

# FACULTY OF SCIENCE

## STUDENT INFORMATION BOOKLET 2024

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# WELCOME

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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



Your first year at university is arguably one of the most important years in your life. You will make choices and decisions this year which will affect the course of the rest of your life. Having made it to the UCT Science Faculty, you now need to decide what exactly to study, and how you will approach the challenges of university studies. At the same time, you will be setting yourself up in a residence or digs somewhere, meeting new people, facing day-to-day decisions about how to spend your time, and developing your views on a whole range of issues.

Can you do this alone? Well, yes and no. Yes, in the sense that ultimately you will have to take responsibility for your decisions: you will be the one sitting in the lectures, doing the work and writing the examinations; but also no, in the sense that the decisions and choices you face are complex ones, and you will need the help of others in your new community here at UCT. The process will begin during Orientation Week and will continue right through the year. The key thing is to commit yourself to making “informed choices”, based on sound advice from trusted sources. We have an experienced group of people on hand to help you, but you must ask the questions and not suffer in silence! We will try to anticipate your needs; however, we will only really be able to help if you come and ask.

This applies to both the academic issues you face in your courses, and to all the other “stuff” that you encounter in your life as a student – be it financial issues, establishing the right place to live and study, or dealing with loneliness or sadness, or other distressing things that will come your way. All these things can affect your studies, and it is important to address them. But – do not forget that if you enthusiastically and vigorously engage in your academic work, you will find fulfilment and satisfaction which will help put other problems into perspective.

As Deputy Dean my main responsibilities include leading a team that monitors the kinds of challenges Science students face and setting up appropriate support structures to help empower students to face and resolve their difficulties. So, I encourage you to make the most of the opportunities offered during this Orientation Programme, and to make full use of ongoing information and support which we will provide during the year.

I wish you a most enjoyable, hard-working and successful year in the Science Faculty.

**Professor Muthama Muasya**  
**Deputy Dean: Faculty of Science**

# ABOUT ORIENTATION

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## What to expect from Orientation

We have designed the Orientation Programme, which runs over two **weeks from 31 January to 9 February**, with a few key things in mind.

Firstly, it is designed to provide you with information to enable you to **make the right choices** about the direction of your studies. So, it includes **information sessions** which cover

- how the BSc degree works, what majors are offered, and what these majors can lead to;
- how you choose the right courses for your first year;
- how the selection process for the extended courses will work after week 4;
- what to do if you are not sure what to do, including **opportunities for you to meet with Student Advisors** to talk about your specific uncertainties.

All this builds towards the actual **process of registering as a UCT Science student**, which will start on the afternoon of Friday 2nd February for those who feel ready and will conclude on Wednesday 7th February in Orientation week. This will happen under the guidance of Student Advisors.

Secondly, the Orientation Programme involves starting to **prepare for the academic challenges that lie ahead**: there will be sessions dealing with

- learning how to learn, and how your approach at university will differ from high school;
- what you can expect in online and in-person lectures and tutorials;
- how you can organise yourself to make the most of the academic opportunities;
- understanding and using **the computer facilities and computer systems at UCT**;
- developing “digital literacy” skills: finding and using online information, using email, posting documents via the internet, using common software like Word and Excel, and so on.

You will probably know some of this already, but through a process of self-assessment, you will identify areas that you need to strengthen or where you need help. The **aim is to help you feel comfortable and at ease with the learning environment**.

Thirdly, we hope to provide you with an overview of what resources we have in the Science Faculty, and the University as a whole, to support you through your studies.

# Faculty of Science Orientation Programme 2024

Note, this timetable may shift a little so be sure to check the latest on the Faculty of Science Orientation 2024 AMATHUBA site or the Science Faculty [Website](#):

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE: Orientation Programme 2024

