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UCT retains Africa's top spot in ARWU rankings

The University of Cape Town (UCT) remains the best ranked university on the continent, placing in the top 201–300 band globally according to the 2023 ShanghaiRankings Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) published on 15 August 2023.

First published in 2003, ARWU ranks more than 2500 universities every year and only the best 1000 are published.

“UCT continues to be ranked the top university on the continent, a position that reflects the exceptional calibre of our researchers and their contributions and an achievement that has gained the university international recognition,” said Professor Sue Harrison, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation.

“While we celebrate this, we recognise that these rankings and similar ones do not encompass numerous vital elements of the academic project – including both research elements and teaching and learning – that hold significant importance for and contribute to the impact of institutions and communities in the Global South. UCT’s Vision 2030 to unleash human potential for a fair and just society continues to guide our priorities beyond the confines of rankings. With this in mind, we are particularly happy about our strong performance in these rankings and numerous others, nevertheless.”

ARWU uses six indicators to rank world universities: the number of alumni winning Nobel Prizes and fields medals (10%), the number of staff winning Nobel Prizes and fields medals (20%), the number of highly cited researchers (20%), the number of articles published in journals of *Nature* and *Science* (20%), the number of articles indexed in the major citation indices in the Web of Science (20%), and per capita academic performance of a university (10%).

The list of Highly Cited Researchers released annually by Clarivate Analytics identifies researchers who have demonstrated significant influence through the publication of multiple highly cited papers in the Web of Science during the past decade. UCT has [three researchers in the most recently published list](#) – Emeritus Professor William Bond, Professor

Estelle (Vicki) Lambert and Professor Dan Stein. UCT once again achieved the top score in the country for this indicator.

UCT top in Africa in other world rankings published this year

In June 2023, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2024 [placed UCT top on the continent](#) and at 173rd position worldwide, which was an impressive rise of 64 places compared to the previous year. This improved performance is largely due to a change in methodology, as QS introduced three new indicators, which now considers the university's extensive international collaborations, excellent graduate employment rates and highly successful alumni, and evaluates UCT's contribution to social and environmental impact.

A month earlier, in May 2023, the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR) 2023 ranked [UCT at 267th position](#), which is in the top 1.4% of universities worldwide and the best in Africa. CWUR releases the largest academic ranking of global universities. Out of the 20 531 institutions assessed, only the top 2 000 received a ranking, which placed UCT in the top 1.4% of universities globally.

- [View the complete ShanghaiRanking's ARWU 2023.](#)
- [Read about the ARWU methodology.](#)

ENDS

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