



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

FAKULTEIT VAN WETenskap • IFAKHALTHI YOBUNZULULWAZI



2026 Student Information Booklet

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Message from the Dean

Welcome to UCT and to the Faculty of Science!

This is the beginning of an exciting journey of discovery where you will learn new skills and develop new ideas as you engage with staff and peers in the pursuit of a Bachelor of Science degree. The Faculty of Science is here to guide and support you on this journey.

In this booklet, you will find the answers to some of the pressing questions you face as you begin your studies: selecting courses, the orientation timetable, where to go for all sorts of help, etc. More information will be provided during the orientation and registration process. You will be assisted by the Orientation Leaders, the Deputy Dean, a team of academic Student Advisors and support staff.

I encourage you to make the most of all the activities presented in the orientation programme. This has been designed to introduce you to the academic, social, and cultural environment at UCT. Use this booklet to familiarise yourself with the programme timetable and ensure that you participate fully. If you have any questions or problems, do not hesitate to ask for help from your Science Faculty Orientation Leaders, or any member of the Science Faculty Orientation Team.

While we undertake to provide you with a high-quality, internationally competitive education, your success in your studies depends largely on you. You should ensure that you attend all lectures, practicals, and tutorials, complete all assignments on time, and take advantage of all study opportunities on offer. University can sometimes be a daunting experience, and everything will not always go according to plan but a desire to learn and a will to succeed are crucial. We provide a range of services to help you where necessary, and I encourage you to make use of these throughout the year.

I wish you every success in your studies and look forward to seeing you at a graduation ceremony in the not-too-distant future.



Professor Hussein Suleman
DEAN: FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Message from the Deputy Dean for Undergraduate Matters

It is an honour to welcome you as you start writing this exciting chapter on academic and personal journey in your Book of Life. Each of you arrives with unique chapters already completed, shaped by your experiences and the sacrifices made by those who supported you—parents, guardians, and others who believed in your potential. Honour their efforts and your own aspirations by making this opportunity count.

Orientation Week is designed to help you transition into university life. It introduces you to UCT as a science student, the various academic disciplines available, and the support systems in place to guide you. Attend workshops, information sessions, and lectures to equip yourself with the tools for informed decision-making regarding your academic program. By the end of Orientation Week, you should have a clearer understanding of how to navigate university life and will start building the foundation for a successful future.

However, your life at university is about more than academics. It is about growth—intellectual, moral, civic, and creative. Strive to cultivate fairness, loyalty, and intellectual humility: remain curious, realistic, and teachable. You may make mistakes along the way but be thoughtful and intentional in your choices. Balance is key. While it is important to enjoy your social life, prioritize your studies and personal development. Success requires discipline, control over your time and environment, and a laser-sharp focus on a bright future.

I encourage you to embrace every opportunity offered by both UCT and the Science Faculty. Remember, the decisions you make are yours, but there is a community here to support and guide you. Engage – most of all – with your studies, participate in on and off campus activities, and make lasting connections that will enrich your journey.

You have been selected to join UCT Science Faculty because of your talent and potential. Make the most of this opportunity, not only to achieve academic success but also to grow as a person who contributes positively to society.

Wishing you a rewarding and memorable journey ahead!



Professor Emese Bordy
DEPUTY DEAN: FACULTY OF SCIENCE

About Orientation

What to expect from Orientation

The 2026 Orientation Programme, running from 4 to 11 February, is designed with two aims in mind.

First, it provides the **essential information** you need to **make informed choices** about your studies. It includes sessions on:

- how the BSc degree is structured, the majors on offer, and the study pathways they open;
- selecting appropriate first-year courses;
- how the selection process for extended courses will work after week 4; and
- what to do if you are uncertain about your subject choices, including opportunities to **meet Student Advisors** for individual guidance.

These sessions are vital for preparing you for **formal curriculum registration** as a UCT Science student, which will take place from the afternoon of Friday 6 February to Wednesday 11 February, supported throughout by the Science Faculty's Student Advisors.

Second, the programme also **prepares you for the academic journey ahead**. It includes sessions on:

- effective learning and academic integrity;
- the student support structures available at UCT and within our faculty;
- organising your studies to make the most of academic opportunities;
- **navigating UCT's computer systems** and facilities; and
- building digital literacy skills, including locating reliable online information, using email, submitting documents, and working with common software such as Word and Excel.

You may already possess many of these skills, but through guided self-assessment you will identify areas for development and the support available to you. Our aim is to help you **enter this new learning environment with confidence and ease**.

Join the Science Orientation 2026 WhatsApp Community



2026 Orientation Programme: Faculty of Science

Note, this timetable may shift a little, so be sure to check the latest on the Faculty of Science Orientation 2026 AMATHUBA site or the Science Faculty [Website](#):

SCIENCE: Orientation Programme 2026	
Group A Majors	Archaeology, Biology, Environmental & Geographical Science, Geology, Quantitative Biology, Marine Biology, Ocean & Atmosphere Science
Group B Majors	Artificial Intelligence, Business Computing, Computer Science, Computer Engineering
Group C Majors	Biochemistry, Chemistry, Genetics, Human Anatomy & Physiology
Group D Majors	Applied Statistics, Applied Mathematics, Astrophysics, Mathematical Statistics, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics & Data Science

WEDNESDAY - 4 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 – 10		VENUE	
08H00	Registration and welcome		Sarah Baartman Hall	
09H00	Welcome to UCT by academic and student leadership		Sarah Baartman Hall	
10H00	Why is Science important in today's world: Prof Hussein Suleman		Sarah Baartman Hall	
11H00	BREAK			
TIME	GROUP 1 – 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 – 10	VENUE
11H15	BSc Curriculum Overview: Prof Emese Bordy	PD Hahn 1	Maths Choices: Dr Harry Wiggins & Mr Ruach Slayen	PD Hahn 2
12H00	Maths Choices: Dr Harry Wiggins & Mr Ruach Slayen	PD Hahn 1	BSc Curriculum Overview: Prof Emese Bordy	PD Hahn 2
13H15	LUNCH			
TIME	GROUP 1 – 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 – 10	VENUE
14H00	Navigating Amathuba: Thomas King / Lynn Chambers / Jade Smith	PD Hahn 1	Navigating Amathuba: Thomas King / Lynn Chambers / Jade Smith	PD Hahn 2
15H00	Curriculum Pathways: Dr Cesarina Edmonds-Smith	PD Hahn 1	Introduction to Computing and Digital Literacy: OLS	SciLab A, B, C, D
16H00	Introduction to Computing and Digital Literacy: OLS	SciLab A, B, C, D	Curriculum Pathways: Dr Cesarina Edmonds-Smith	PD Hahn 1
17H00	Q&A with Senior Student Advisors and Deputy Dean Undergrad Matters & SSA			PD Hahn 1