TIME	WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY		VENUES	THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY		VENUES	FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY	VENUES
09h00	Welcome to UCT by academic and student leadership		Sarah Baartman Hall	Curriculum Pathways Ceasrina Edrinos-Smet		Sarah Baartman Hall	Cluster-based advice Student Advisors	MCB LT 2 Chris Hani LT James 3A James 4A
10h00	UCT Digital Landscape (CLT) Sharail Govender			Maths choices Jonathan Sheek				
11h00	Groups 1-5 BSc Curriculum Overview Alastair Sloan	Chris Hani LT	Groups 6-10 Introduction to Computing and Digital Literacy (1)	Navigating Amathuba Thomas King /Sharail Govender				
12h00	Groups 1-5 Introduction to Computing and Digital Literacy (1) OLS	SciLab A, B, C, D	Groups 6-10 BSc Curriculum Overview Alastair Sloan	Q & A with Senior Student Advisors Alastair Sloan		MCB LT 2 Chris Hani LT James 3A James 4A		
13h00	LUNCH							
14h00	Information Session 1 Student Advisors Group A majors (see below) Group B majors (see below) Group C majors (see below) Group D majors (see below)		MCB LT 2 Chris Hani LT James 3A James 4A	Cluster based advice Student Advisors		MCB LT 2 Chris Hani LT James 3A James 4A	Groups 1-5 Online registration support in labs OLS	SciLab A, B, C, D
15h00	Information Session 2 Student Advisors Group A majors (see below) Group B majors (see below) Group C majors (see below) Group D majors (see below)		MCB LT 2 Chris Hani LT James 3A James 4A	Cluster based advice Student Advisors		MCB LT 2 Chris Hani LT James 3A James 4A	Groups 6-10 Online registration support in labs OLS	SciLab A, B, C, D
16h00-17h00	Q&A with Alastair Sloan		Chris Hani LT					

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE: Orientation Programme 2024

### MAJORS

Group A majors Archaeology, Biology, Environmental & Geographical Science, Geology, Quantitative Biology, Marine Biology, Ocean & Atmosphere Science  
 Group B majors In Applied Statistics, Business Computing, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Mathematical Statistics  
 Group C majors Biochemistry, Chemistry, Genetics, Human Anatomy & Physiology  
 Group D majors Applied Mathematics, Astrophysics, Mathematics, Physics

TIME	MONDAY, 5 FEBRUARY	VENUES	TUESDAY, 6 FEBRUARY		VENUES	WEDNESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY	VENUES	THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY	FRIDAY, 9 FEBRUARY
09h00	Science Faculty Support Structure Academic Literacy Mohammed Kaje	PD Hahn 1 PD Hahn 2	Exploring ways of being on campus Groups 1-5			Exploring ways of being on campus / Touch base with OLS Groups 6-10			
10h00	Careers Services Megan Blacker and Safia Lagerden	PD Hahn 1 PD Hahn 2	Student Support at UCT Wellness Disability Lesego Module	Chris Hani LT	Building a culture of consent Stella Musungu	Student Wellness Service: Counselling Services	PD Hahn 1		Amathuba Course review (online)
11h00	Campus Tours and Library Tours / Orientation Groups		Building a culture of consent Stella Musungu		Student Support at UCT Wellness Disability Lesego Module	Touch base with OLS	PD Hahn 1	DSA Welcome Festival on the Rugby Fields / FIRST YEAR FESTIVAL	Evaluation and feedback (online)
12h00			CPS Sidwell N	PD Hahn 1 / PD Hahn 2	CPS Sidwell N	Chris Hani LT	You Belong! Mohammed Kaje	PD Hahn 1	Registration Further Assistance OLS
13h00	LUNCH								
14h00									
15h00	How to even UCT??? Mohammed Kaje	PD Hahn 1 PD Hahn 2	Further training in Computing and Digital Literacy OLS		SciLab A, B, C, D	Further training in Computing and Digital Literacy OLS	SciLab A, B, C, D		
16h00-17h00									

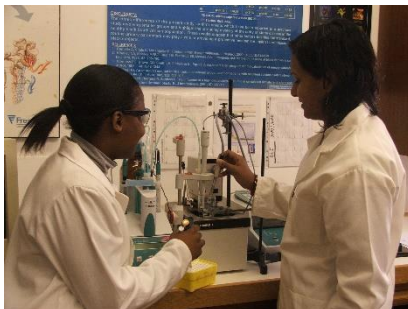
## Notes

### Accessing the Student Network

All computers in the computer labs are connected to the UCT network, and all students accepted to study at UCT will have their login account enabled for these labs and computer stations around the University or be able to access these remotely. You will have been given a student number and an initial password with your original letter of acceptance to UCT. The login ID which enables you to log in to this network is your student number and password; if you have lost or forgotten your password, please flag this with your orientation leader who will be able to help you. Wi-fi access is available across the campus. **You will be introduced to UCT's network and online platforms during Orientation in our digital literacy sessions.**

### 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 second week of orientation (Thursday 8th February). Once you have completed the assessment it will be noted on the system as a prerequisite for attending laboratory sessions.



### Start of Lectures

Lectures for all courses **will start on Monday 12 February 2024**. At the first meeting of classes, you will be given important course-specific information such as an overview of the course content and structure, what will remain online and what will be in-person, venue information for lectures, practicals and tutorials, and handouts including the schedule of activities for the course such as tests, field trips etc.

