. “The people I met through the programme, some of whom I still have close contact with at UCT, made a huge difference in my journey.”

A TURNING POINT IN HER ACADEMIC CAREER

One of Zeenat’s biggest personal challenges was dealing with the loss of a close family member while

preparing for her matric exams. The grief, combined with the pressure of academic performance, made it difficult for her to stay focused. As she progressed through the programme, Zeenat’s confidence in her abilities grew. “It was difficult to juggle grief, academics, and thinking about the year ahead. However, 100UP became a pillar of support during this difficult time for me. Getting up every Saturday for Math and English classes became something I looked forward to. It helped me stay focused academically while also reassuring me that I wasn’t alone. It made me realise that your situation can either be an excuse or your motivation.”

When her preliminary exams arrived, the impact of the programme became clear. “I got better preparation in just two months of being in the programme, but my biggest highlight was my NSC results; I achieved 92% in Mathematical Literacy after being an 80% average student all year.”

PREPARING FOR UNIVERSITY LIFE

100UP made the transition to university significantly easier for Gregy one, but 100UP made it significantly easier for Zeenat. “It helped me physically prepare with all my applications for university and funding and mentally prepare for what university would be like. Even when I was faced with challenges during the application process, I found guidance from the 100UP mentors. When I had trouble getting proper feedback on online applications, the 100UP mentors advised me on my next steps and continuously encouraged our group.”

Now, as a first-year student at UCT in 2025, Zeenat feels far more equipped than she would have been without the programme.

“I don’t feel as lost or unprepared as I initially would have been. I was made aware of the privilege and standards that came with the institution and how to navigate it while also taking time for myself. Seeing familiar faces from the programme on campus has also been a source of comfort for me. It always comes in handy when things feel a bit much.”

CHANGEMAKER IN THE MAKING

Zeenat is currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree at UCT, majoring in English Literary Studies and Sociology. With an eye toward the future, she plans to pursue a combined stream of law, a path that will allow her to engage with social justice and advocacy. For her, knowledge is a tool to bring about change, and she is determined to use her education to amplify voices, foster dialogue, and bring about meaningful impact in society.

I want to be the artisan who knows their talents and implements them for positive change in the world, to be able to explore, bring about new ideas, and be a social driver in society with the capability of speaking up on what’s important in a way that I can do it best. Whether through law, literature, or activism, I am determined to be a force for progress, inspiring others to recognise their own potential.”

Breaking the generational cycle is not just a personal goal but a commitment to those who come after her. “I hope I get to achieve every goal I have and that I don’t ever lose sight of the vision I have for myself,” she says. “I’m determined to break my generational cycle and hope to leave some sort of impact that will inspire others in the future, to show that nothing is impossible, especially to the youth of today.”

“I believe that when young people realise the opportunities before them, it sets off a chain reaction of progress. The world becomes quite literally their oyster.”

ADVICE FOR FUTURE 100UPPERS

For students entering the 100UP programme, Zeenat has simple but powerful words: “Do not think about how much you have to do; just do it. Consistency is key. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. To reach a standard, you need to know what that standard is all about. I want to encourage students to aim high while being kind to themselves along the way.

She firmly believes in the importance of programmes like 100UP in helping students navigate the challenges that comes with university life.

“It is one of the biggest factors that could contribute to a student’s success, acting as a stepping stone towards your goals and dreams. It gives hope to those who might be running out of it due to their circumstances. I think I could help best by contributing advice to learners from having experience with the programme and helping organise extracurricular activities. It would be my way of expressing gratitude for being part of something so great.”



A WORLD WITHOUT 100UP IS NOT IDEAL

Angela Edwards, who heads up the UK UCT Trust, has been involved with 100UP since 2014, shortly after its launch. From the outset, the trustees recognised the programme's significance as a key initiative within UCT's Schools Improvement Initiative (SII). Over the past 11 years, 100UP has been a priority project for the Trust, and it has been highlighted in the UCT-UK Annual Appeal for six of those years. This sustained effort reflects its strong appeal to UCT alumni and donors, particularly those based in the UK.

Over the years, Angela has spoken to students who have directly benefited from 100UP. Their stories reinforce the programme's life-changing impact. "Every single one of them said they could never have dreamt of going to UCT had it not been for 100UP," she says. The programme's reach is evident, as even students who were not part of 100UP wished they had had the opportunity. However, the decision to cut the initiative as an official UCT project was met with great disappointment. "For a long time, 100UP, as part of the SII, was a UCT Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Initiative, launched by Max Price. It was incredibly sad when this support stopped."

LIGHTING THE FIRE ONE DONATION AT A TIME

One of the most notable fundraising efforts supporting 100UP was the Chelsea Flower Show, which raised an impressive R 1.9 million through donations and event contributions. The trustees are deeply moved by the programme's impact and decided to take it on as an ongoing project.

"It particularly appeals to alumni, who form the main donor base," Edwards explains. "In 2024, we had 15 donors who were alumni, contributing one-off donations, and six regular donors who give every month. This



consistent support highlights the strong connection between alumni and UCT's outreach work, with many in the UK wanting to see the institution expand opportunities for underprivileged students."