THURSDAY - 5 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 - 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 - 10	VENUE
08H00	Arrival and welcome	PD Hahn 1	Arrival and welcome	PD Hahn 2
09H00	What is Science: Dr Miengah Abrahams	PD Hahn 1	What is Science: A/Prof Colleen O’Ryan	PD Hahn 2
10H00	What is Science: A/Prof Colleen O’Ryan	PD Hahn 1	What is Science: Dr Miengah Abrahams	PD Hahn 2
11H00	BREAK			
11H15	Department Talks by HODs	PD Hahn 1	Department Talks by HODs	PD Hahn 2
13H15	LUNCH			
TIME	GROUP 1 - 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 - 10	VENUE
14H00	Group A Majors	PD Hahn 1	Group B Majors	PD Hahn 2
14H30	Group B Majors	PD Hahn 1	Group A Majors	PD Hahn 2
15H00	Group C Majors	PD Hahn 1	Group D Majors	PD Hahn 2
15H30	Group D Majors	PD Hahn 1	Group C Majors	PD Hahn 2
TIME	GROUP 1 – 10			VENUE
16H00	Q&A with Senior Student Advisors and Deputy Dean Undergrad Matters & SSA			PD Hahn 1
FRIDAY - 6 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 – 10		VENUE	
08H00	Arrival and directions Registration Demonstration		Outside PD Hahn	
09H00	Group A Majors - Cluster based advice: Student Advisors		James 3A	
	Group B Majors - Cluster based advice: Student Advisors		Chris Hani LT	
	Group C Majors - Cluster based advice: Student Advisors		MCB LT2	
	Group D Majors - Cluster based advice: Student Advisors		JAMES 4A	
12H00	Registration Demonstration: Student Support Services - Keagan Johnson		PD Hanh 1	
13H00	LUNCH			
14H00	Online registration support in labs: OLS		SciLab A, B	
15H00	Further training in Computing and Digital Literacy: OLS		SciLab A	

MONDAY - 9 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 - 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 - 10	VENUE
09H00	Insights from OLs: What I wish I knew on Day 1	PD Hahn 1	Insights from OLs: What I wish I knew on Day 1	PD Hahn 2
10H00	Academic Integrity: Prof Emese Bordy	PD Hahn 1	How to even UCT: Mohammed Kajee	PD Hahn 2
	Financial Education Derisa Govender			
10H30	How to even UCT: Mohammed Kajee	PD Hahn 1	Financial Education Derisa Govender	PD Hahn 2
			Academic Integrity: Prof Emese Bordy	
11H00	BREAK			
11H15	Thriving at UCT: Mohammed Kajee	PD Hanh 1	Thriving at UCT: A/Prof Dale Taylor	PD Hahn 2
12H00	LUNCH			
TIME	GROUP 1 - 5	VENUE	GROUP 6 - 10	VENUE
13H00	Science Campus Tour	Various	Science Faculty Hike	PD Hahn 2
16H00	Touch base with OLs			PD Hahn 1
TUESDAY - 10 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 - 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 - 10	VENUE
09H00	Insights from OLs: Consent	PD Hahn 1	Insights from OLs: Consent	PD Hahn 2
10H00	Disability Services: Ms Lesego Modutle	PD Hahn 1	SWS Counselling Services: Yolanda Hanning	PD Hahn 2
10H30	SWS Counselling Services: Yolanda Hanning	PD Hahn 1	Disability Services: Ms Lesego Modutle	PD Hahn 2
11H00	BREAK			
11H15	Science Faculty Support Structure: Mohammed Kajee	PD Hahn 1	Careers Services: Safia Lagerdien	PD Hahn 2
11H40	Careers Services: Safia Lagerdien	PD Hahn 1	Science Faculty Support Structure: Mohammed Kajee	PD Hahn 2
12H00	LUNCH			

	GROUP 1 – 10			
13H00	Science Faculty Hike	PD Hahn 1	Science Campus Tour	Various
16H00	Touch base with OLs			PD Hahn 1
WEDNESDAY - 11 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 – 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 – 10	VENUE
09H00	Insights from OLs Culture Shock at UCT	PD Hahn 1	Insights from OLs Culture Shock at UCT	PD Hahn 2
10H00	Science is Tough (But So Are You!): Mohammed Kajee	PD Hahn 1	Library Orientation Auliya TJ Badrudeen / Kim De Mink	PD Hahn 2
10H30	Library Orientation Auliya TJ Badrudeen / Kim De Mink	PD Hahn 1	Science is Tough (But So Are You!): A/Prof Dale Taylor	PD Hahn 2
11H00	BREAK			
11H15	CPS: Sidwell Ntshibilikwana	PD Hahn 1	Building a culture of consent: Stella Musungu	PD Hahn 2
11H40	Building a culture of consent: Stella Musungu	PD Hahn 1	CPS: Sidwell Ntshibilikwana	PD Hahn 2
12H00	LUNCH			
TIME	GROUP 1 – 6	VENUE	GROUP 7 – 10	VENUE
13H00	Science Orientation Closing Prof Hussein Suleman	PD Hahn 1	Science Orientation Closing Prof Emese Bordy	PD Hahn 2
13H30	Science Group Activity			Chris Hani LT
THURSDAY - 12 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 – 10		VENUE	
09H00	Further training in Computing and Digital Literacy OLs		SciLab A	
ALL DAY	DSA Welcome Festival / FIRST YEAR FESTIVAL		UCT RUGBY FIELD	
FRIDAY - 13 FEBRUARY				
TIME	GROUP 1 – 10		VENUE	
09H00	Further training in Computing and Digital Literacy OLs		SciLab A	
ALL DAY	Amathuba Course review (online) Evaluation and feedback (online) Registration Further Assistance OLS		ONLINE	

Getting Started

Accessing Eduroam - Internet connectivity across UCT

You were given a student number and an initial password with your original letter of acceptance to UCT. The login ID enabling you to log into Eduroam is your student number and password. If you have forgotten your password, please ask for assistance from your orientation leader. Wi-fi access is available across the campus and in all UCT residences. You will be introduced to UCT's network and online platforms during Orientation in the digital literacy sessions.

Basic Eduroam log in details:

- Username: studentnumber@wf.uct.ac.za
- Password: the same password your you use to access your UCT PeopleSoft account

You can find information about how to connect to Eduroam on the UCT ICTS website.

- https://icts.uct.ac.za/services-internet-and-networking-internet/access-internet-uct#proxy_auto_detection
- <https://icts.uct.ac.za/wireless-at-UCT>

Health & Safety – online overview and assessment:

It is compulsory for every Science student to complete an online assessment regarding Health & Safety: this is a requirement for, for example, attending laboratory sessions in your courses. The assessment will be done during one of your "Introduction to Computing and Digital Literacy" sessions in the first week of orientation.

Start of Lectures

Lectures for all courses will start on Monday 16 February 2026. At the first lecture, you will be given essential course-specific information such as an overview of the course content and structure, venue information for practicals and tutorials, including the schedule of activities for the course such as tests, field trips etc. Think of each lecture as a brick in the foundation of your degree—don't leave gaps.

Identification

At the First Year Campus Reception, you were issued with your student card. This card must be always kept with you, as it is proof that you are a registered student. Take diligent care of it as it is needed in test, exams, entering buildings, borrowing books from the Library, etc.

Registering as a Student

The activities in the first week of our orientation programme will guide you through the journey of deciding on the majors (details below) and courses for which you will register. You will meet with Student Advisors over several different information sessions for you to draw up your first-year curriculum (i.e. the set of courses that you will take in 2026).

You will then need to complete a fourteen-step process that will be done on PeopleSoft, which is UCT's online admin system. The first few steps were completed at the First Year Campus Reception. You will only be able to conclude your registration after consulting about majors and courses with a Student Advisor either at the end of the first week of orientation or during the second week. Once you've selected your majors, PeopleSoft will direct you to first-year courses that are compulsory for your majors.

If you have any difficulty during the registration process, speak to your Orientation Leader or a Student Advisor. Student Advisors' contact details are found on the Faculty of Science Website and in this booklet on page 19.

