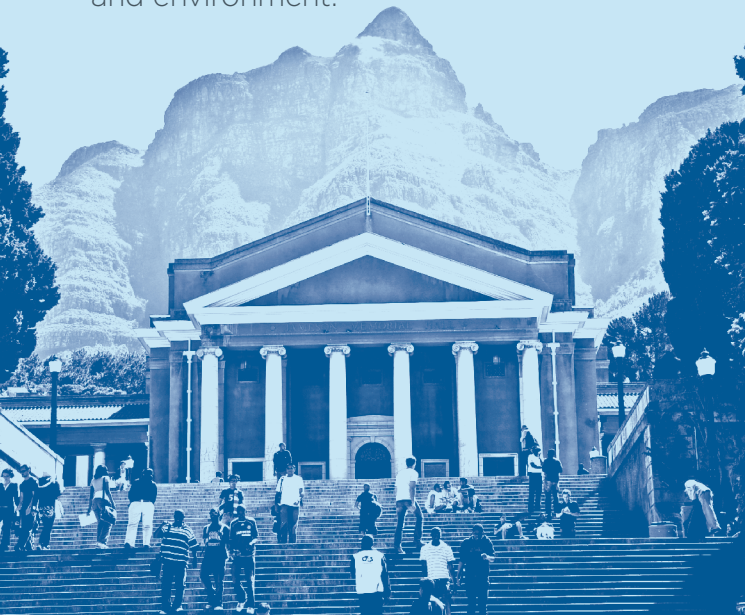


## Research at UCT

Taking advantage of expanding global networks and our distinct vantage point in Africa, UCT is committed to grappling with the key issues of our natural and social worlds through innovative research and scholarship. The university is committed to encouraging and protecting curiosity-driven research as well as research that has a real impact on our communities and environment.



“The world is wobbling on its axis, and the old certainties – good and bad – are unravelling. To cope with the uncertain future we face, we are going to need three things: an unrelenting commitment to excellence, an exceptional focus on transformation and the courage to do things differently. Among all these uncertainties, I am sure of this: the research community at UCT is up to the challenge.”

**PROFESSOR MAMOKGETHI PHAKENG**  
Vice-Chancellor

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 UCT is ranked 9th in the world in infectious diseases according to the 2021 US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings for Subjects.
- 2 UCT is ranked 10th in the world in development studies according to the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- 3 UCT boasts about 25% of South Africa's NRF A-rated researchers, who are considered international leaders in their field.
- 4 UCT has been awarded 17% of the country's South African Research Chairs, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology's National Research Foundation (NRF).

