The aim of the Postgraduate Admissions Policy is to state the general and guiding principles in admission to postgraduate programmes at UCT.

## Postgraduate Admissions Policy

(1) UCT subscribes to and follows the statutory admission requirements stipulated by the DHET for the various postgraduate careers (Postgraduate diplomas, Honours, Masters and Doctoral degrees).

(2) Admission is based on selection of students with demonstrated academic excellence (i.e. top achievers), meeting at least the minimum prescribed requirements, and deemed to have the potential to succeed and complete in the minimum prescribed time of the programme.

    (a) Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission and is a guide indicating potential to complete the programme successfully.

    (b) Each programme or department in each faculty determines the specific admission requirements and selection criteria for particular programmes, which are published in the appropriate faculty handbooks annually and take into account the programmes' nationally accredited requirements. Further determinants such as sufficient studio or lab space, requisite facilities and the availability of appropriate supervisors and research projects (in the case of supervised research projects) may be taken into account by programmes and departments.

    (c) Faculties/programmes may add additional requirements to facilitate student success.

(3) Target numbers for admission are set at faculty level, approved annually by Senate/Council (via the Admissions Committee) taking into account factors such as desired 'size and shape' (i.e. number of students and fields of study and diversity profile), capacity to deliver (i.e. number of available supervisors and appropriately qualified staff, desired class size for maximising student:teacher/tutor ratio) and in the case of professional postgraduate qualifications national targets for which UCT is accredited.

(4) Admission does not discriminate unfairly against applicants and applies redress considerations to individuals or categories of students who have been previously disdvantaged and/or unfairly discriminated against.

    (a) In applying redress and achieving equity faculties/departments/programmes may differentiate targets according to SA government race categorisations (e.g. 'Black African', 'Coloured', 'Indian', and so on), gender identity, socio-economic

(dis)advantage and desired diversity (including geographical and international considerations contributing to a diverse postgraduate student and research community).

(5) The assessment and recognition of prior learning as an admission criterion is outlined generally in UCT's Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning and specific processes and information presented in faculty handbooks, and may be applied to Postgraduate programmes.

(6) The UCT Language Policy applies across all postgraduate programmes. In essence this states that English is the primary language of instruction, teaching, learning and examination at UCT. However, valuing the personal, social, and educational importance of multilingualism, this Policy makes space for the use of other languages for teaching, learning and assessment where possible and/or necessary.

    (a) Prospective students applying for admission to UCT may, in certain cases, be asked to submit test results to establish English language equivalence to verify an acceptable level of proficiency and fluency in English, depending on programme/course requirements.

    (b) For admission to all professional postgraduate degrees and diplomas, all requirements of regulatory bodies must be followed (e.g. language requirements for teaching qualifications in South Africa).

(7) UCT is committed to confidential, reasonable and transparent processes for admission to all postgraduate programmes across all faculties. This means every application will be considered individually in an holistic assessment based on entry requirements, selection criteria and relevant Senate and Admissions committee approved policies.

Approved by Council: 15 October 2022