Majors for the Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree

At registration, you will be advised how to choose at least ONE but preferably TWO majors (areas of study) from this list:

- Applied Mathematics
- Applied Statistics***
- Archaeology
- Artificial Intelligence
- Astrophysics
- Biology
- Biochemistry
- Business Computing**
- Chemistry
- Computer Engineering**
- Computer Science
- Environmental & Geographical Science
- Geology
- Genetics
- Human Anatomy & Physiology
- Marine Biology
- Mathematical Statistics***
- Mathematics
- Ocean & Atmosphere Science
- Physics
- Quantitative Biology
- Statistics & Data Science***

** These majors must be taken together with Computer Science

*** These majors cannot be taken together

You can also combine one of these majors with a major from another faculty. Information on the available majors will be provided during the orientation sessions.

Courses for the Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree

The courses required for each of these majors are given in the handout given to you (How to choose your BSc Courses for first year) as well as in the Science Faculty Handbook which you can access online at <https://uct.ac.za/students/study-uct-handbooks/handbooks>.

In the first semester (terms 1 and 2) of this year, you will take a total of 3 or 4 courses:

- A mathematics course (compulsory)
- The courses needed for your majors - normally at least two of the following courses: Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geosystems, Physics.
- You may have space for an 'elective', which is a course that you don't need for your majors. This could be one of the courses above or a course in another faculty.

During registration, you must select second-semester courses too, but you can change your selection before the semester starts in July (read on for instructions).

Curriculum Adjustment

The mandatory First-Years Class tests (13–17 March 2026, see page 15) are a key component of the Faculty's academic support and advising framework. Based on these results, along with NBT and Grade 12 scores, students receive curriculum advice by email during the last weeks of the first term. To improve your chances of success, your curriculum may be adjusted, for example, by transferring to extended courses or deregistering from a course. You will be able to consult with a Student Advisor about any changes. The adjusted curriculum takes effect from the start of the second term.

After Registration

Check your registration details online

It is your responsibility to check that your registration details are correct. You should do this during the first week of term by logging onto PeopleSoft via the UCT website (see below). Check that your courses are correctly listed and report any errors to the Science Faculty Office (email sci-science@uct.ac.za) as soon as possible. Make a habit of checking these details at the start of each semester. You can also check your fee account balance on this page.

Access your details as follows:

Login to Peoplesoft at

<http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/online-resources/undergraduate>

Select "Proof of Registration". Click on "email" and the proof of registration document will be sent to your UCT email account.

A printout of your registration details from this source may be used as **proof of registration** for your sponsor or other third party.

From the UCT Mobile app: A mobile app suitable for Android and IOS is available via the relevant app stores – search for UCT Mobile. It can also be accessed via

<https://icts.uct.ac.za/services-student-computing/uct-mobile>

Changing or updating your registration details

To apply for a change in your curriculum (adding or dropping courses, changing majors, etc.), you need to complete the ACA09 form which you can access and download from the student portal on the UCT website. Google 'aca09' or from

<http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/online-resources/undergraduate>

go to "Student Administrative Forms" and select ACA09.

Submit the form on PeopleSoft using the 'service request' function - For instructions on how to use service requests, see: Change Curriculum page on Amathuba

<https://amathuba.uct.ac.za/x/2kCokU>. Remember it is up to you to check your registration details on-line (see above) after 48 hours to confirm that the changes have been captured accurately. If not, or if you run into any trouble, please contact the Science Faculty Office (email sci-science@uct.ac.za)

Please note the deadlines regarding curriculum changes, and the fee implications. Changes cannot be made after the deadlines have passed! The deadline dates can be found on page 2 of the ACA09 form, or in the Fees Handbook.

Change of personal information

You are responsible for regularly checking and maintaining the following information yourself via Student Self Service (see above). UCT will not accept responsibility for consequences of incorrect, outdated, invalid or missing information:

- **Contact Information:** Addresses (term and home), telephone numbers and emergency contacts. This information must be up-to-date to ensure that communications reach you, and that you are contactable by University staff.
- **Bank account information.** No cash payments are made to students. Any financial aid allowances, bursary advances and other refunds will go to the bank account that you specify.

Fee account

Check your fee account regularly. Statements are posted during the year to the fee-payer address you provide. Note that [course changes may affect your fees](#).

Cancellation of registration

If you wish to cancel your registration for the year and not return to UCT next year, you must complete a cancellation form obtained via the Student Self-Service.

From <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/online-resources/undergraduate> go to "Student Administrative Forms" and select ACA08. Complete this form and upload it to the Cancellation of Registration Application on service requests on PeopleSoft. For further help on this, please go to: <https://amathuba.uct.ac.za/x/7rgfwa>. The date when you submit the form will be used to determine whether you are eligible for any fee rebates. Inform Student Housing as well if you are in a residence.

Student Email & Amathuba

All registered students get a UCT email address, in the form 'studentnumber@myuct.ac.za'. Your mailbox is hosted on Microsoft 365 and includes free access to Microsoft 365 Copilot apps for the duration of your studies. Undergraduate students get a 50GB mailbox, an instant messaging (IM) client and secure cloud storage space on OneDrive. To access your UCT email, please visit: <https://outlook.office.com>

You can find more information about your email and Microsoft Office account here:

<https://icts.uct.ac.za/services-student-computing/email-students>

You will be automatically included on the relevant course and faculty Amathuba sites. Check your **UCT email account** and the Amathuba website regularly (see below), as administrative and academic departments will post information here and/or email correspondence to you.

Once you are registered, UCT will only use the official student email account for all communication with you.



Amathuba is the online platform that is used to support UCT courses in a number of ways including providing resources such as course hand-outs, reading material, tests and mark-sheets, lecture notes and recordings, and course specific communications.

Access Amathuba at <https://amathuba.uct.ac.za> and log in with your student number and password.

All students registered in the Faculty will have access to the Amathuba site "**Science Faculty 2026**". It will be used to communicate with you, so you are strongly advised to pay attention to the notices posted on this site, which will also be sent to you via your student email account. The site includes a resource called "**HELP! (WHERE TO GET IT)**". We recommend that you visit this site and familiarise yourself with the topics included.

Examples of topics included in HELP! (WHERE TO GET IT):

Curriculum Resources

- [ADVICE](#) Virtual Student Advisor - for calculating your credits, and for lists of courses for each major and course descriptions.
- [How to make a curriculum change](#)
- [Winter/summer/third term courses](#)
- [Contact a Student Advisor](#)
- [Taking a Leave of Absence](#)

All first-year students will also be added to the "**Science Orientation 2026**" Amathuba site. This site will be used to communicate with you about all aspects of Orientation. The Orientation site also contains important information about the Orientation Programme, Digital Literacy, and Student Advisor Information.

Extended Courses

Some first-year courses have an extended version, as shown in the table below. Students typically perform better in these **extended courses** due to their **relaxed pace** and the **additional support** offered. Thus, these courses provide a good foundation for quality performance throughout the degree. The extended courses are completely equivalent in terms of credits, content, the level of the examinations, and fees (i.e., you receive more tuition for the same fee).

Since the extended courses only run in terms 2–4, all students start in the non-extended courses, and then transfer to the extended courses from the start of term 2, based on curriculum advice provided by the Science Faculty.

If you take 2 or more extended courses in your first year, then your degree code changes from SB001 to SB016, which has the following **advantages**: an extra year of NSFAS funding and an extra year in UCT residences. Note that it is not possible to change your degree code to SB016 after your first year.

