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UCT retains top university ranking on the continent

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has been ranked the top university on the continent by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021. These latest rankings place UCT 220th in the world.

Of the six indicators that QS uses in its evaluation, academic reputation remains UCT's strongest performer despite a drop of nine places in the new listing. This indicator contributes the most (40%) to an institution's overall score and is based on a global survey of experts in higher education regarding universities' teaching and research quality.

The other five indicators used by QS are employer reputation, faculty-to-student ratio, citations per faculty member, international staff ratio and international student ratio.

As they all rely on quantifiable characteristics, none of the university rankings can give a comprehensive overview of an institution. However, they do give an indication of a university's competitiveness and standing internationally.

This year, QS published the top 1 000 global institutions, including seven from South Africa.

QS subject rankings

[Earlier this year](#), UCT performed well in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020, with a total of seven subjects featuring in the top 100.

UCT's development studies – ranked 10th in the world – was the best performing. The six other subject areas placed in the top 100 globally were anatomy and physiology, anthropology, archaeology, architecture/built environment, geography, and medicine.

[See the QS World University Rankings 2021.](#)

[Read about the QS World University Rankings methodology.](#)

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