



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Congratulations
Class of 2024

ALUMNI



CONTENTS

Congratulations from the Alumni Relations team	4
Message from the President of Convocation	6
A global community of UCT Alumni	7
UCT graduates have the edge	8
Support the next generation	9
Unlocking Futures Bursaries	10



UCT Student Wellness Services	11
The UCT Food Sovereignty Programme	12
The anti Gender-Based Violence Programme	13
Project: 100UP	14
UCT Disabilities Services	15
AfriFund: an SRC-led campaign	16
Join UCT Alumni Connect	18



Congratulations from the Alumni Relations team

Dear UCT alumnus,

Congratulations on this momentous achievement! As a graduate of Africa's top-ranked higher education institution, you join an extremely powerful global community of alumni numbering over 200 thousand. You are part of something that is much bigger than yourself now: a network of visionaries, leaders, innovators, creatives, pioneers and change-makers who are impacting society for the better.

You did not achieve this milestone by chance. Your success is not at all random. You are here, because of **your** hard work, your commitment and focus in spite of the obstacles that may have been in your way. A UCT education has simply honed what was already inside of you, innate wisdom, talent and potential!

As you go out into the world, pause to reflect on your UCT experience and what this has meant to you. You

are certainly not the same person who arrived on campus in your first year. The UCT journey has and will continue to shape your life. As a fellow alumnus, I hope that UCT has been for you what it was for me: a vibrant, intellectually stimulating place where you encountered people from diverse walks of life, where you found your passion, your voice and possibly your life's purpose.

Did you know that UCT graduates have a significant advantage in terms of employability? UCT has been ranked 173rd in the world, in the quacquarelli symonds (QS) world university rankings 2024. According to QS, we remain the best university in africa, moving up to within the top 12% internationally. This means that your degree holds enormous currency. You are highly sought after so, use this to your advantage. Walk proudly into every professional work setting knowing that your UCT qualification has given you a distinct edge.

Become a donor and pay forward the education and training you have experienced here. From as little as R200 per month, you can help ease the burden of fee debt and ensure future generations of successful graduates. In this booklet, we have profiled 7 student-focused fundraising initiatives that would benefit from your support. Please consider making a gift towards one of these today.

Finally, let's stay connected. Join our bespoke alumni networking platform called [UCT Alumni Connet](#).

You can unlock career and mentorship possibilities on this channel too. Attend alumni networking events hosted in your city or region, join an alumni volunteer chapter and, follow @uctalumni to stay abreast of developments taking place at your alma mater.

Go ahead, make **your** mark on the world. We are so incredibly proud of you!

Join a UCT alumni Chapter or Affinity Group

Your relationship with UCT does not end after today. One way of maintaining a lifelong bond with your alma mater is by joining a UCT alumni chapter or an affinity group in your region where you will meet fellow alumni who share the same interests as you. Alumni chapters provide great networking opportunities, new business connections and are ideal spaces for obtaining updates on upcoming events hosted by your alma mater.

UCT alumni chapters and affinity groups play a critical role in amplifying the work of the University of Cape Town by broadening the reach of our fundraising, affinity-raising initiatives and recruitment drives targeting the next generation of top applicants to UCT. To establish a chapter in your region, contact our alumni relations manager: nomcebo.msweli@uct.ac.za. Or, scan the QR code below.





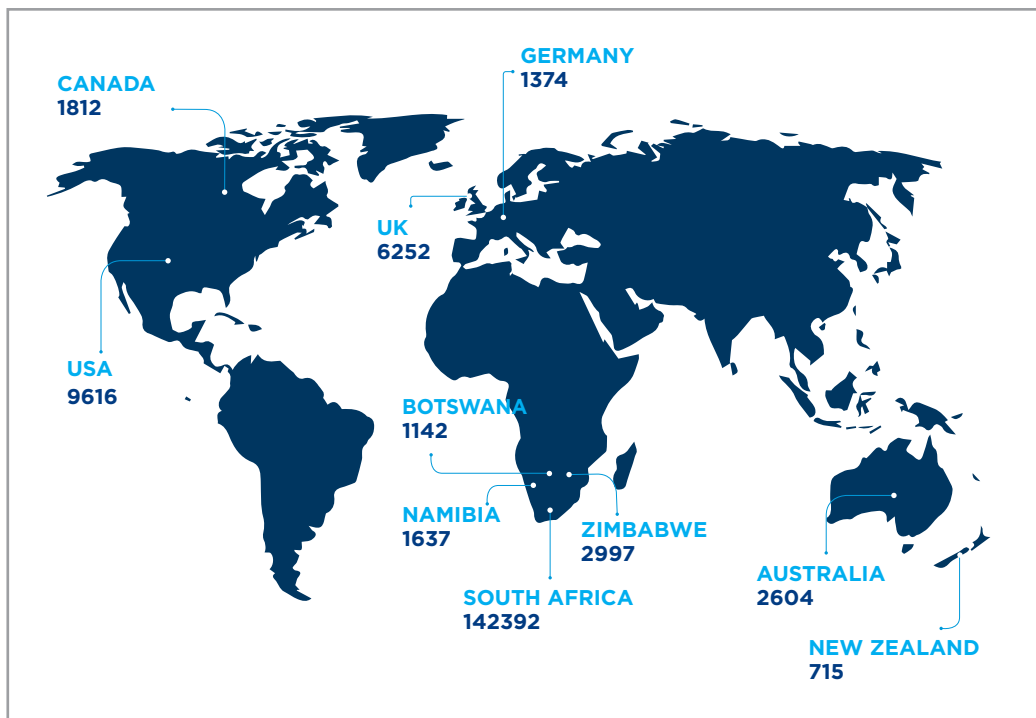
Naadiya Moosajee
President, UCT Convocation