## REGISTERING AS A STUDENT

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The activities in our orientation programme up to the point that you can start the technical registration process will guide you through the journey of **deciding on the majors** (details below) **and courses** for which you will register. On the afternoon of Thursday 1st February or on Friday 2nd February you will **meet with a Student Advisor** who will assist you to draw up your first-year curriculum.

Your registration will follow a fourteen-step process that will be done on PeopleSoft. The first few steps will be completed at the First Year Campus Reception (FYCR) over the course of 27th-30th January (don't forget your ID or passport). You will only be able to finish the registration process once you have met with a student advisor and decided on your majors and courses, either at the end of the first week of orientation (2 February) or on the Monday of the second week (5 February). In the final steps, as you select your majors, the PeopleSoft system will direct you to pre-requisite courses you must take as part of your major and will also allow you to select an elective (a course that you don't need for your major) if you have space for an elective in your curriculum. Any trouble you have in the registration process can be taken up with your Orientation Leader, or a Student Advisor. If you need to make a curriculum change or are planning on taking an unusual combination of majors (for example if you have a major outside the Faculty of Science) you will need to discuss this with a Student Advisor. At the First Year Campus Reception, you will be issued with your student card. This card must be kept with you at all times, as it is proof that you are a registered student.



### Majors for the Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree

At registration you will be required to **choose TWO majors (areas of study) from this list:**

You will be provided with information on majors during various sessions of the orientation programme.

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

\* These majors must be taken together with Computer Science

\*\* These majors cannot be taken together

(It is also possible to take one of these majors together with a major in another faculty, but this leads to a more demanding curriculum, because you must still take a minimum of 2 science subjects up to 2<sup>nd</sup> year level.)

## Courses for the Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree

The courses making up each of these majors can be found in the Science Faculty Handbook 2024 which you can access online here <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/study/handbooks/current>.

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, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Physics.
- You may have space for an 'elective', which is a course that you don't need for your major. This could be one of the courses above or a course in another faculty.

You will also register for second-semester courses (but you may change your selection before the start of the second semester – see below for instructions on how to do this).



## AFTER REGISTRATION

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### 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](mailto: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:

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

go to “Student Administration Self Service (PeopleSoft)”, enter your network login name and password and click on “login”. You will go directly to your “Student Centre” where you can 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 to change your curriculum (adding or dropping courses, changing majors, etc.) you need to complete the prescribed form which you can access and download from the student portal on the UCT website.

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

go to “Student Administrative Forms” and select **ACA09**. Download the form, note any additional documents you might need to include, and once complete you will 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 approach the Faculty Office.

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 help in how to do this go to: <https://amathuba.uct.ac.za/x/7rgfwa>. The date the form is submitted 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 AND AMATHUBA

All registered students get a UCT email address, in the form 'studentnumber@myuct.ac.za'. 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.

Note: Wi-fi access is available across the campus.



## What is Amathuba?

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 [www.amathuba.uct.ac.za](http://www.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 2024**”. 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 such that you know where to look should you need to in the future.

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 Adviser](#)
- [Taking a Leave of Absence](#)

### Self-help Resources

- [Study Toolkit](#)
- [Personal Development Toolkit](#): Reflect on your unique values & skills, and create an excellent CV.
- [Wellness Toolkit](#)
- [Extracurricular Opportunities](#)

### Need to speak to someone?

- Ask the UCT Cares Chatbot: WhatsApp 087 240 6965
- [SciCares@UCT.ac.za](mailto:SciCares@UCT.ac.za) - for any questions
- [Contact a Student Adviser](#)
- To book a [free online](#) consultation to talk about how your degree relates to the work you want to do someday: [Careers Service Appointment](#)
- To book online counselling: [SWS Online Counselling](#) (Click on 'Science' or 'SWS Peer Counselling' and then scroll down for appointment details).
- Other [student support](#)

