

FUNDING YOUR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT UCT



Postgraduate Centre and Funding Office

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[www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/
postgraduate/applications/](http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/postgraduate/applications/)



Postgraduate studies play a vital role in developing the skills necessary for success in a knowledge-driven economy, both locally and internationally. In recognition of the importance of fostering postgraduate students and growing the number of postgraduate registrations, the Postgraduate Funding Office and Postgraduate Centre were established at the University of Cape Town to provide holistic support to postgraduate students and, in particular, to ensure that potential students have access to all available funding.

This leaflet provides some information on potential sources of financial support for postgraduate students. There are various categories of financial assistance administered by the University and by many other agencies and donors.

The majority of the postgraduate awards available are based on academic merit, with only a few awards available for financial need.

With the exception of a small number of prestigious full-cost fellowships, the University is not able to provide full financial support to postgraduate students, but aims to provide financial assistance that will *contribute towards* the cost of tuition and accommodation. The financing of postgraduate study invariably takes the form of a combination of scholarships or bursaries, part-time employment within or outside of UCT, private loans, personal savings and assistance from families.

It is therefore vital that those planning to register for postgraduate studies apply for funding from both the University and from as many other sources of support as possible.

Information and application details for all funding opportunities for students who intend to register for Honours, Masters or Doctoral degrees or as Postdoctoral Research Fellows at UCT can be found at www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/postgraduate/applications/

Details are also available on the Postgraduate and Postdoctoral electronic notice-board and in UCT's Booklet No 14: *Financial Assistance for Postgraduate Study and Postdoctoral Research*.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for postgraduate funding, intending postgraduate students must first formally apply for an academic place at UCT.

Only students registering for Honours, Masters and Doctoral degrees are eligible. Students who register for postgraduate diplomas and certificates, the BArch, the LLB, or for the 4th year of any Bachelors degree are not eligible for UCT's postgraduate awards, and are referred to the Student Financial Aid Office.

Students who intend to study for a second degree at the same level as one they already hold, (e.g., a second Honours degree) are also not eligible for funding.

NON-SOUTH AFRICAN APPLICANTS

Most available funding is restricted to South African citizens, and in some cases to permanent residents; however, a limited amount of funding is available for international students and those who have refugee status. See www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/postgraduate/awards/international

APPLICATIONS AND CLOSING DATES

The awards outlined in this leaflet have various closing dates and prospective candidates should refer to the Office's webpage for details or visit the Postgraduate Centre and Funding Office where staff will advise and assist you with your applications.

Note that closing dates for awards are generally earlier than those for academic applications, therefore students should ensure that they meet these deadlines.

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF) MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (MRC)

The NRF is the biggest single sponsor of postgraduate students at UCT. Eligible South African citizens are required to apply to the NRF and/or the MRC in order to be considered for UCT merit awards. Application may be made through the Postgraduate Funding Office or online at www.nrf.ac.za

DECEMBER AND SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are available to UCT students and are awarded in December each year. The awards are based on academic results and other criteria and are by nomination only. No application is required.

PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

The David and Elaine Potter Fellowships

The Harry Crossley Research Fellowships

The UCT/CSIR Scholarship Programme

The A W Mellon Scholarship Programme

The Woolworths/UCT Fellowship Programme

Eligibility for each of these programmes is governed by different criteria and restrictions. The awards are deemed full-cost and most include travel and research allowances. A condition of these awards is that students in the programme are required to organise a seminar based on their research.

UCT COUNCIL HONOURS MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of Merit awards valued at R15 000 each are available to students who will register for the Honours degree and who achieve 65% or more for their undergraduate major subjects. These awards are by application.

RESEARCH AWARDS

There are various awards available to students who undertake research degrees. Perhaps the most important of these are the University Research Scholarships, which provide an award to all eligible students who apply to the NRF and/or the MRC but who are unsuccessful. The value of the awards is variable and depends entirely on numbers of eligible students and amount of funds available.

DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Departmental scholarships are awards given to individual students by their supervisors and enquiries should be made directly to the academic department, supervisor or course convenor.

UCT EQUITY FELLOWSHIPS

A limited number of generous awards are available to black Masters and Doctoral students, with preference for those registered for research degrees.

FINANCIAL NEED BURSARIES

A small number of bursaries are available for students who are assessed as being financially needy.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS

Masters and Doctoral students who wish to attend local and international (Doctoral students only) conferences may apply for Conference Travel Grants. There are two closing dates each year for such applications. The grants are not full-cost and only contribute towards the cost of such travel.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS

Masters and Doctoral students who wish to travel to international institutions for research visits, or to undertake postgraduate courses, may apply for International travel grants for periods of 2 –10 months each year.

INDEPENDENT AWARDS FOR LOCAL STUDY AND INDEPENDENT AWARDS FOR OVERSEAS STUDY

There are a number of independent sponsors to whom students can apply directly. The University's Booklet No 14 gives a comprehensive list of these donors, information on the available opportunities and the application procedures.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

As Postdoctoral Research Fellows are highly productive and valued members of the University's academic community, the University has a number of Fellowships to offer qualified candidates.

THE POSTGRADUATE CENTRE AND FUNDING OFFICE AT UCT

The Postgraduate Funding Office is situated on the upper level of the Otto Beit Building on the Upper Campus (adjacent to Jameson Hall on the north side), and within easy walking distance from most faculties and departments. Our staff are there to assist you with any enquiries, advise you on the diverse funding opportunities available to postgraduate students, and help with submission of applications for funding.

Prospective postgraduate students are encouraged to visit us or contact our office as early as possible. This will allow you to have all relevant information regarding funding options in time to make careful decisions and to plan your studies and finances well in advance.

The Postgraduate Centre, situated next door to the Postgraduate Funding Office, was created to promote the interests of postgraduate students in synergy with faculty and departmental facilities and services, and to encourage inter-departmental and inter-faculty communication and association.

This suite of rooms, a University heritage site, has been extensively renovated and furnished to provide an exclusive, attractive and comfortable environment for Masters and Doctoral students and Postdoctoral Research Fellows to meet, read, use the internet stations, and to hold seminars.



The Centre offers a fully equipped seminar room seating up to 45 people, and a reading room with comfortable chairs and provision of current newspapers, magazines and journals. There are also small work tables as well as 12 computer work stations and 2 computers dedicated for use by applicants who wish to apply to the NRF using the *NRF On-Line System*.

POSTGRADUATE SUPPORT

The University of Cape Town strives to provide a high-quality postgraduate experience. Besides the advantages of world-class academic staff, the breadth of research activities, comprehensive libraries and excellent facilities, there are many support structures designed to ensure that your postgraduate studies are successful and rewarding.

All students undertaking research degrees (by thesis only) jointly sign a Memorandum of Understanding with their supervisors which clearly outlines both the candidate's and the supervisor's responsibilities. The Centre for Higher Education Development offers additional academic support, such as writing skills development. Postgraduate students' interests are represented on various decision-making bodies by the Postgraduate Students' Association. There are also numerous opportunities for recreation, with a wide variety of sport and exercise facilities, and clubs and societies catering for a diversity of interests.

We look forward to welcoming you to postgraduate studies at the University of Cape Town.