First Year Courses (non-extended)	Equivalent Extended courses	Does taking this extended course mean my BSc will take longer than 3 years? ¹
BIO1000F	BIO1000H	No (BIO1000H can be taken at the same time as BIO1004S).
CEM1000W	CEM1009H + CEM1010H (Takes 2 years in total ²)	Only if majoring in Biochemistry / Chemistry / Genetics / Human Anatomy & Physiology
CSC1015F & CSC1016S	CSC1010H & CSC1011H (Takes 2 years in total ²)	Only if majoring in Computer Science
GEO1009F	N/A	
MAM1031F/1033F & MAM1032S/1034S	MAM1005H + MAM1006H (Takes 2 years in total ²)	Only if majoring in Maths / Applied Maths / Physics / Astrophysics
MAM1004F	N/A (but MAM1004 can be repeated in the 2nd semester)	
PHY1031F	PHY1023H	Only if majoring in Chemistry
PHY1004W	Students take PHY1023H in their first year, and then PHY1004W in their 2nd year, and receive credit for both.	Only if majoring in Physics / Astrophysics
STA1006S/1007S/1000S	N/A (but STA1000F can be taken next year provided a MAM course is passed)	

Note:

^[1] **Degree Length:** It is difficult to predict the length of your degree – it is completely normal to fail something along the way. The important thing is to plan a curriculum for success, i.e., a curriculum that gives you the best chance of finishing your degree, with decent marks.

^[2] If you take any of the above courses as an **elective** (i.e., not compulsory for your majors), then it is **NOT compulsory to do both half-courses**, e.g., you may do CSC1015F/CSC1010H without doing CSC1016S/CSC1011H afterwards.

First-Year Class Tests: 13–17 March

There are no lectures in BSc first-year courses on the Monday and Tuesday of the 5th week of lectures (16–17 March 2026), because **these days are set aside for tests to be written in most BSc first-year courses**. In addition, some MAM tests are written after lectures on Friday, 13 March.

The test results provide the Science Faculty with feedback on how first-year students' are adjusting to university challenges. Based in these results, along with NBT and Grade 12 scores, students receive curriculum advice. Their curricula may be adjusted (see page 11) to improve their chances of success, such as by adding extended courses or deregistering from some courses.

Where to go for Help

It is normal for students to face academic and personal challenges at university, which can feel overwhelming. However, ample support is available, so do not hesitate to seek help! Below are some valuable resources to consider. Later in this booklet, you will find additional resources, including some key ones repeated—because repetition aids retention (“repetition is the mother of knowledge”).

Needing undergraduate academic support?	
Struggling with course material or lecture content?	Start by speaking to your tutor, then your lecturer, and finally your course convener. If the issue affects your classmates, involve your class representative, who will follow the same communication chain.
Concerned about a lecturer or course management?	Contact the course convener or the relevant Head of Department (refer to the Department contact list below). If needed, involve your class representative and don't hesitate to speak up.
Uncertain about your curriculum or want to pick up/drop a course or change majors?	<p>For ANY curriculum-related matters (advice, information, or changes), please reach out to one of our dedicated Student Advisors first.</p> <p>Student Advisors' contact details can be found in this booklet, on the 'Science Faculty 2026' Amathuba site, pages 7–8 of the Science Faculty Handbook, and on the Faculty of Science website under contact details.</p> <p>To streamline your inquiries, consider using the following resources before speaking with a Student Advisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum planning tool: https://advice-uct.vercel.app/.• BSc rules & course details: Science Faculty Handbook at UCT Handbooks. <p>Summary of rules on 'Science Undergraduate' Amathuba site (all BSc students)</p> <p>AFTER consulting with a Student Advisor, submit your Curriculum change ACA09 form on Peoplesoft.</p>
Guidance on your career path	Book a free session to discuss how your major aligns with career goals at https://mycareer.uct.ac.za/ , or contact careers.service@uct.ac.za or call 021 650 2497. More details available at https://careers.uct.ac.za/ .
At-risk students	FECR/RACC students & at-risk students identified at midyear are required to engage with the Science Faculty's Impumelelo academic recovery programme (Amathuba-based).

Extended Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenor EDP: Mr Gary Stewart (Gary.Stewart@uct.ac.za) • Senior Student Advisor EDP: Dr Cesarina Edmonds (C.Edmonds-Smith@uct.ac.za) <p>Note: First-year students all start together; students move to extended courses from term 2. Students who take 2 or more extended courses in their first year at UCT are classified as SB016 ('Science Extended Degree Programme'). Both SB001 and SB016 may take a mix of extended and non-extended courses.</p> <p>NB: It is NOT possible to move to EDP after first year semester 1.</p>
Extra time	Apply for extra time for tests & exams through UCT's Disability Service
Deferred exams	Guidelines at https://examtimetable.uct.ac.za/ . Submit ACA44 on PeopleSoft
Leave of Absence	For semester or year; for medical/compassionate/maternity/work/other reasons. Submit ACA37 on PeopleSoft before the 9th week of each semester.
Study & Life Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sci Faculty Mentoring Programme: Available to 1st year & Impumelelo students. Managed by Mohammed.Kajee@uct.ac.za • Time management, study skills & well-being chapters of Science is Tough (But So Are You!), for all BSc students.
Tutoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To find a tutor, first contact your lecturer, as departments manage their own tutoring programs.
Needing emergency help?	
CPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus Protection Services 24 hours 080 650 2222 (toll-free); 021 650 2222/3
Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS 080 650 2222 (to contact the UCT-contracted ambulance service) • SWS hotline 021 650 1020 (8h30–16h00); 021 650 1271 (after hours)
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS 080 650 2222 (for psychiatric admission to Groote Schuur Hospital) • SWS hotline 021 650 1020 (8h30–16h00); 021 650 1271 (after hours) • UCT SADAG Student Careline 0800 24 25 26 (or SMS 31393 for call back) 24/7
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police: Mowbray 021 6809580; Rondebosch 021 6857345 (nos. on student & staff cards) • GSCID (Groote Schuur Community Improvement District) Control Room 078 459 6598
Sexual Assault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OIC hotline 021 650 3530 or 072 393 7824 https://uct.ac.za/oic/survivor-support • Rape Crisis provides free confidential counselling for rape survivors, in English (021 447 9762), isiXhosa (021 361 9085) and Afrikaans (021 633 9229), with offices in Observatory, Khayelitsha and Athlone. • WhatsApp counselling: 083 222 5164. Home - Rape Crisis

Have a general question?	
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amathuba: 'Science Undergraduate' (for BSc students) & 'Science Postgraduate' (for science p/g students) sites have useful info & links for self-help resources such as wellness tools, personal and academic development resources, study tips, administrative guidance and list of people willing to help you. • Administrative processes: Science Faculty office sci-science@uct.ac.za • Any other questions: SciCares@UCT.ac.za & Use the UCT Cares Chatbot (WhatsApp 'Hi' to 087 240 6965) or the Chatbot on UCT website
Advice, referral, direct one-on-one assistance	<p>Student Development Officer: Mr Mohammed Kajee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: PD Hahn Building, Level 6, Room 6.36 walk-in or by appointment. • Email: Mohammed.Kajee@uct.ac.za • WhatsApp: +27 (0)65 884 2265
Students in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCT Food Programme: register with nolindo.wabani@uct.ac.za • Emergency funding (e.g. for transport to family funeral): student should contact Mohammed.Kajee@uct.ac.za. • Missing in action: ask Mohammed.Kajee@uct.ac.za to follow up
International Students	<p>Visa issues or other queries: IAPO@uct.ac.za or 021 650 2822. All students from outside South Africa should be on the IAPO (International Academic Programmes Office) Amathuba site to receive emails about events & support.</p>
IT support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with devices (incl. cell-phones): ICTS front office (Comp Sci building, easiest to find from entry off Cissie Gool plaza) • Loan laptop scheme: Mohammed.Kajee@uct.ac.za • Software downloads: https://icts.uct.ac.za/services-hardware-and-software/software
Representation for academic issues	<p>Reach out to the Science Students' Council (SSC), whose members are elected annually by the undergraduate students to represent your interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: PD Hahn Building, Level 6, Room 6.76.1 • Email: uct_ssc@uct.ac.za
Needing health & wellbeing support?	
Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling anxious or overwhelmed? Reach out to SciCares@uct.ac.za, but also speak to your mentor, a lecturer, a tutor, or a trusted friend. • Student Wellness Services (SWS) Hotline 021 650 1020 (8h30–16h00) • Medical advice (nurse) 021 650 5620 (08h30–16h30) After hours 021 650 1271 or book at SWS bookings for nurse to phone student • Clinic: Steve Biko Rm 6.20 or Ivan Toms (near windmill) Mon-Fri 8h30–16h30. Walk-in or book: SWS bookings (Sports Centre Clinic is temporarily closed) • Costs: Financial Aid students don't pay to see doctor if referred by nurse, but pay for medication and some procedures, or, if unable to pay, fee is added to student account.