### How to...

Replace your student card

## EXTENDED COURSES AND FIRST CLASS-TESTS

### Extended Courses

Some **first-year courses have an extended version**, as shown in the table below. Students usually perform better in these extended courses because of the slower pace and **additional support** that is 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 definitely take longer than 3 years? <sup>1</sup>
AGE1004S	N/A	
BIO1000F	BIO1000H	No (BIO1000H can be taken at the same time as BIO1004S).
CEM1000W	CEM1009H + CEM1010H (Takes 2 years in total <sup>2</sup> )	Only if majoring in Biochemistry / Chemistry / Genetics / Human Anatomy & Physiology
CSC1015F & CSC1016S	CSC1010H & CSC1011H (Takes 2 years in total <sup>2</sup> )	Only if majoring in Comp Sci.
GEO1009F	N/A	
MAM1031F/1033F & MAM1032S/1034S	MAM1005H + MAM1006H (Takes 2 years in total <sup>2</sup> )	Only if majoring in Maths / Applied Maths / Physics / Astrophysics
MAM1004F	N/A (but MAM1004 can be repeated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)	
PHY1031F	PHY1023H	Only if majoring in Chemistry
PHY1004W	Students take PHY1023H in their first year, and then PHY1004W in their 2 <sup>nd</sup> year, and receive credit for both.	Only if majoring in Physics / Astrophysics
STA1006S/1007S/1000S	N/A (but STA1000F can be taken next year)	

Note:

<sup>1</sup> **Degree Length:** It is difficult to predict the length of your degree - it is completely normal to fail something along the way. Less than 35% of BSc students finish in 3 years, while the rest take longer (or never finish). 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Test Days: 11-12 March**

There are no lectures in BSc first-year courses on the Monday and Tuesday of the 5<sup>th</sup> week of lectures (11-12 March 2024), because **these days are set aside for tests to be written in most BSc first-year courses**. In addition, MAM1000W and MAM1004F tests are written after lectures on Friday 9 March.

The test results provide the Science Faculty with feedback on first-year students' adjustment to the challenges of university. After the tests, first-year students are given curriculum advice on the basis of their test results combined with their NBT and Grade 12 results, and their curricula are adjusted to give them the maximum chance of success (e.g., by taking some extended courses or deregistering from some courses).

## WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

We recognize that students often need help with a range of issues they are facing, whether they are academic or more general. The university can seem a bewildering and sometimes unfriendly place, but there are many options for seeking assistance or simply finding someone to talk to about what you are facing. Don't be afraid to ask for help! Here are some places to ask:



### Academic queries or problems

- **Related to course material or arising from lectures:** speak to your tutor, lecturer or course convener; make use of your class rep if necessary.
- **With regard to a lecturer or the way a course is being run:** speak to the course convener or the Head of the Department that offers the course (refer to the list of Department contact details below).
- If you have concerns about your **curriculum** (the selection of courses that you are taking) or want to change your majors, speak to a Student Advisor – details below or on the 'Science Faculty 2024' Amathuba site. You can check all the courses required for your majors at <https://advice-uct.vercel.app/>.
- The **Science Students' Council (SSC)**, elected annually by the undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science (located in the PD Hahn Building, Level 6, Room 6.76.1; email: [uct\\_ssc@uct.ac.za](mailto:uct_ssc@uct.ac.za)), represents your interests and you should speak to them if any problems or issues arise.

### General

- Email [SciCares@uct.ac.za](mailto:SciCares@uct.ac.za) or [UCTCares@uct.ac.za](mailto:UCTCares@uct.ac.za) with *any* questions you have – your questions will be directed to the appropriate people.
- Contact **Mohammed Kajee** with any queries / concerns / problems [mohammed.kajee@uct.ac.za](mailto:mohammed.kajee@uct.ac.za) or WhatsApp: +27 (0)658842265
- Ask the **UCT Cares Chatbot** (WhatsApp 'Hi' to 087 240 6965).
- The '**Science Faculty 2024' Amathuba site** has self-help resources (for personal development, wellness, study, admin processes) as well as links to people who can help you.
- If you are unsure about your life direction, book a free consultation with **Careers Service** ([mycareer.uct.ac.za/students/](http://mycareer.uct.ac.za/students/)) to talk about how your degree relates to the work you want to do someday.
- If you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed (for whatever reason!), please reach out, to [SciCares@uct.ac.za](mailto:SciCares@uct.ac.za), your mentor, a lecturer, a tutor or a friend.