## CONTACT US

### RESEARCH OFFICE

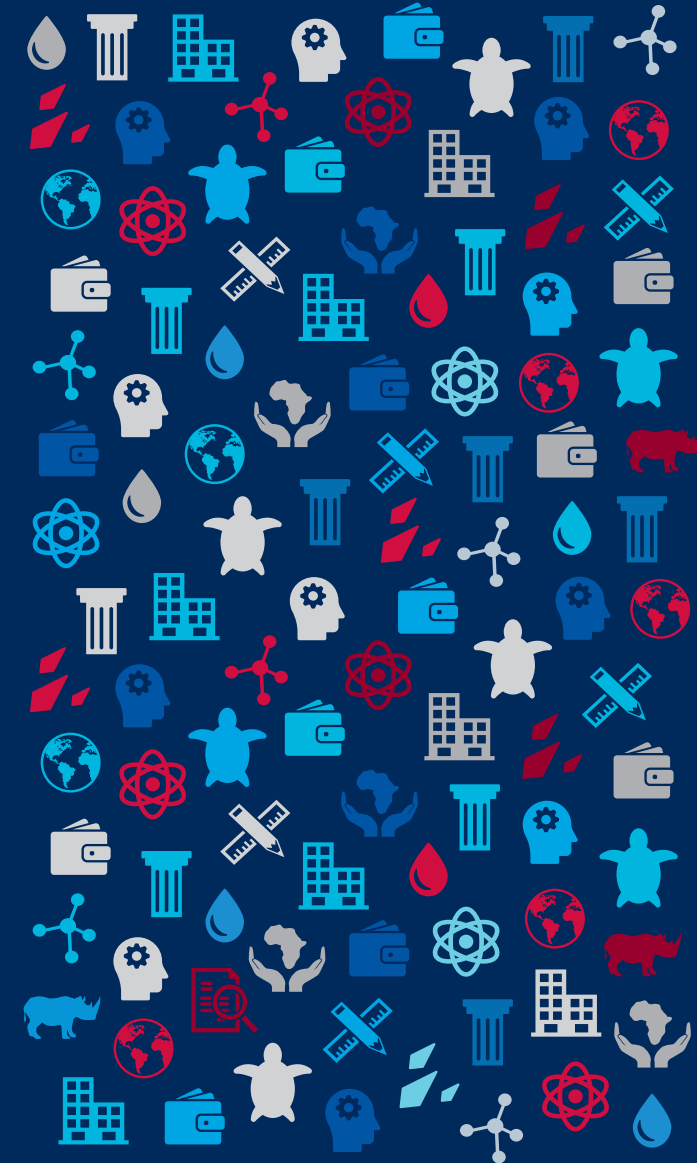
+27 (0)21 650 4015

[www.research.uct.ac.za](http://www.research.uct.ac.za)

[researchvisibility@uct.ac.za](mailto:researchvisibility@uct.ac.za)

[@UCT\\_Research](https://twitter.com/UCT_Research)

\*Information last updated in February 2022



# 14 Research at UCT



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

UCT aims to bring Africa to the world and to draw international expertise to the continent as a whole. The university is currently a member of the following university networks:



**The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)** forms a hub that supports indigenous research excellence, enabling the continent to take control of its future and assert itself as a global force.

**The International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)**, a network of 11 research-intensive universities, including the universities of Oxford, Tokyo and Yale, allows its members to address the major challenges of our time.



**The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)** is a leading global higher education and research network made up of 23 universities.



**The Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD)** comprises institutions of higher education and research for all Nordic countries and southern Africa.

**The Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN)** connects researchers and academics through institutional partnerships in order to address common challenges.

## In 2021 UCT was ranked the best university in Africa

(Quacquarelli Symonds, Times Higher Education, Center for World University Rankings, US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings).

In 2021

1 793

research contracts signed

40

patent applications filed




















11 880 postgraduates registered at UCT.

R1.5 billion

in external research income generated



### UCT provides focused support to areas of research that address these critical challenges:

-  Astronomy, cosmology and gravity
-  Drug discovery
-  Neurosciences
-  Future water
-  Poverty and inequality
-  Biodiversity
-  High-energy physics
-  Preserving our African heritage
-  Catalysis: accelerating chemical change
-  Human-wildlife conflict
-  Safety and violence
-  Climate and development
-  Infectious diseases and molecular medicine
-  Schools
-  Data-intensive research
-  Marine research
-  Urban Africa
-  Democracy, public policy and citizenship in Africa
-  Mineral beneficiation

UCT's research is committed to enabling Africa to solve its own Africa-specific problems. To achieve this, many of our researchers have established extensive networks across Africa. These are three examples:

#### Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions and well-being in African countries. Seven rounds of surveys have been completed since 1999. Findings are disseminated for use by policymakers, civil society, media, scholars and development partners, and are widely used to produce regional and global governance indicators.

#### H3ABioNet

H3ABioNet is a UCT-led pan-African bioinformatics network that comprises 28 research groups distributed among 16 African countries and one partner institution in the United States. The network supports H3Africa researchers (a network of research sites funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust via the Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa) and their projects while developing bioinformatics capacity within Africa. At the time of going to press, more than 1 500 participants had been trained at workshops across Africa.

#### Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

The SKA project is an international effort to build the world's largest radio telescope. The telescope will be co-located in Africa and Australia. UCT is playing a leading role in a flagship programme that will create data science capacity for leadership in the MeerKAT SKA precursor survey projects, other global precursor and pathfinder programmes, and SKA key science.



SKA South Africa