Psychological counselling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWS Science Faculty counsellors: online/ in-person: Yolanda Hanning (Maths 3.08); Rethabile Leanya (PD Hahn 6.51); Philile Mtshali (All Africa House). Must book: SWS bookings What to expect from counselling: details. (1st appointment free, then R100 each. NSFAS students free but charged for no-show.) • SWS Peer counsellors (social work/psychology etc p/g students) – online, free, readily available. Book at SWS bookings • Triage nurse: walk-in service at Steve Biko Building and Ivan Toms Clinic • UCT Careline (South African Depression and Anxiety Group) telephonic counselling and support 0800 242526 or SMS 31393 for call back 24/7 • WhatsApp counselling on 076 882 2775, Mon–Sun 9h00–15h00 • Counselling Hub (South African College of Applied Psychology) online/ Woodstock https://www.counsellinghub.org.za/ R50 per session
Indigenous Healthcare Advisory Service	<p>Psychospiritual counselling for students with spiritual callings or cultural concerns. Referrals to alternative indigenous treatments. Medical notes. Dr Christie van Zyl / Gogo Bazamile Christie.vanZyl@uct.ac.za Book: SWS bookings. Emergencies: 073 647 5776</p>
LGBTQI+ support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RainbowUCT: rainbow@myuct.ac.za, info at https://rainbowuct.wixsite.com/website • Outside UCT: https://triangle.org.za/contact/ ; https://www.GenderDynamix.org.za for support & info including housing/food support in emergency/complex matters)
Reproductive health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS: free voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) at SWS • Free STI medication and basic contraceptives (SWS clinics)

Faculty of Science Staff & Departments

Faculty Office

The academic administrative staff in the Faculty's Office is responsible for all student related matters - such as admissions, registrations, curriculum maintenance (including changes of curricula), leave of absence, student progression, etc.

Faculty Office hours are 08h00 – 15h30 from Monday to Friday

Level 6, Chris Hani Building, University Avenue, Upper Campus, UCT

Telephone: 021 650 2712

Email: sci-science@uct.ac.za

Website: www.science.uct.ac.za

Faculty Office Staff

Dean:	Professor Hussein Suleman
Dean's Assistant (PA):	Elhaam Taladia
Deputy Dean for Undergraduate Matters:	Professor Emese Bordy
Faculty Manager:	Karen Wienand
Deputy Faculty Manager:	Amy Rooks-Smith
Senior Administrative Officer (Undergraduate):	Tasneem Mohamed
Undergraduate Administration:	Pedro Beziek
Undergraduate Administration/Receptionist:	Vacant
Administrative Officer:	Vacant

Senior Student Advisors in the Science Faculty:

Senior Student Advisor	Office	Email
Computer Science Mr A Safia A/Professor P Marais	Computer Science Building Room 307 Room 309	aslam.safia@uct.ac.za patrick.marais@uct.ac.za
Statistics Dr B Erni	PD Hahn Building Room 6.64	birgit.erni@uct.ac.za
Biology, Earth & Environmental Sciences A/Professor A Sloan	Geological Sciences Building Room 301	alastair.sloan@uct.ac.za
Chemical, Molecular & Cellular Sciences Dr P Meyers	MCB Building Room 202	paul.meyers@uct.ac.za
Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy Dr S Wheaton	RW James Building Room 4T4	spencer.wheaton@uct.ac.za
Extended Degree Programme Dr C Edmonds-Smith	PD Hahn Building Room 6.08	c.edmonds-smith@uct.ac.za

Student Advisors in the Science Faculty:

Student Advisor	Office	Email
Computer Science		
Dr Josiah Chavula	Computer Science Building Room 305	josiah.chavula@uct.ac.za
Dr Zola Mahlaza	Room 306.2	zola.mahlaza@uct.ac.za
Mr Francois Meyer	Room 316	francois.meyer@uct.ac.za
A/Professor Melissa Densmore	HPI d-School building	melissa.densmore@uct.ac.za
<hr/>		
Statistics		
Dr Sebnem Er	PD Hahn Building Room 6.64	sebnem.er@uct.ac.za
Mr Sulaiman Salau	Room 5.54	sulaiman.salau@uct.ac.za
<hr/>		
Biology, Earth & Environmental Sciences		
A/Professor Jane Battersby	Room 6.02 EGS Building	jane.battersby@uct.ac.za
A/Professor Jacqueline Bishop	Room 3.22 HW Pearson Building	jacqueline.bishop@uct.ac.za
A/Professor Robert Thomson	Room 2.06.1 John Day Building	robert.thomson@uct.ac.za
<hr/>		
Chemical, Molecular & Cellular Sciences		
Professor Gregory Smith	Room 7.08 PD Hahn Building	gregory.smith@uct.ac.za
Dr Felix Dube	Room 227B Molecular Biology Building	felix.dube@uct.ac.za
Dr Ramona Hurdal	Room 402 Molecular Biology Building	ramona.hurdal@uct.ac.za
Dr Siyabonga Ngubane	Room 6.13 PD Hahn Building	siyabonga.ngubane@uct.ac.za
<hr/>		
Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy		
Dr Trisha Salagaram	Room 5.13 RW James Building	trisha.salagaram@uct.ac.za
Mr Thomas van Heerden	Room 1.01.6 Mathematics Building	thomas.vanheerden@uct.ac.za
Dr Ebrahim Fredericks	Room 3.10.1 Mathematics Building	ebrahim.fredricks@uct.ac.za

Departments in the Faculty

If you have questions or issues regarding a course, the table below will help you identify the location and contact details of the appropriate person to contact. The **Administrators** (refer to the contact details below) is often the first person to speak to about any administrative matters, while the **student class representative and then the Course Convener** should be approached on academic matters relating to the specific courses. Unresolved issues may be raised with the **Head of Department** (refer to the Science Faculty Student Handbook for further details).