## Administrative offices dealing with student matters

Query:	Whom to approach:	Contacts:
General queries, including curriculum matters, registration issues, leave of absence etc.	Academic Administration in Science (Chris Hani Building, Upper Campus)	(021) 650 2712 <a href="mailto:sci-science@uct.ac.za">sci-science@uct.ac.za</a>
Academic transcripts/degree certificates, deferred examinations	Student Records Office, Masingene Building, Middle Campus	(021) 650 3595 <a href="mailto:reg-records@uct.ac.za">reg-records@uct.ac.za</a>
Fee payments	Cashier's office, Kramer Law Building (09h30 to 15h30)	(021) 650 2207/2146
Fee problems/accounts	Fees Office, Kramer Law Building	(021) 650 2142
Financial assistance	Student Financial Aid Office, Kramer Law Building	(021) 650 2125
UCT housing/residence Off-campus accommodation	Student Housing Off-Campus Student Accommodation Service (OCSAS)	(021) 650 1045 (021) 650 4934 <a href="mailto:ocsas@uct.ac.za">ocsas@uct.ac.za</a>
Medical assistance, psychological counselling	Student Wellness Service, 28 Rhodes Avenue, Mowbray. Appointments are required to see a doctor or psychologist and can be made in person, by phone or on-line by following this link: <a href="https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/STUDENTWELLNESSSERVICEPSYCHOLOGICALSERVICES@mscloudtest.uct.ac.za/bookings/">https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/STUDENTWELLNESSSERVICEPSYCHOLOGICALSERVICES@mscloudtest.uct.ac.za/bookings/</a>	(021) 650 1020
Computer laboratory queries	SciLab D, PD Hahn extension	(021) 650 4772

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE STAFF & DEPARTMENTS

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### Faculty Office

The staff of the Faculty's academic administration office is responsible for all student academic related matters - admissions and registrations, curriculum maintenance (including changes of curricula), leave of absence, student progression, etc.

**Faculty Office hours are: Monday to Friday, 08h00 – 15h30**

**Telephone: 021 650 2712**

**Email: [sci-science@uct.ac.za](mailto:sci-science@uct.ac.za)**

**Website: [www.science.uct.ac.za](http://www.science.uct.ac.za)**

### Faculty Office Staff

**Dean:** Professor Hussein Suleman

**Dean's Assistant (PA):** Elhaam Taladia

**Deputy Dean for Undergraduate Matters:** Professor Muthama Muasya

**Faculty Manager:** Karen Wienand

**Deputy Faculty Manager:** Amy Rooks-Smith

**Senior Administrative Officer (Undergraduate):** Tasneem Mohamed

**Undergraduate Administration:** Pedro Beziek

**Undergraduate Administration/Receptionist:** Tara Pretorius

**Administrative Officer:** Portia Sithole

### Student Advisors & Science Undergraduate Deputy Dean (2024)

**Deputy Dean, Undergraduate Studies:**

Professor A M Muasya (until 30 April)

Rm 3.18.2 H W Pearson Building

[muthama.muasya@uct.ac.za](mailto:muthama.muasya@uct.ac.za)



## Senior Student Advisors in the Science Faculty:

<b>Computer Science</b> Mr A Safla	Room 307 Computer Science Building, E: <a href="mailto:aslam.safla@uct.ac.za">aslam.safla@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Statistics</b> Dr B Erni	Room 6.64 PD Hahn Building, E: <a href="mailto:birgit.erni@uct.ac.za">birgit.erni@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Biology, Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences</b> Dr A Sloan	Rm 301 Geological Sciences Building, E: <a href="mailto:alastair.sloan@uct.ac.za">alastair.sloan@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Chemical, Molecular &amp; Cellular Sciences</b> Dr P Meyers	Rm 202 MCB Building, E: <a href="mailto:Paul.meyers@uct.ac.za">Paul.meyers@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Mathematics, Physics &amp; Astronomy</b> Dr S Wheaton	Rm 4T4 RW James Building, E: <a href="mailto:Spencer.wheaton@uct.ac.za">Spencer.wheaton@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Extended Degree Programme</b> Dr C Edmonds-Smith	Rm 6.08 PD Hahn Building, E: <a href="mailto:c.edmonds-smith@uct.ac.za">c.edmonds-smith@uct.ac.za</a>