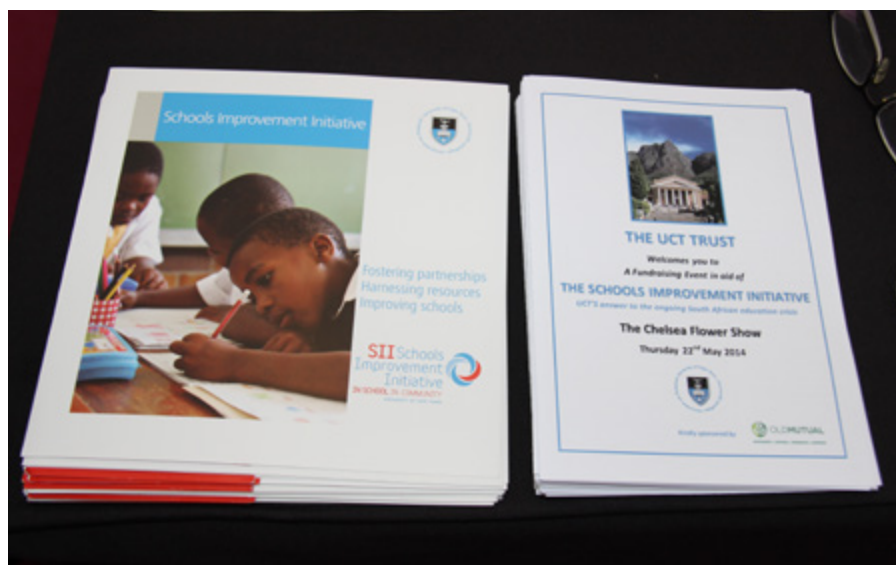
Despite institutional changes, there is still funding available for 100UP, and donors remain passionate about its mission. "The trustees prioritise

projects that resonate with alumni and donors in the UK, and few initiatives garner as much support as 100UP. The demand for outreach and academic support for talented yet underprivileged students is undeniable, and the programme continues to prove its effectiveness."

A WORLD WITHOUT 100UP? NOT JUST YET

Looking ahead, Angela believes that while it would be ideal for 100UP to become unnecessary due to improvements in the South African schooling system, there is a continued need for such initiatives. "If it is still around, I would love to see it spread even further, beyond UCT and the current model. Expanding the programme would mean reaching more students who need it the most, ensuring that access to higher education is not limited by circumstance."

The way donations are packaged and presented plays a crucial role in sustaining and growing 100UP. The programme remains a beacon of hope as it aims to continue to have targeted outreach and donor support, providing students with opportunities they might never have imagined possible.



FINANCIAL REQUEST

We are actively seeking funding to continue the 100UP project and invite potential funders to support this transformative initiative, which aims to advance educational equity and contribute to the broader societal transformation in South Africa. Below is a detailed outline of the project budget:

100UP BUDGET FORECAST SUMMARY @ 6% INCREASE PER ANNUM			
GRADE 12 ONLY			
NO	LINE ITEM	2025	2026
1	SCHOOL LIAISON	R 62,832	R 66,602
2	ENTRANCE EXAM	R 49,821	R 52,810
3	PROJECT ORIENTATION - GRADE 12	R 66,972	R 70,991
4	PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY	R 38,472	R 40,780
5	RESIDENTIAL CAMP - GRADE 12	R 442,025	R 468,546
6	SATURDAY TUITION - GRADE 12	R 408,740	R 433,264
7	ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES/WORKSHOPS - GRADE 12	R 179,993	R 190,793
8	100UP+ SUPPORT AT UCT	R 49,450	R 103,940
9	OFFICE EXPENSES (OVERHEADS)	R 20,000	R 21,200
10	PROJECT SUNDRY (postage, stationery, brochures)	R 10,000	R 10,600
	ANNUAL TOTAL	R 1,328,306	R 1,459,527
	COST PER INDIVIDUAL (100 LEARNERS + 50 UCT 100+ STUDENTS)	R 8,855	R 9,730

Your support will enable us to continue providing essential academic and life skills development opportunities to learners, empowering them to pursue higher education and realize their full potential. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless young individuals and contribute to building a more inclusive and prosperous future for all South Africans.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss potential partnership opportunities and how your investment can make a lasting impact.

Thank you for considering funding support for UCT's 100UP learner support program.



CONTACTS

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI DEPARTMENT:

Melvorna Joe

Deputy Head of Philanthropy
Melvorna.joe@uct.ac.za
+27 21 650 4419

UK

UCT Trust
Angela Edwards
uct-trust@tecres.net

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES:

Australia

UCT Australian Trust
Ruth Thornton
australiantrust@uct.ac.za

USA

UCT Fund Inc.
Porcha Dodson
Porcha.dodson@uct.ac.za

Canada

UCT Regional Office
Samantha Mandigora
Sam.mandigora@uctcanada.ca

100UP PROGRAMME

Ferial Parker

Project Manager
Ferial.parker@uct.ac.za
+27 21 650 5327

Europe

Andrew Wigley
Andrew.wigley@uct.ac.za



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD