



SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

İYUNİVESİTHİ YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE



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WELCOME

About UCT

As a world-leading teaching and research university, we believe strong ties with the international academic community strengthens partnerships, fosters collaboration and enriches our community. By joining Africa's top-ranked university, you'll be part of a community that includes over 3000 international students from over 100 different countries. You'll be exposed to ground-breaking research by researchers from across the globe. You'll join a vibrant campus that embraces its diversity.

About SSA

Semester Study Abroad is a UCT programme for students registered for degree studies at a non-South African university to spend one or two semesters taking UCT courses for credit transfer towards the requirements of their home degree. Students can apply to exchange places with a UCT student or for direct enrolment in the study abroad programme.

About the International Office

The International Office is dedicated to advancing internationalisation through innovation for a better world. Through international scholarship and strategic collaborations worldwide, the UCT International Office facilitates the internationalisation process, providing support services and fostering inter-institutional relationships that yield mutual benefits for partners. These efforts create diverse opportunities for students, staff and researchers to participate in a globally interconnected community.

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/why-uct



YOUR

APPLICATION

Exchange or study abroad – what's the difference?

Students can apply to exchange places with a UCT student or for direct enrolment in the study abroad experience as a freemover.

Apply through your home university

UCT has signed student exchange and mobility agreements with a number of universities worldwide. Contact your home university's international office to find out if we have a partner university agreement and then follow their instructions for participation in the study abroad programme.

Apply directly as a free-mover

Interested students are welcome to apply directly to the programme. Liaise with your university's international office for details around your institution's requirements and to ensure you meet all your home degree curriculum and credit transfer requirements.

Apply through our study abroad partner provider organisations

UCT partners with a number of organisations which facilitate semester study abroad, and other experiences, for international students. Click through to individual partner websites to find out more about them.

Admission Requirements

- be registered for Bachelors studies or higher at a non-South African university;
- have completed two semesters' worth of courses at the point of application;
- have achieved a cumulative average of 65% in your current studies. This is equivalent to a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a scale of 0.0 to 4.0 in the USA system or an upper range 'B' on the ECTS grading scale;
- be able to demonstrate proficiency in English at the level required for admission to UCT.

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/apply-uct



uct.ac.za/studyabroad/apply-uct

There are two application cycles for the programme each year:

ACADEMIC TERMS/SEMESTERS	APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN
1st Semester (February – June)	First week in August to 31 October
2nd Semester (July – November)	Second week in January to 30 April

Selecting Your Courses

UCT is structured into faculties, five of which offer courses to study abroad and exchange students. Each faculty office houses academic departments which focus on subjects or disciplines.

Semester study abroad students can choose from a wide range of courses offered. Applicants can select up to four semester courses at undergraduate (Bachelors) level or two to three semester courses at postgraduate (Masters) level for a full semester' credit load.

For more information on courses and disciplines, visit our faculty webpages:

[FACULTY OF COMMERCE](#)

[FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT](#)

[FACULTY OF HUMANITIES](#)

[FACULTY OF LAW](#)

[FACULTY OF SCIENCE](#)



YOUR OFFER

Checklist

- Accept your study offer online.
- Pay your fees in advance to avoid any delays to class enrolment.
- Apply for your study visa. This can take 12 weeks or longer.
- Prepare your documents for travel.

Documents to Submit

- An official transcript from your home university showing your registration status, the courses you have completed or are currently enrolled for, and your most recent course grades or results. If your transcript is not in English, a certified copy of an English translation should also be provided.
- Evidence of proficiency in English if you are not currently registered at an university English-medium.

While we can use electronic copies to assess your application, we will need the original version of the documents to reach a final decision. Acceptable submissions include original or certified copies submitted as an electronic copy sent directly by your university's student records office on behalf of the Registrar. If you are not able to submit documents via your university's student records office, please write to inform us at ssa@uct.ac.za.

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/apply-uct

Accepting Your Offer

Accept your study offer by logging into the UCT self-service website using your student number and password.

Prepare your documents for travel.

- **Passport:** Check that your passport is valid for the full length of your intended stay in South Africa and that the name in your passport the same as that in your UCT study offer and Letter of Undertaking.
- **Study visa:** Apply for your study visa. This can take 12 weeks or longer, particularly at times of peak demand or at the end of the year when many embassies close for the holidays. Apply as soon as you accept your study offer to avoid processing delays.

When you receive your study visa, check that it covers the full duration of your programme of study. If not, consult the South Africa Embassy or Consulate immediately, before travelling to South Africa.

- Immigration and customs officials may ask for copies of documents to verify your visa and immigration status on arrival. You should prepare certified copies of the following documents and keep these in your hand luggage for easy access:
 - UCT study offer letter
 - UCT Letter of Undertaking in support of your visa
 - passport bio page
 - study visa page

Fees

The Semester Study Abroad programme charges a package fee covering:

- enrolment in up to four semester courses (one semester's worth of a full-degree course load),
- membership of up to three student clubs or societies,
- airport transfer,
- orientation activities,
- courier dispatch of the official transcript on completion of your studies, and
- access to a 24-hour referral number in the event of a critical incident or an emergency.

Obtaining South African Medical Aid Cover

All international students are required to purchase medical aid cover from a medical aid scheme registered with the South African Council of Medical Aid Schemes when you apply for a study visa. This should be valid for the full duration of your study programme and intended stay in South Africa.

We recommend two schemes for international students as providing good medical cover and value for money:

- Compcare Wellness
- Momentum Medical Aid Life Cover

We additionally recommend you purchase insurance for your personal property such as phones, laptops and cameras, as well as travel insurance for lost luggage or having to rebook your ticket.

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/you-arrive/checklist-items



YOUR ARRIVAL

International Student Orientation

International student orientation runs in the week before teaching starts each semester. Through interactive activities and information sessions we welcome you to UCT and introduce you to Cape Town. The highlight of the week is a tour of Cape Town. Be sure to RSVP to your email invitation to reserve your place!

Airport Transfers

The Semester Study Abroad programme runs from the first day of Orientation to the last day of the exam period. Plan your travel around the start and end dates of the semester. Submit your flight arrival information and we will assist with a transfer from the airport to your accommodation in Cape Town.



Transport (UCT Shuttle/General)

Cape Town has an inexpensive and efficient bus service, the MyCiTi bus. The University runs its own private bus service, the UCT Shuttle, which connects the campuses and student residences. Many students also use e-hailing services, such as Uber, which are relatively inexpensive in South Africa.

Academic Registration and Student Advisors

Academic registration as a UCT student, and course enrolment, are online through self-service using your application username and password. Once registered, you'll have access to all student facilities including UCT Libraries, the wifi network (eduroam), Sports Centre and gym facilities. You'll also be able to use your student card on the UCT Shuttle free student transportation service.

Initially, you'll be enrolled in the courses you selected in your application. You can switch to other classes during the first week of teaching by submitting a change of curriculum request to your faculty office.

We will email you details about what to expect and cover all these processes in the week-long Orientation programme.

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/you-arrive/checklist-items



ACCOMMODATION

UCT offers limited on-campus accommodation. Most students (around 70%) live in private rented accommodation in the areas immediately surrounding the university. Working with a third-party platform, UCT offers study abroad students a variety of high-quality, secure, and suitably furnished accommodation within walking distance of campus, or the UCT Shuttle route.

uct.ac.za/international/accommodation

STUDENT SUPPORT/SERVICES

Clubs and Societies

Immerse yourself in campus life by joining up to three student societies or sports clubs as part of the study abroad package fee. UCT has over 40 sports clubs and 100 student societies reflecting a wide range of interests from academic to religious, cultural, social, and political activities.



uct.ac.za/dsa/student-development-student-societies-organisations/overview

uct.ac.za/dsa/student-development-sport-clubs/overview



DESTINATION CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

7 Reasons Why —●

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/why-uct/why-cape-town

Living Costs —●

uct.ac.za/studyabroad/apply-uct/tuition

Campus Tours/Maps —●

uct.ac.za/contacts-maps/campus-maps



ALUMNI EXPERIENCES

“ My time in Cape Town has been the highlight of my life. I stayed in a wonderful house with International students who have become family to me bonded by our memories together spanning from the Garden Route to camping in the Cedarberg Mountains. ”

“ Studying abroad in Cape Town was the best thing I've ever done. I discovered many things: how to travel, how to befriend different kinds of people, how to communicate with someone when you don't speak the same language, the three kinds of Xhosa clicks, the deliciousness of milk tart, braaied meat and chakalaka. ”

“ Studying abroad in Cape Town has been one of the most incredible experiences of my life. I've had so many wonderful experiences in the past few months that I can't narrow them down but right now, I'm thinking of the UCT Squash Team Formal, sky-diving in Namibia for my 21st birthday, white-river rafting and having my first ever braai. ”

A large photograph showing a group of students walking along a paved path. In the foreground, three students are prominent: a man with a beard in a dark blue polo shirt, a man in a blue cap and jacket, and a man in a black jacket and jeans. Other students are walking further down the path. The background features a large, historic stone building with many windows and a green lawn.

STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



CONTACT US

UCT International Office

Level 3 Masingene Building,
UCT Middle Campus, Rondebosch,
Cape Town, 7701
South Africa

Email: ssa@uct.ac.za



@UCTGlobal



@uct_international



@uctinternational