## Student Advisors in the Science Faculty:

<b>Computer Science</b>	
Dr J Chavula	Rm 305 Computer Science Building, E: <a href="mailto:Josiah.chavula@uct.ac.za">Josiah.chavula@uct.ac.za</a>
A/ Prof P Marais	Rm 309 Computer Science Building, E: <a href="mailto:patrick.marais@uct.ac.za">patrick.marais@uct.ac.za</a>
A/Prof M Densmore	Rm 316 Computer Science Building, E: <a href="mailto:melissa.densmore@uct.ac.za">melissa.densmore@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Statistics</b>	
Dr S Er	Rm PD Hahn Building, E: <a href="mailto:Sebnem.er@uct.ac.za">Sebnem.er@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Biology, Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences</b>	
<b>A/Prof J Battersby</b>	Rm 6.01 Enviro & Geographical Science Building <a href="mailto:jane.battersby@uct.ac.za">jane.battersby@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr J Bishop	Rm 3.22 HW Pearson Building, E: <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.bishop@uct.ac.za">Jacqueline.bishop@uct.ac.za</a>
A/Prof R Thomson	Rm 2.06 John Day Building, E: <a href="mailto:robert.thomson@uct.ac.za">robert.thomson@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Chemical, Molecular &amp; Cellular Sciences</b>	
Prof G Smith	Rm 7.08 PD Hahn Building, E: <a href="mailto:Gregory.smith@uct.ac.za">Gregory.smith@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr F Dube	Rm 227B Molecular Biology Building, E: <a href="mailto:felix.dube@uct.ac.za">felix.dube@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr R Hurdalay	Rm 402 Molecular Biology Building, E: <a href="mailto:ramona.hurdalay@uct.ac.za">ramona.hurdalay@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr S Ngubane	Rm 6.07 PD Hahn Building, E: <a href="mailto:Siyabonga.ngubane@uct.ac.za">Siyabonga.ngubane@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>Mathematics, Physics &amp; Astronomy</b>	
Dr T Salagaram	Rm 5.13 RW James Building, E: <a href="mailto:trisha.salagaram@uct.ac.za">trisha.salagaram@uct.ac.za</a>
T van Heerden	Rm M1.01.6 Mathematics Building, E: <a href="mailto:Thomas.vanheerden@uct.ac.za">Thomas.vanheerden@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr E Fredericks	Rm 3.10.1 Mathematics Building, E: <a href="mailto:Ebrahim.fredericks@uct.ac.za">Ebrahim.fredericks@uct.ac.za</a>



## 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 **Administrative Assistant** (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 <a href="mailto:lynn.cable@uct.ac.za">lynn.cable@uct.ac.za</a>
Astronomy (AST)	RW James Building	(021) 650 5830 <a href="mailto:roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za">roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za</a>
Biological Sciences (BIO)	J Day Building	(021) 650 3603 <a href="mailto:claire.khai@uct.ac.za">claire.khai@uct.ac.za</a>
Chemistry (CEM)	PD Hahn Building	(021) 650 2446 <a href="mailto:deirdre.brooks@uct.ac.za">deirdre.brooks@uct.ac.za</a>
Computer Science (CSC)	Computer Science Building	(021) 650 2663 <a href="mailto:Thelma.Jenneker@uct.ac.za">Thelma.Jenneker@uct.ac.za</a>
Environmental & Geographical Science (EGS)	EGS Building	(021) 650 2874
Geological Sciences (GEO)	Geological Sciences Building	(021) 650 2931 <a href="mailto:sci-geology@uct.ac.za">sci-geology@uct.ac.za</a>
Human Biology (HUB) (Faculty of Health Sciences)	Anatomy Building, Health Sciences campus	(021) 406 6670 <a href="mailto:patience.zantsi@uct.ac.za">patience.zantsi@uct.ac.za</a>
Mathematics & Applied Mathematics (MAM)	Mathematics Building	(021) 650 3191 <a href="mailto:hayley.leslie@uct.ac.za">hayley.leslie@uct.ac.za</a>
Molecular & Cell Biology (MCB)	Molecular Biology Building	(021) 650 3270 <a href="mailto:yolande.burrows@uct.ac.za">yolande.burrows@uct.ac.za</a>
Oceanography (SEA)	RW James Building	(021) 650 3277 <a href="mailto:cashifa.karriem@uct.ac.za">cashifa.karriem@uct.ac.za</a>
Physics (PHY)	RW James Building	(021) 650 3326 <a href="mailto:jill.patel@uct.ac.za">jill.patel@uct.ac.za</a>
Statistical Sciences (STA)	PD Hahn Building	(021) 650 3219 <a href="mailto:beverley.king@uct.ac.za">beverley.king@uct.ac.za</a>

## SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS

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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!

### 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.

### Mentoring for first year students

A 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!

### The 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://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/STUDENTWELLNESSSERVICEPSYCHOLOGICALSERVICES@msci.oudtest.uct.ac.za/bookings/>

While some services are free or of nominal charge, some are not certain procedures and tests are charged for. Medical doctor and psychologist consultations are charged but the cost of counselling sessions is negotiable. Be sure to ask about costs when making an appointment.

## The 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 [uct.mywconline.com](http://uct.mywconline.com) or book an appointment at the Writing Centre (located on Level 6, Steve Biko Building).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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For a complete list of student services, consult the “Student Support and Services” Handbook (<http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/study/handbooks/current>).

### Accommodation

For enquiries about UCT residence accommodation, contact Student Housing at Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services (SHAAS), Level 3, Masingene Building, Middle Campus, Tel: 021 650 2102.

