

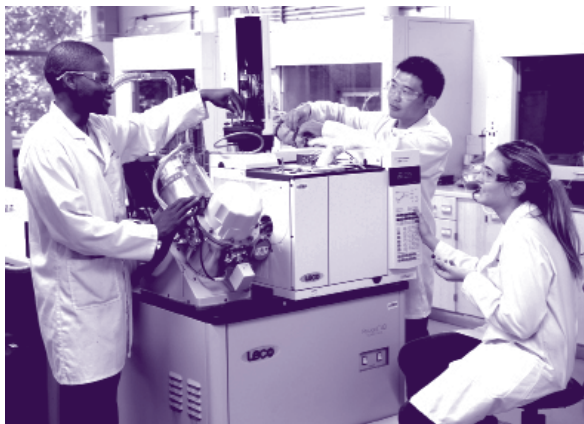
Welcome to the Faculty of Science

The faculty has a long and distinguished history. Formally established in 1918 by UCT's founding act, today it's a sizable faculty consisting of 12 departments and multiple research units whose teaching and research is internationally acknowledged for excellence.



"The Faculty of Science is a place of excitement and innovation, where students and staff rub shoulders as they create knowledge to serve the society we live in. We conduct research at the forefront of disciplines that are both locally relevant and globally excellent. Our renowned scholars and accomplished teachers lead the training of new generations of graduates, who are making substantial contributions to science and society locally, on the African continent, and internationally."

PROFESSOR HUSSEIN SULEMAN
Dean of Science



DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 The Faculty of Science is placed in the band of 51-100 top universities in Geography and in the top 50 in Environmental Science, according to the 2023 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- 2 Two alumni from the Department of Physics have won Nobel prizes: Alan McCormack (Nobel Prize in Medicine, 1979, for the development of computer-assisted tomography); Aaron Klug (1982 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for crystallographic electron microscopy).
- 3 Over a third of the university's annual PhD graduates hail from the Faculty of Science.
- 4 A project named Reclaiming the Rocks: Ukuthetha ngezifundo zomhlaba ngesiXhosa translated parts of South Africa's geological record into isiXhosa in 2022.

How do I apply?

Come and see what is on offer at the Faculty of Science during UCT's annual Open Day or contact the faculty to arrange a visit.

Undergraduate admission differs depending on whether you are applying based on the South African National Senior Certificate (NSC), International Examinations Board (IEB), or whether you are wanting to transfer from another tertiary institution to UCT.

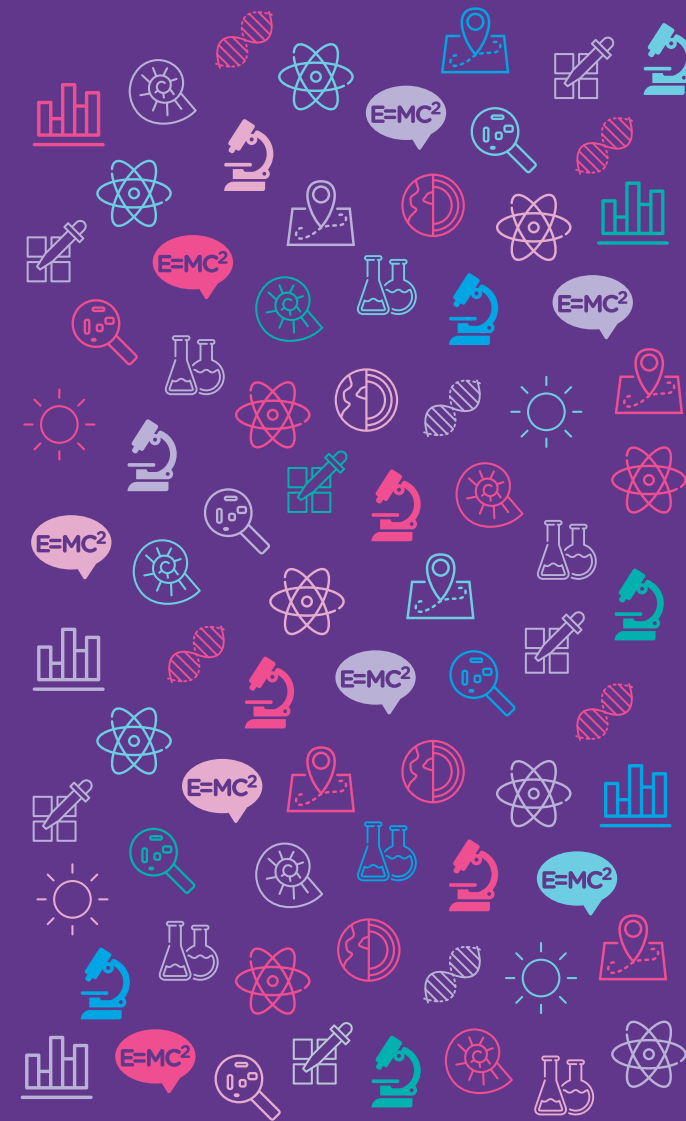
For more details on the admission guidelines, visit

