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## **UCT students benefit from R1.7bn in 2024 funding, however financial needs remain**

The University of Cape Town (UCT) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to enabling access to higher education and supporting financially eligible students. Over the years, the university has prioritised student funding as a critical transformation goal. Despite significant funding challenges in 2024, UCT remained steadfast in its efforts to provide robust financial aid to academically and financially eligible students.

### **R1.7 billion in student funding secured**

In 2024, UCT students received R1.7 billion in financial aid from various partners. This support, encompassing undergraduate and postgraduate students, was made possible through contributions from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), the National Research Foundation (NRF), government entities, South African corporates, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), foundations, trusts, donors, alumni, and UCT's own funding mechanisms. Of this amount, R1.2 billion was allocated for undergraduate students, with R500 million directed towards postgraduate funding.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to these partners for their generous contributions, which have been pivotal in advancing UCT's mission of fostering access to education. Close to 50% of undergraduate and 30% of postgraduate students at UCT currently benefit from financial aid. However, the financial needs of our students remain substantial, particularly in light of reduced funding from some sources and NSFAS's policy changes, including the accommodation funding cap," said Vice-Chancellor Professor Mosa Moshabela.

### **Proactive Communication and Support**

UCT maintains transparent and continuous communication with its students regarding financial responsibilities. Students are reminded throughout the year to monitor their account balances, which are accessible via the university's online student platform. It is a longstanding policy that students must ensure their outstanding debt does not exceed R10,000 to register for the subsequent academic year. This enables students to plan and actively seek funding throughout the year to minimise debt accumulation.

To further support students, UCT has implemented a Registration Relief Measure for NSFAS-funded students in good academic standing to enable continued undergraduate registration for 2025. Comprehensive details about these measures were communicated to the [UCT](http://www.uct.ac.za)

[community](#), along with other available funding opportunities, and are readily accessible on [UCT's financial aid website](#), the [Bursary and Loan noticeboard](#), and the [Careers Service Portal](#).

### **A Call for Continued Support**

Despite the substantial funding secured, UCT students still face significant financial shortfalls. The university calls on all who can support its students to do so directly via students' own fundraising initiatives, and to reach out to and contribute through its [Development and Alumni Department](#) (DAD). All funds raised will help to bridge these gaps and ensure that deserving students can continue or conclude their academic journeys. Regardless of size, every contribution is critical to transforming lives and strengthening societies.

Professor Moshabela emphasised the university's values and commitment to advancing social justice through education: "As a public university in Africa we are committed to utilising our resources to widen educational and social opportunities, enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities, build an equitable social order based on respect for humanity, and advance the public good through knowledge generation, teaching, and active engagement with key societal challenges. We thank our partners for their contributions and urge more stakeholders to join us in this mission to support as many deserving students as possible."

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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