The Off-Campus Student Accommodation Service (OCSAS) helps to find accommodation outside the UCT residence system. 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 general public into a list that is updated weekly. Tel 021 650 4934, [ocsas@uct.ac.za](mailto:ocsas@uct.ac.za), [www.accommodation.uct.ac.za](http://www.accommodation.uct.ac.za).

### Campus Protection Services (CPS)

CPS is responsible for the investigation of crime, the prevention of fire, crime awareness and prevention, and safety. Their location and emergency numbers (all hours):

- (a) Burnage House, Lower Campus, tel 021 650 2222/3
- (b) Basement of Robert Leslie Building (next to Lecture Theatre 2D), tel 021 650 2121/4080
- (c) Level Two, Kramer Law Building, Middle Campus, tel 021 650 3022
- (d) 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 the 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](http://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.

## **Examination timetable**

The University publishes one provisional and one final examination timetable. 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. This is your responsibility! Also check the final timetable for any changes that may have occurred between the provisional and the final versions.

## **Fee enquiries**

Contact the Fees Office, Level 3, Kramer Building, Middle Campus – office hours 09h00 – 15h30 (tel 021 650 1704 or email [fnd-fees@uct.ac.za](mailto:fnd-fees@uct.ac.za)) regarding the status of your academic fee account. Enquiries about residence fees should be directed to the Student Housing Office Tel 021 650 2977. Local and SADC Students see the Fees Office, Level 3, Kramer Building, Middle Campus. International Students see IAPO (details below).

## **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](mailto:sfa-finaid@uct.ac.za)). Please note that the closing date for renewal applications is 31 August of each year.

## **International students**

The International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) deals with all issues relating to international students including visa and study permit renewals, fee enquiries, advice on health insurance, work permits, accommodation, etc. IAPO is located on Level 3, Masingene Building, Middle Campus. Tel 021 650 2822, fax 021 650 5667, email [int-iaapo@uct.ac.za](mailto:int-iaapo@uct.ac.za)

## **Libraries**

There are a range of different libraries on campus. UCT's Main Library forms a U-shape around Sarah Baartman Hall on the Upper Campus. There are also branch libraries for special subjects – consult the libraries' home page at <http://www.lib.uct.ac.za> for all kinds of services and a sense of the range of resources available.

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 the Library website for details on opening hours in 2022.

## **Office for Inclusivity and Change**

The vision of the OIC (<http://www.oic.uct.ac.za/home-313>) 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. Following the fire in 2021 Rhodes Memorial remains closed to cars, but this could change as the year progresses.

## **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 Document Centre (next to Chancellor Oppenheimer Library, tel 021 650 3372) offers a range of services including photocopying, colour copying, and ring binding. You can also pay for load credit to your student card here A colour printer is situated in the Hlanganani 24/7 study area inside Chancellor Oppenheimer Library.

## **Transport service**

The Jammie Shuttle is a scheduled bus service available 7 days a week and includes a late-night service. It operates between all residences, campuses and local public transport terminals. The service is free to all UCT students on presentation of a student card. Timetables are available from the GoMetro Move – UCT Shuttle App that you can download from the app store on your phone, or at <https://uct.ac.za/students/services-transport-parking-uct-shuttle/route-maps-timetables>.

## **Student Affairs**

The Department of Student Affairs administers the policy of the University Council relating to students, including the administration and supervision of related staff and financial matters. Its sections are: Disability Unit; Sports and Recreation; Student Affairs Secretariat; Student Affairs Treasury; Student Wellness Service; Student Housing & Residence Life; and the Undergraduate Funding Office. The Student Information and Orientation Centre (SIOC) has been established in the Otto Beit Building to deal with all student queries and problems. Steve Biko Building, Level 7, Upper Campus. Tel 021 650 3534/5082

## **Student Housing and Residence Life**

UCT has numerous residences which house junior and senior undergraduate students. Application dates for readmission for a residence place vary from year to year but should normally be made before 31 October (undergraduate students) and before 31 August (postgraduate students). Governance structures in

residences provide several support systems to ensure students integrate comfortably into UCT life, both academically and socially. Besides wardens and house committees (made up of students), first-year students in residence can also get help and support from peer helpers – senior students who mentor and sometimes provide informal tutoring. Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services (SHAAS), Masingene Building, Middle Campus. Tel 021 650 2977; [res@uct.ac.za](mailto:res@uct.ac.za)

For off-campus accommodation, see [www.accommodation.uct.ac.za/ocsas](http://www.accommodation.uct.ac.za/ocsas) . Tel 021 650 4934