Department	Location	Contacts
Archaeology (AGE)	Beattie Building	021 650 2353 lynn.cable@uct.ac.za
Astronomy (AST)	RW James Building	021 650 5830 roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za
Biological Sciences (BIO)	John Day Building	021 650 3603 claire.khai@uct.ac.za
Chemistry (CEM)	PD Hahn Building	021 650 2446 deidre.brooks@uct.ac.za
Computer Science (CSC)	Computer Science Building	021 650 2663 thelma.jennker@uct.ac.za
Environmental & Geographical Science (EGS)	EGS Building	021 650 2874 loren.claassen@uct.ac.za
Geological Sciences (GEO)	Geological Sciences Building	021 650 2931 sci-geology@uct.ac.za
Human Biology (HUB) (Faculty of Health Sciences)	Anatomy Building Health Sciences campus	021 406 6670 patience.zantsi@uct.ac.za
Mathematics & Applied Mathematics (MAM)	Mathematics Building	021 650 3191 hayley.leslie@uct.ac.za
Molecular & Cell Biology (MCB)	Molecular Biology Building	021 650 3270 yolande.burrows@uct.ac.za
Oceanography (SEA)	RW James Building	021 650 3277 cashifa.karriem@uct.ac.za
Physics (PHY)	RW James Building	021 650 3326 jill.patel@uct.ac.za
Statistical Sciences (STA)	PD Hahn Building	021 650 3326 beverly.king@uct.ac.za

Support for Science Students

Many first-year students find it difficult to adjust to life at university. Familiar sources of support are no longer there to help ease the transition to an unfamiliar environment. The first weeks on campus can be a lonely time. You might get homesick. You may struggle to form friendships. University classes are a great deal more difficult than high school. In addition, managing your time, right from the start of the semester, is a crucial skill that you need to develop. Whether dealing with academic challenges or a personal issue, it is important to speak to someone. We encourage you to make use of the available support!

Here we list a selection:

- Academic Mentoring
- Academic Support
- Campus Protection Services (CPS)
- Careers Service
- Disability Service
- Examinations Office
- Fees Office
- Financial Aid
- International students
- Libraries
- Office for Inclusivity and Change
- Parking
- Printing, Photocopying and Scanning
- Science Student Council (SSC)
- Student Affairs
- Student Housing & Residence Life
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Student Wellness Service (SWS)
- Study Spaces on Campus
- Transport service
- Writing Centre

For a complete list of student services, consult the [Student Services and Support Handbook \(https://uct.ac.za/students/study-uct-handbooks/handbooks\)](https://uct.ac.za/students/study-uct-handbooks/handbooks).

Academic Mentoring

An academic mentor is a senior student who has been through what you are going through and can help you to make sense of life at UCT. A mentor is not a tutor but is there for informal support, advice, information and referral. Mentors are offered to first-year students in most residences. The Science Faculty's mentoring programme provides an opportunity for you to meet in a group with a mentor at the same time every week, to discuss a particular skill that you need (e.g., time / stress management) and issues that you face. Watch out for announcements!

Academic Support

There will be times when you need help with problems you encounter in your courses – either things you don't understand in the lectures, or problems you can't do in the assignments and tutorials. Each course will offer tutorial sessions as well as some kind of additional help – either by way of drop-in help sessions, or times when you can consult lecturers or tutors.

Campus Protection Services (CPS)

CPS is responsible for the investigation of crime, the prevention of fire, crime awareness and prevention, and safety.

CPS 24-hour toll-free hot-line number: 080 650 2222

NOTE: Students can call this number even if they have no airtime on their phones.

Save this toll-free number on your phone NOW!

Their location and emergency numbers(all hours):

1. Burnage House, Lower Campus, Tel 021 650 2222/3
2. Basement of Robert Leslie Building (next to Lecture Theatre2D), Tel 021 650 2121/4080
3. Level Two, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, Tel 021 650 3022
4. Forest Hill (block E), Tel 021 650 3856.

Careers Service

The Careers Service offers information, advice and opportunities to students to support their career planning, job search preparation and ongoing personal and professional development. The office is home to a well-equipped Careers Resource Centre with several workstations and customised online, print and take-away resources. Access MyCareer at <https://mycareer.uct.ac.za/>. Daily careers consultations are available for all registered students and may be booked online or at reception.

The Careers Service is open from 08h30 – 16h30 throughout the year, student vacations included. The office is located on the ground floor in the Hoerikwaggo Building, North Lane, Upper Campus. Tel 021 650 2497. For more information, visit www.careers.uct.ac.za

Disability Service

The Disability Service provides advice and support to people with disabilities and is part of the Office for Inclusivity and Change (OIC): <http://www.oic.uct.ac.za/disability-service-1>. As soon as possible after registering at UCT students with disabilities should go to the Disability Service offices to complete the registration form to request support or special assistance (known as 'reasonable accommodations').

Disabled students not requiring assistance are still encouraged to register with the Disability Service to ensure that they are added to the distribution lists for social and advocacy events. Besides supporting staff and students with disabilities, this unit offers a range of services, including help with concentration difficulties, dyslexia, chronic illness or psychological disability. Tel 021 650 2427.

Examinations Office

The Examinations Office <https://uct.ac.za/students/current-students-exams/exams-overview> publishes one provisional and one final examination timetable for the entire University. These are circulated electronically. Check the provisional timetable carefully for academic clashes in examination dates. Clashes in the provisional timetable must be reported to the Examinations Office via ExamsOffice@uct.ac.za. This is your responsibility! Also check the final timetable for any changes that may have occurred between the provisional and the final versions. Following communication from the Examinations Office is very important for all exams, but especially for deferred exams and supplementary exams!

Fees Office

Contact the Fees Office via fnd-fees@uct.ac.za for enquiries regarding your academic fee account. The office is on Level 3, Kramer Building, Middle Campus and is open from 09h00 – 16h30 on weekdays

Financial Aid

If you have been offered financial aid, or wish to apply for financial aid, and would like more information, contact the Student Financial Aid Office (Level 3, Kramer Building, Middle Campus, Tel 021 650 2125, email sfa-finaid@uct.ac.za). Please note that the closing date for application renewals is 31 August of each year.

International students

The International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO - <https://uct.ac.za/international>) deals with all issues relating to international students including visa and study permit renewals, fee enquiries, advice on health insurance, accommodation, etc. IAPO is located on Level 3, Masingene Building, Middle Campus (Tel 021 650 2822, email int-iaapo@uct.ac.za).

Libraries

UCT has various libraries, including the Main Library, forming a U-shape building around Sarah Baartman Hall on Upper Campus. Subject specialist librarians can help with resources for your assignments. There are also branch libraries for special subjects. You can borrow up to 6 items at a time if you are an undergraduate. Your student card doubles as your library card, and you can also use it to make photocopies in all libraries. Visit UCT Libraries for services and resources at <https://lib.uct.ac.za/> for all kinds of services and a sense of the amazing range of resources available.

Office for Inclusivity and Change

The vision of the OIC (<http://www.oic.uct.ac.za/oic>) is to build, develop and foster an environment where everyone feels included and change is respected, encouraged and celebrated. OIC is located next to the Student Wellness Service in Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray; they are contactable for advice and assistance at 021 650 2767, or via the 24/7 Sexual Assault Emergency Standby Number 072 393 7824.

Parking

First-year students are not allowed to bring motor cars onto the campus or residences. Motorbikes are allowed, but a special parking disc is required, purchased from the Traffic Office (Blue doors above the P14 car park, Madiba Circle, on the South side of the campus). There are some numbered car bays up at Rhodes Memorial for which a first-year student may purchase a disc from the Traffic Office.

Printing, Photocopying and Scanning

You can send documents from any device (including your phone) to printers located in the student computing labs and document centres, provided you have credit loaded on your student card. You can also use the Xerox printers to photocopy and scan documents to send to your email. More information and instructions:

<https://icts.uct.ac.za/mps/services/student-printing>;

<https://icts.uct.ac.za/mps/services/mobile-printing>

To load credit, use the Intelipay portal: <https://uct.intelipay.co.za/Default.aspx>. Payment through this portal can be made via EFT, Snapscan, MasterPass, or credit card.