Message from the President of Convocation

Graduation time is always such an inspiring time on campus. It signifies the culmination of years of hard work, sacrifice and sleepless nights to complete your degree. It is a moment of celebration for you, it is moment of pride for your family and loved ones, and it is a moment of recognition from the university that you have now embarked on a new stage in your journey with the University. Congratulations on all your success, and welcome to convocation, which is the alumni network of the University of Cape Town.

While we celebrate, we must also reflect on the responsibility that comes with

this privilege. The responsibility to go out into the world and do yourself proud, the responsibility to those that will come after you, to pave the way, and to be part of building a better society and a better world. Now more than ever, we need you to rise as leaders of society and our country to solve some of the most difficult challenges of our time. Together, we can rise, and be the change we want to see in the world. Enjoy the celebrations, be present in this moment, and I look forward to engaging with you as members of convocation.



A global community of UCT alumni

UCT has over **200 000 alumni**, located in **164 countries** around the world. Our university is home to five Nobel Laureates:

- Max Theiler (Medicine)
- Ralph Bunche (Peace)
- Sir Aaron Klug (Chemistry)
- Allan McLeod Cormack (Medicine)
- JM Coetzee (Literature)

We have a large network of alumni ambassadors and chapters, with increasing numbers in Africa. Our international UCT offices are focal points for leveraging institutional and research relationships, as well as donor opportunities.



UCT graduates have the edge

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has been ranked 173rd in the world by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2024. This is an impressive rise of 64 places compared to the previous year. UCT shares this position with Qatar University and The University of Newcastle, Australia.



UCT
PLACED

38TH

IN THE NEW
EMPLOYMENT
OUTCOMES
INDICATOR

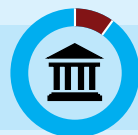
1500

INSTITUTIONS FROM AROUND
THE WORLD WERE RANKED



DID YOU KNOW?

- UCT remains the **best university in Africa**, according to QS, moving up to within the top 12% internationally.



- A total of 1 500 institutions from around the world were ranked, including 11 from South Africa.

- UCT was placed 38th of all ranked institutions in the new **employment outcomes indicator**, which reflects the ability of institutions to ensure a high level of employability for their graduates and nurture future leaders to go on and make an impact in their respective fields.



- UCT's performance in the **employer reputation indicator** was in **164th position**.

- The employer reputation indicator is based on responses from employers asked to identify the institutions from which they source the most competent and innovative graduates.

- Read the full UCT [News Article](#).

Support the next generation graduates

UCT alumni have a critical role to play in ensuring bright futures for current and future cohorts of UCT students. For as little as R200 a month, you can make a tremendous difference in a student's life. Imagine the impact we could achieve if every one of our 200 thousand alumni gave just R200 towards a project that they care about. As you enter the world of work, consider supporting the next generation of UCT graduates. We are stronger when we work together as an alumni collective. You do not need to be wealthy to make a positive contribution. As a member of the UCT alumni community, your donation, whether big or small is meaningful in changing the trajectory of someone else's life. To make a once-off or regular donation to your alma mater, visit our [Ways to Give](#) web page today.

Do you want to make a difference?
In the next pages of this booklet,
you will find information on
7 fundraising projects that directly
benefit current UCT students.





Unlocking Futures Bursaries

UCT graduates are highly sought after wherever they go in the world, and rank best in Africa for employability. But what if you had not been able to graduate because of student debt, despite meeting all the requirements for passing your degree? Imagine coming so close to attaining your dream, but falling short at the very last minute.