www.science.uct.ac.za

CONTACT US

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Upper Campus



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Faculty of Science



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Staff and student snapshot



Over 3 700 people, including

1 300

postgraduates



2 070

undergraduates



195

permanent academic staff



172

professional, administrative support and service (PASS) staff



World-renowned teaching staff

In 2023, a considerable number of the faculty's staff were rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF):

- 12 A-rated (leading international scholars)
- 51 B-rated (internationally acclaimed scholars)
- 46 C-rated (established researchers)
- 12 Y-rated (young researchers)
- 7 P-rated (young researchers with the potential to become world leaders)

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED RESEARCH

23% of the publication output of UCT in 2021 was produced by the Faculty of Science.



Areas of research focus

African Climate and Development

Africa occupies a critical global position for the study of large-scale climate and environmental processes. These systems affect much on the African continent – its changing climate, its biota and human development.

Biodiversity and the Greater Cape Floristic Region

The Greater Cape Floristic Region includes the fynbos biome – which competes with the Amazon rainforest in terms of diversity – and the world's greatest arid hotspot, the Succulent Karoo. The region also includes high levels of animal biodiversity and offers important perspectives on landscape development, climate change and Earth history.

Chemistry and Biology for Health in Africa

The major global medical need of the 21st century will be in Africa. The clinical expertise at UCT, coupled with the wide ethnic diversity of patients, makes the Western Cape a good environment to conduct translational science and medicinal research that is relevant to Africa.

Marine Biology and the Southern Oceans

The marine environments around South Africa are among the most diverse in the world, and the interplay between the two major currents – the Benguela and the Agulhas – and the three major oceans are central to African climate variability.

Southern Skies and Evolving Universe

Easy access to the Southern African Large Telescope and the Square Kilometre Array makes the faculty a global research leader in the study of the southern skies and the early universe.

Human Evolution and the African Quaternary

Our location provides faculty researchers with access to unique archaeological sites and Southern-Hemisphere climatic and environmental records over the time span of the Quaternary, which allows a better understanding of this important time period in Africa.

12 academic departments



Archaeology



Astronomy



Biological Sciences



Chemistry



Computer Science



Environmental and Geographical Science



Geological Sciences



Mathematics and Applied Mathematics



Molecular and Cell Biology



Oceanography



Physics



Statistical Sciences

Extended Degree Programme (EDP)

It is widely acknowledged that the transition from school to university is significant – the quantity of work, the pace at which material is covered and the conceptual complexity are all greater than students have experienced at school.

Our experience has shown that many first-year students can overcome the difficult transition from high school to university by being given a reduced learning load in their first year and by spreading the curriculum over a four-year period.

The EDP is structured so that students entering the programme will receive additional academic and general support to establish a sound educational foundation and improve their chances of graduating within the four years allocated.

*Last updated in April 2024.