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More than 5 400 graduands to be capped at UCT

The university will also honour Dr Debra Roberts and Her Excellency †Xuu Katrina Esau

Over 5 400 graduands will be capped when the University of Cape Town (UCT) hosts 15 graduation ceremonies from Monday, 27 March to Friday, 31 March 2023 at Sarah Baartman Hall.

The university will also award high academic honours in the form of honorary degrees to two distinguished individuals: Dr Debra Roberts and Her Excellency †Xuu Katrina Esau.

UCT Interim Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Daya Reddy remarked: "We have once again come to that jubilant time of the year on our university calendar when we celebrate those who have over the years burned the midnight oil and successfully qualified for their various undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. We are therefore, with great delight, looking forward to hosting the graduation ceremonies."

The total number of graduands includes 57 PhDs, whose work has in many ways lived up to the university's vision of unleashing human potential to create a fair and just society.

"I congratulate most warmly all our graduands who will be honoured and whose achievements will be recognised during these auspicious occasions. In the same breadth, let me record my appreciation for the role that our academic staff have played in guiding our graduands, as well as the support ably provided by our administrative staff. Parents, guardians, and other family members have also, in one way or another, made significant sacrifices and contributions to ensure the success of their loved ones."

Dr Roberts, who will be honoured during the Faculty of Science ceremony on Tuesday, 28 March at 18:00, is head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in eThekweni Municipality and has been at the forefront of climate change action and research over the last 20 years in South Africa, Africa and globally. She was the first South African scientist

and local government official to be elected as Co-Chair of Working Group II for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment cycle in 2015.

The second honorary degree will be conferred on Her Excellency ꞖXuu Katrina Esau during the Faculty of Humanities ceremony on Wednesday, 29 March at 14:00. Her Excellency ꞖXuu Esau is highly commended for her contribution towards language studies and her mission to preserve the endangered culture of the San people. She has dedicated herself to the mammoth task of teaching a largely oral language and the unique traditions of the San people. She teaches at a small school located at the front of her house in Rosedale, outside Uppington in the Northern Cape.

All the ceremonies will also be streamed live on the [UCT news website](#) as well as through the university's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts for those who are not able to attend in person.

- **[Download the full ceremony schedule.](#)**
- **[Read more about graduation.](#)**

ENDS

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