Each year, UCT has a list of students who have completed the full academic

requirements but cannot receive their degree certificates because they have outstanding debt to UCT. These students are caught in a catch-22: without proof of their degrees, they will struggle to find employment and without employment, they will be unable to begin to pay back their UCT study debt. They have worked hard and deserve the bright future that a UCT qualification will give them. The amount they owe varies between R1,000 and R150,000.

HOW CAN ALUMNI HELP?

Empower the next generation by lifting the burden of student debt. Give the gift of graduation. With your help, we can ensure Graduation Day for all qualifying UCT students because Together, we are UCT. Make a once-off gift or, consider a monthly donation. From as little as R200 per month, you can help a deserving UCT student attain their graduation dream. A single, larger donation of between R1 000 and R5 000 will help multiple students to succeed. Your contribution matters. Help UCT ensure that Africa's brightest young minds get their careers off to a great start.

Watch the video.

UCT Student Wellness Services

The University of Cape Town's Student Wellness Service (SWS) provides health and counselling services to support the wellbeing of all UCT students. In recent years, mental health conditions across our student population have increased markedly, resulting in more students needing assistance, and for longer periods of time. The leading clinical presentation by students accessing SWS services in 2021 were anxiety and depression. Contributing factors include the impact of COVID on family income; bereavement as well the academic pressure associated with remote study during this period.

HOW CAN ALUMNI HELP?

Help us expand Student Wellness Services at UCT to ensure graduate success. Mental and emotional well-being are paramount to success. At UCT, we are working hard to expand the raft of Student Wellness Service programmes that address our student's current and emerging wellness needs. Expanding UCT's Student Wellness programme will provide our students with faster access to mental health services and directly increase their likelihood of academic success. Together, we are UCT. Your donation of R300 per month will give a student who needs it, two sessions with a peer counsellor. R5 400 will provide a student with eight sessions of crisis therapy. Help us increase our capacity to support talented, future UCT graduates. **Watch the video.**





The UCT Food Sovereignty Programme

At UCT, we understand the multidimensional nature of inequality in our society. We work hard to remove the barriers many talented students face in their journey toward becoming successful graduates who will become economically productive members of society. As is common in low-income settings, students are cutting back on the amount of money they are putting to food and toiletries in a bid to try to cover non-negotiable costs such as tuition and residence fees. This is causing growing student hunger and food insecurity on campus.

Since 2018, UCT has provided different food security support options, expanding the programme over the years. The underlying principles of the Food Sovereignty Programme are to promote dignity and agency through our interventions, to ensure the sustainability of the programme as an ethical imperative as well as to demonstrate ethical conduct in how we deliver the programme, relate to students and our partners and, how we work with donations.

HOW CAN ALUMNI HELP?

Support the UCT Food Sovereignty Programme and help eliminate food insecurity on campus. We need cash donations to expand the programme, ensuring that no UCT student goes hungry. Your donation of R200 per month or, a once-off donation of R2 000 will enable a student to eat for a month. Your donation will ensure the sustainability of the UCT Food Sovereignty programme and contribute to the dignity, well-being and success of all UCT students. [Watch the video.](#)





The anti Gender-Based Violence programme

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a marked increase in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) reported in South Africa, including at the University of Cape Town. The damaging emotional and psychological effect of Gender-Based Violence can negatively affect students' lives in many ways, including their academic performance and the quality of their social interactions. It can also result in students needing to take a leave of absence from their studies or even dropping out of university. If unsupported, students can carry this trauma beyond their studies. At UCT, our Gender-Based Violence response and support takes various forms. It can be a survivor care pack, which affords a survivor dignity post-trauma; or it may be an Uber to Court; emergency evacuation and temporary placement in accommodation while permanent accommodation is located or human support during justice-seeking processes and psychological services.

“

Gender-based violence has many adverse consequences in our society: it can retard personal growth, destroy the dreams of survivors, and have a negative impact on the country's GDP. It can also have an adverse intergenerational impact,” UCT alumna and founder of Alumni in Action, Zella Fuphe

”

HOW CAN ALUMNI HELP?

Join hands with UCT in support of student survivors of GBV. Donations towards Gender Based Violence are dedicated to the wellbeing of the survivor and their healing journey. Our target is to extend counselling sessions to reach 180 student survivors of GBV. This equates to R1 million over the next 3 years. Together, we are UCT. A donation of R5,120 will provide 8 counselling sessions for 1 survivor. R25,600 will provide 40 sessions for 5 survivors. R200,000 will provide 333 counselling sessions for 42 survivors. [Watch the video.](#)



Project: 100UP

Our 100-UP programme recognises that the quality of education is not uniform across all high schools. It targets Grade 11 and 12 learners drawn from 40 high schools in Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Philippi. 100UP provides an academic enrichment and Saturday School programme to give these learners the best possible chance of getting the results that will enable them to study further. We guide them through their National Benchmark Tests (NBTs), university applications and subject choices, also introducing them to campus life through a series of lectures, team building activities and walking tours.