### **Study Space: The Baxter Student Learning Centre**

This centre 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. The centre is generally open from 8h00 – midnight (Mon to Friday) and 10h00 – 22h00 (Sat & Sun). You need a student card and an access card (which you can get from Campus Protection Services in the Leslie Social Sciences Building, paying a small refundable deposit).. Tel 021 650 4126/4236

### **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

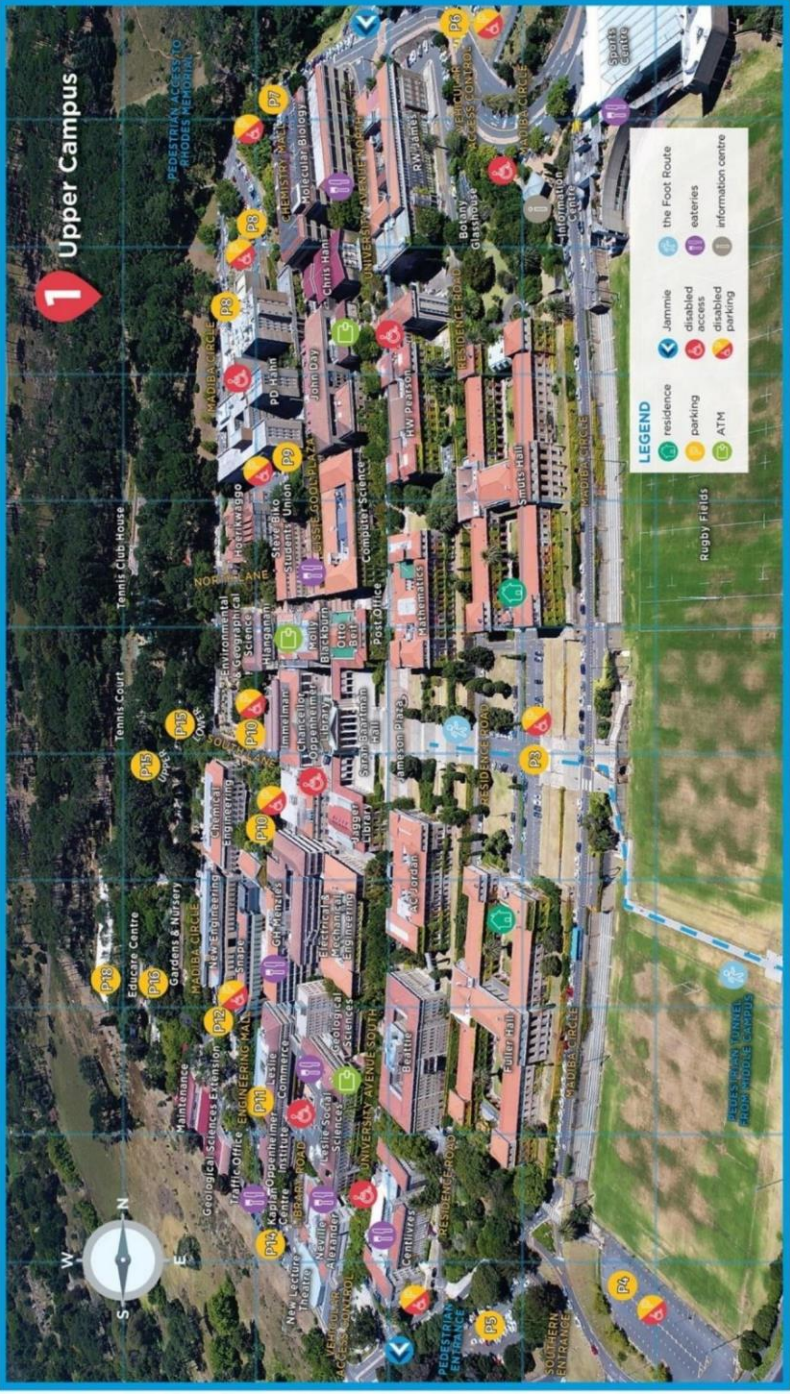
### **The Science Student Council (SSC)**

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](mailto:uct_ssc@uct.ac.za), or directly to the SSC Chair at: [ssc\\_chair@myuct.ac.za](mailto:ssc_chair@myuct.ac.za). They are there to represent your interests and you should speak to them if any problems or issues arise.

For general information about **all aspects of student life**, see the University website [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za) and the Science Faculty website [www.science.uct.ac.za](http://www.science.uct.ac.za)



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# 1 Upper Campus



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- ATM
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- disabled parking
- the Foot Route
- eateries
- information centre

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# Faculty of **Science**



## **Information Booklet for Science Students 2024**