The [UCT DocumentCentre](#) (next to Chancellor Oppenheimer Library, Tel 021 650 3372 uctmps@altron.com) offers a range of services including photocopying, colour copying, and ring binding. You can also pay for loading credit to your student card here. A colour printer is situated in the Hlanganani 24/7 study area inside Chancellor Oppenheimer Library.

Science Student Council (SSC)

The Science Students' Council (SSC) is elected annually by the undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science. The SSC office is located in the PD Hahn Building, Level 6, Room 6.76.1, and they may be contacted via email: uct_ssc@uct.ac.za, or directly to the SSC Chair at: ssc_chair@myuct.ac.za. They are there to represent your interests and you should speak to them if any problems or issues arise.

Student Affairs

The **Department of Student Affairs (DSA)** provides a host of responsive and progressive support services for the UCT students. The main clusters of DSA are Student Development (provision of student leadership development), Student Funding & Administration (provision of financial assistance), Student Housing & Residence Life (provision of student accommodation) and Student Wellness Service (professional health and counselling services). For more information visit <https://uct.ac.za/dsa>

The **UCT Orientation Office (OO)** is part of DSA and deals with the needs and queries of all UCT students, including directions to offices and buildings on UCT but also finding services, people, venues, etc. You can contact them via email at uctorientation@uct.ac.za or visit the Orientation Office in Room 2.01, Level 2, Computer Science Building, Cissy Gool Plaza.

Student Housing & Residence Life

Accommodation of UCT students is either in UCT residences or in private accommodation, also called off-campus digs (see more at [SH&RL](#)). UCT residences provide several support systems to ensure a smooth transition into university life, including wardens and house committees, and peer helpers for first-year students. Application dates for readmission to a residence vary annually, but typically close on October 31 for undergraduate students and August 31 for postgraduate students.

For enquiries about UCT residence accommodation or residence fees, contact Student Housing at Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services ([SHAAS](#)) via res@uct.ac.za or visiting their office on Level 3, Masingene Building, Middle Campus (Tel 021 650 2102).

For enquiries about accommodation outside the UCT residence system (in dig), contact the Off-Campus Student Accommodation Service ([OCSAS](https://uct.ac.za/dsa/student-housing-campus-student-accommodation-services-ocsas/accommodation)). The bureau does not own or control these places, but only advertises them for students' convenience, compiling a variety of short- and long-term accommodation offered by the private individuals into a list that is updated weekly. For the current list of digs, visit <https://uct.ac.za/dsa/student-housing-campus-student-accommodation-services-ocsas/accommodation> or contact OCSAS directly via ocsas@uct.ac.za, (Tel: 021 650 4934).

Student Representative Council (SRC)

This council is elected annually by the student body and consists of 15 members. The SRC will address any problems that you may encounter during your time at UCT, which might relate to practical issues such as parking, to academic exclusions. Steve Biko Building, Level 7.
Tel 021 650 3537/8/9

Student Wellness Service (SWS)

Full-time students are entitled to use the University's facilities for medical consultations, eye- testing, pregnancy and HIV-testing, contraception, sports injuries, physiotherapy, psychological counselling and assessment. **Fully qualified doctors, nurses, psychologists and a social worker are available.**

The SWS also assists with deferred examination applications, academic appeals, travel advice (e.g., malaria prophylaxis); accidental and sports injury claims (under the Student Personal Accident scheme).

If you wish to apply for extra time in examinations on physical health grounds, please do so well in advance. Note: If you are applying on the grounds of a learning disability, you need to make an appointment with the Disability Service.

The SWS is located at **28 Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray** (below University House Residence).

Tel 021 650 1020/1017 for an appointment, 08h30–16h30 Monday–Friday.

Appointments can also be booked on-line by following this link:

<https://www.uct.ac.za/dsa/student-wellness-service/appointments-sws>

Some services are free or low-cost, but some tests and procedures have charges. Doctor and psychologist visits cost money, but counselling fees can be negotiated. Always ask about the costs when booking an appointment.

Study Spaces on Campus

There are several study spaces on Upper Campus – e.g., the Main Library, the Chris Hani Building, the Hlanganani 24/7 study area. The study space on Lower Campus, accessible by all UCT students is the **Baxter Student Learning Centre**. It contains workrooms for group work and quiet study; computers, whiteboards, printer; and a social space. The centre is located on the Lower Campus in Cecil Road, next to Baxter Hall. For more details, contact Lee-Ann Smith on

lee-ann.smith@uct.ac.za

Transport Service

The **UCT Shuttle** is a scheduled bus service run by UCT available 7 days a week and includes a late-night service. It operates between residences, all UCT campuses and some public bus, train and parking facilities close to UCT. The service is free to all students who are in possession of a valid UCT student card. Timetables are available from their website ([click here](#)), GoMetro Move – UCT Shuttle App (download it from the app store on your phone).

Writing Centre

The Writing Centre is available to all UCT students and offers a one-on-one consultancy service to students who need advice about their academic writing. To book an appointment, visit the online booking system at <https://ched.uct.ac.za/writing-centre> or go to the Writing Centre (located on Level 5, Room 5.19, Steve Biko Building, Upper Campus).

For general information about all aspects of student life, see the University website www.uct.ac.za and the Science Faculty website www.science.uct.ac.za

Campus Maps

View detailed versions of the different [campus maps](#) that can be used in conjunction with the building, department and office list on the [UCT main website](#).



Our 12 Departments:

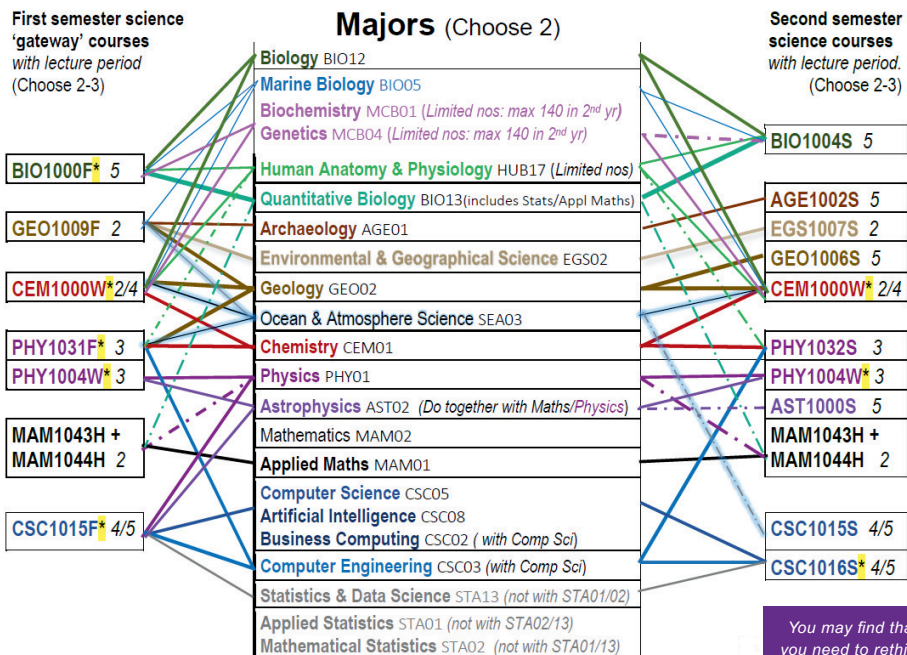
- AGE:** Archaeology, Beattie Building
- AST:** Astronomy, RW James Building
- BIO:** Biological Sciences, John Day Building, HW Pearson Building
- CEM:** Chemistry, PD Hahn Building
- CSC:** Computer Science, Computer Science Building
- EGS:** Environmental & Geographical Sciences, EGS Building
- GEO:** Geological Sciences, Geological Sciences Building
- MAM:** Mathematics & Applied Mathematics, Mathematics Building
- MCB:** Molecular & Cell Biology, Molecular Biology Building
- SEA:** Oceanography, RW James Building
- PHY:** Physics, RW James Building

Our Buildings:

- Beattie Building: **AGE**
- Computer Science Building: **CSC**
- Chris Hani Building: **DEAN**
- EGS Building: **EGS**
- Geological Sciences Building: **GEO**
- John Day Building: **BIO**
- HW Pearson Building: **BIO**
- Mathematics Building: **MAM**
- Molecular Biology Building: **MCB**

How to choose your BSc Courses for first year 2026

1. Choose 2 majors from the 22 majors below. (Or you may choose one science major and one in another faculty.)



2. Find out which maths & stats courses are compulsory for your majors (overleaf).

3. Choose 2-3 of the 1st semester courses above, including all that are compulsory for your majors, indicated by solid lines. (— = —. Dashed lines indicate recommended courses.)