HOW CAN ALUMNI HELP?

If you are an alumnus of the 100UP programme or were fortunate enough to attend a high school that set you up for acceptance for study at UCT, consider paying it forward to keep the programme going for the next cohort of learners. Make a donation of R200 a month to support a learner to attend 6 months of Saturday School classes.

UCT Disabilities Services

Many of us take our ease of access on campus for granted. But for students with disabilities, UCT can be a challenging environment – even more so when they cannot access the support they need to participate and excel alongside other students. The Disability Service sets out to dismantle the barriers that can prevent students with disabilities being included in all aspects of campus life. It provides specialised services to students with a range of different disabilities. These specialised services are provided to students at no cost – but the number of students who can be assisted is capped based on available funds.

HOW CAN ALUMNI HELP?

Make a donation that speaks directly to your commitment to an inclusive and diverse student population. This will enable the Disability Service to reach even more than the 400 students it currently supports. Your donation of R100 a month will buy specialist assistance for a student with disabilities or pay for fuel for the Disability Services minibus that provides wheelchair-access transport.





AfriFund: an SRC-led campaign

Unlike South African students, international students do not receive financial aid from UCT. This can leave some international African students from disadvantaged backgrounds in tight financial situations without many support options. Many students from the rest of Africa have to juggle their studies with working part-time to cover tuition costs; the cost of accommodation in Cape Town and all the associated costs of living away from their home countries. The SRC AfriFund is a student-led fundraising campaign driven in partnership with UCT's Development and Alumni Department. Since inception, it has benefited from generous funding from UCT Chancellor Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe.

UCT alumni can play a role too. Select AfriFund programme from our list of projects available on our [Ways to Give](#) web page.

“

“The SRC AfriFund campaign is fully aligned with UCT’s 2030 vision of reclaiming Afrika’s agency. As the continent’s premier university, we need to ensure inclusivity and recognise that the struggles we face as South Africans are not different to those of other African countries.”
Sharon Mogale, former SRC member.

”



Let's stay **CONNECTED.**

Alumni of the University of Cape Town are now your global family.

The friends you made while studying at your alma mater remain important connections during the next phase of your professional journey. So commit to staying connected.

Join UCT Alumni Connect

Join UCT ALUMNI CONNECT, a new alumni social networking site which will enable access to a global network of professionals, innovators, thought-leaders and entrepreneurs.

BENEFITS

1. Expand your professional network
2. Stay in touch with your alma mater
3. Connect with thousands of UCT alumni
4. Locate UCT alumni in your area using mobile GPS
5. Access career mentorship opportunities
6. Share images from reunions and alumni events
7. View UCT events happening in your city
8. Access UCT Careers Service support



SIGN-UP

- Sign-Up takes less than 2 minutes
- Visit the UCT ALUMNI CONNECT page
- Click on the 'Join' link to sign up
- Utilize your Facebook, LinkedIn or email credentials
- Membership verification is quick!







SCAN TO JOIN NOW:

www.uctalumniconnect.com



Stay in touch

At the Development and Alumni Department, we want to ensure that we stay connected to our alumni and friends. You can help us maintain connection with you in the following ways:

- Update your details on the [Development and Alumni website](#)
- Attend UCT alumni events hosted in your region
- Participate in the virtual AGM of Convocation, hosted annually in December
- Tell us how we can improve our events and communication with you. [Email us](#)
- Join our bespoke social networking platform called [UCT Alumni Connect](#)
- Find and follow @UCTalumni
- Visit the Alumni Relations office. You will find us in the Old Admin Building, Lover's Walk on UCT Lower Campus      
- We love to profile our alumni. To share your news, [email us](#)



SOUTH AFRICA

Lu Nteya: lu.nteya@uct.ac.za

Cindy De Oliveira: cindy.deoliveira@uct.ac.za

Nomcebo Msweli: nomcebo.msweli@uct.ac.za

USA

Porscha Dodson: porcha.dodson@uct.ac.za

UNITED KINGDOM

Angela Edwards: uct-trust@tecres.net

CANADA

Sam Mandigora: sam.mandigora@uctcanada.ca

AUSTRALIA

Ruth Thornton: rjthornton1@bigpond.com

EUROPE

Andrew Wigley: andrew.wigley@uct.ac.za