

Financial Assistance @ UCT

Most prospective students have concerns about funding their studies at tertiary level. Given the cost of studies, you might be wondering how you will manage financing your studies.

We understand your financial concern, thus we want to provide you with some useful information on sources of funding and guidelines on how to finance your studies.

UCT endeavors to assist as many financially needy students as possible to enable them to pursue their academic ambitions. The university has committed significant funds for financial assistance to support financially needy and academically deserving students that meet the eligibility criteria.



Firstly, qualifying for financial assistance is based on you receiving an academic offer to study at UCT.

UCT assists as many financially needy students as possible with financial aid packages.

Financial assistance from UCT is a four-way partnership:

1. The student
2. The parent/family
3. National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)
4. UCT

Who is eligible to apply?

You are eligible to apply for Financial Assistance if:-

- You are a South African citizen or permanent resident
- You have no other tertiary qualification
- You are applying for an approved full-time undergraduate degree or postgraduate diploma.

How do I apply for financial aid?

- If applying on-line, please ensure that you complete Section 9 (Financial Aid page)
- If applying using the paper base application, ensure that the following is completed:
- Complete section J of the form “Application for Admission to Study” &
- Complete form 9 (included in the UCT application pack);
- If you receive an academic offer and no financial aid response – contact the Student Financial Aid Office immediately
- **Please ensure that you apply before the closing date.**

Your application for financial assistance must be submitted together with the “Application for Admission to Study” form.

When we have received your application for financial assistance, we will determine your eligibility based on an assessment using the Government’s National Means Test. It is therefore important that you submit all required documents with your application to avoid any delays in assessing your eligibility.

When will I know if I am eligible/qualify?

The Student Financial Aid office will inform you in writing as soon as all the information needed to assess your eligibility has been received and processed. The letter will include the amount that you and your family need to contribute, if you are eligible.

Will all my cost be covered?



Eligible students will receive funding towards course fee, accommodation, meals and travel allowance, as well as a book allowance. You and your family will only need to meet your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) which can be as low as R1 000.

Set value Bursaries and loans offered by UCT:-

The set value bursaries are offered in your 1st, 2nd and 3rd years of study. The values vary depending on the year of study. In your 1st year, if you qualify for funding, UCT offers a set value bursary of R15 000 towards course fees; and a R10 000 bursary for residence costs (if you do not stay at home). The remaining costs will be covered by a government loan from the NATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SCHEME (NSFAS). NSFAS provides up to 40% conversion of the loan to a bursary depending on your academic achievement at the University.

NB. No student on financial aid will pay more than the Expected Family Contribution. All costs, except the EFC will be covered by bursaries and a NSFAS loan.

How do I renew my financial assistance?

It is important that you achieve good results each and every year to be able to keep your financial assistance. To renew your financial assistance, you will need to re-apply before 31 July each year.

Application for Financial Assistance DOES NOT disadvantage your application for Study at UCT.

Scholarships

• Entrance Scholarships/Named Entrance Scholarships:

The University has established a number of Entrance Scholarships. Each Faculty will have its own specific conditions and criteria. No application is required for this scholarship as applicants will automatically be considered should they meet the conditions of the scholarship.

• Vice-Chancellor’s Merit Scholarship:

These scholarships are available to school-leaving applicants to UCT, in all faculties, who have performed



exceptionally well in the school-leaving examination. No application is required for the various scholarship.

• **Achievement Awards:**

These are awards based on partnerships with schools in geographical areas.

Applicants from these partner schools will be considered for this scholarship should they meet the criteria. No application is required.

• **December Scholarships:**

These scholarships are available to UCT students who perform meritoriously in the end of year examination. These are awarded in December each year, and are based on academic results and criteria. No application required.

• **Sports Scholarships:**

These scholarships are available to school-leaving applicants to UCT, who have represented their Province at a National or age- group level. To apply, send your sports C.V. to : The Manager: Sports and Recreation, Dept of Student Affairs, University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, by no later than 30 September.

Where can I get information about other sources of funding?

An Undergraduate Bursaries & Loans booklet is available from the Student Financial Aid Office. These list other available sources of funding.

For more information on financial aid and external sponsors, please visit the Student Financial Aid website on [www.uct.ac.za/ apply/funding/undergraduate/financial/](http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/funding/undergraduate/financial/)



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Student Financial Aid

Helping you finance your studies

