

UCT POLICY ON INTERNATIONALISATION

Policy Statement

The University of Cape Town's mission is *"to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society"*. It is central to the University's mission that we recognise our location in Africa while acknowledging that a characteristic of excellent higher education anywhere in the world is its global relevance. Globalisation has profoundly affected the way in which countries and businesses operate. In recognition of this, the University of Cape Town strongly supports internationalisation as an essential element of quality higher education and research.

Definition

UCT adopts, as most closely representing its own understanding of the concept, the following definition of internationalization by a leading researcher in the field: It is *"the process of integrating international and intercultural dimensions into the teaching, research and service functions of an institution of higher learning"* (Jane Knight 1994). Thus, internationalisation affects curricula, teaching, research, administration, selection and promotion of staff, student recruitment, marketing, experiential learning through student and staff mobility, quality review, social responsiveness, and communication.

Policy Context

This internationalisation policy should be viewed as giving expression to UCT's mission statement and strategic objectives, national legislation and regional treaties on education and training (especially the SADC Protocol) as well as being in line with the Code of Ethical Practice of the International Education Association of South Africa.

Key Principles of Internationalisation at UCT

1. Excellence and Mutual Benefit

Excellence is the benchmark of all internationalisation at UCT. International students should be selected on the basis of merit and academic suitability for a particular programme. Bilateral and multilateral agreements with institutions should be demonstrably to the benefit of all partners to the agreement. Recognising that it is the enthusiasm of the participating individuals, departments and institutions that drives successful international linkages, UCT will only enter into partnerships that have the enthusiastic support of all active participants.

2. Equity and Institutional Culture

Internationalisation at UCT will promote the University's equity and transformation objectives. Exchanges and development opportunities will take into account the under-representation in academic life of women, black people and people with disabilities. Internationalisation should contribute to an institutional culture which values diversity. Every effort must be made to integrate international staff and students fully into the life of UCT.

3. Position in Africa

An important focus of UCT's internationalisation will be the African continent. UCT supports the proposals in the National Plan for Higher Education to increase linkages within the SADC region and to enroll SADC students on the same terms as local students.

4. Research and Academic Autonomy

UCT strongly supports the rights of academics to develop their own individual academic links and collaborations, both formal and informal.

5. Curriculum

In curriculum matters UCT strives to benchmark itself against international standards without losing sight of the need for course offerings to be relevant to both regional and international conditions.

6. International Student Numbers

The maximum number of international students will be set annually by the Admissions and Progression Committee upon the recommendation of the International Academic Programmes Office, taking into account the need for flexibility and differentiation in respect of undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments. Account will also be taken of the prevailing national policy environment.

Within the parameters of this Policy on Internationalisation, detailed priorities and strategies will be set and reviewed on a regular basis.

Role of International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO)

It is the function of IAPO to lead and co-ordinate the development of internationalisation at UCT, and to promote the integration of diverse communities across the University.