Note:

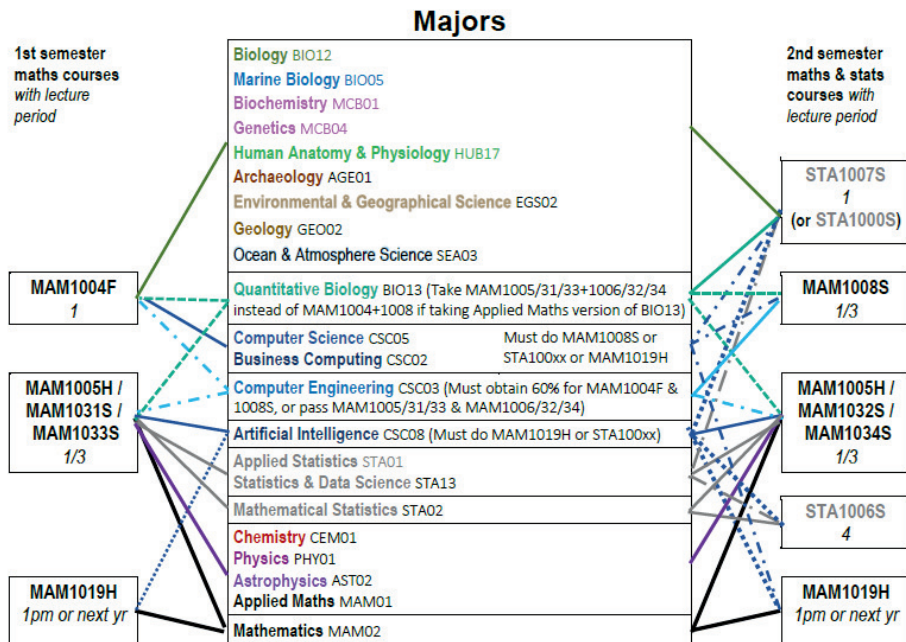
- * indicates that the course has an extended version, which will start at the beginning of the 2nd quarter.
- It's best to give yourself some flexibility, in case you discover that you don't enjoy a subject. The diagram shows that Biology (**BIO1000F**), Geosystems: Intro to Earth and Environmental Sciences (**GEO1009F**), Chemistry (**CEM1000W**) and Physics (**PHY1031F**) are gateways to many majors, so give you good flexibility.
- If you didn't do Grade 12 Physics/Chemistry, then you can't take these subjects. Your possible majors are limited to **Computer Science** (if you have Grade 12 Information Technology), **Archaeology** and **EGS**.
- **PHY1004W** is harder than **PHY1031F+1032S**, and requires you to do some computer coding from term 2.
- Check that you don't have a lecture clash – you can only do one subject in each of periods 1 to 5. (CEM1000W is offered in periods 2 and 4, so choose the period that suits you. Similarly, CSC is in 4 and 5.)
- **Applied Maths: MAM1043H+MAM1044H** count together as one course.
- **Business Computing**: you must also take ACC1006F or FTX1005F in the Commerce Faculty.
- You can find out the **names and content** of the courses in the Science Faculty handbook, found at <https://uct.ac.za/students/study-uct-handbooks/handbooks>. The handbook also gives details of which senior (2nd & 3rd year courses) courses are required for each major.
- You are allowed to include a 1st year course from another faculty, but this may result in less flexibility if you decide later to change your majors. If you want to take two 1st semester courses in another faculty, please consult a Student Advisor. We don't recommend this for students with a Faculty Point Score of less than 640 (as we'd like you to have flexibility if some of your courses don't go as well as planned).

4. **Select 2nd semester courses.** Note that courses ending in W/H run for the whole year, so you'll take them in both semesters (i.e. count them as one of your 2-3 courses for both semesters). You can change your mind about 'S' courses up until the start of semester 2 (by submitting an ACA09 form on PeopleSoft).

Overall, you must choose 2 majors, and 3 - 4 courses per semester, including everything that is compulsory for your majors (including the required maths and/or stats courses overleaf).

BSc Maths and Statistics Courses

This diagram shows which maths and statistics courses are required for each major.
Dashed lines indicate choices (i.e. you must choose one of the dashed options).



MATHS: The diagram above shows that, in the first semester, you must register for one of MAM1004F, MAM1005H, MAM1031F and MAM1033F. The difference between these courses is as follows:

- MAM1004F** is the easiest course (not that any university maths course is easy!) You can replace it with any of the courses below. (However, this is not advisable if you don't need the courses below for your majors.) If you get 65%+ for MAM1004F, you may then take MAM1006H/1032S/1034S.
- MAM1031F** is a tough course. You should manage this course if you got 85 % or more for Grade 12 maths.
- MAM1033F** involves the same lectures, tests and exams as MAM1031F, but, in addition, there are two compulsory 'mathematical thinking' workshops on Monday and Friday afternoons every week. If you take MAM1033F (and its follow-on course, MAM1034S) then you may register for a maximum of THREE courses in each semester (because of the extra time taken by MAM1033F). MAM1033F is limited to 100 students.
- MAM1005H** involves the same content as MAM1031F, but takes it more slowly, allowing you to consolidate your learning over the whole year. If you got 70 – 80 % for your grade 12 maths, you should find this the most suitable course for you. You will do MAM1006H the following year. (If you major in maths/applied maths/ astrophysics/physics/statistics, then taking MAM1006H means you'll take 4 years for the BSc.)
- MAM1019H** is a challenging course that is only compulsory for a major in pure maths (MAM02) and may be taken in 2nd year.

STATS: The difference between the statistics courses is as follows:

- STA1006S** is the hardest stats course, so has higher entry requirements: 60% in MAM1005H / 1031F / 1033F OR an average of at least 60% for (MAM1031F & 1032S) or (MAM1033F & 1034S) or (MAM1005H & 1006H). It's compulsory for majoring in Math. Statistics and leads to more options if majoring in Statistics & Data Science.
- STA1007S** requires a pass in any of MAM1004/1005H/1031/1033F or at least 45% for MAM1004F/1031F/1033F in the current year. STA1007S uses biological and earth sciences examples.
- STA1000S** is equivalent to STA1007S but the examples are more general. STA1000S is delivered mostly online, so you can take it if you have a clash that prevents you from doing STA1007S.

Your curriculum is your responsibility – Student Advisors are available to help you, but it is ultimately YOUR responsibility to ensure that you are registered for the courses you need for your majors.
To contact the Science Faculty office about issues with your registration, email Sci-Science@uct.ac.za.



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UCT Faculty of Science
Chris Hani Building, Level 6
University Avenue North, Upper Campus
Rondebosch, 7700