



Graduate School  
of **BUSINESS**  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

# UCT GSB MBA Exchange Programme 2026



# Welcome to the UCT GSB

The University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) is part of the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa's oldest public and internationally renowned leading research university.

Triple-crowned by the international accreditation associations/ bodies – the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the Association of MBAs (AMBA) and the EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS), the UCT GSB is home to the only full-time African MBA to have featured in the FT rankings for 12 consecutive years. Additionally, the UCT GSB Executive Education division is consistently ranked in the top 100 by the Financial Times, currently first in South Africa and 48th globally for its customised programmes.

Our vision is to be the authority in business education in Africa, through providing aspiring leaders with relevant knowledge, skills and competencies to lead change in Africa and internationally. Our mission is to contribute to the success of individuals and organisations through research-informed teaching, practice and thought leadership that prioritises the complex and pressing economic and social challenges of our world today. With our roots in Africa, our focus is on emerging-market business and our teaching and research

is geared towards driving development and understanding in this context, which is characterised by high degrees of uncertainty, complexity and inequality. Through initiatives like the Allan Gray Centre for Values-based Leadership, the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the Development Finance Centre, we seek to build a new kind of business school: one that is rooted in values and enables positive new ways of thinking and acting in business to achieve sustainable success.

Our programme portfolio includes a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management Practice (PGDip), the CEMS Master of Management Specialisation in International Management, a full-time or modular Executive MBA, a Post-Graduate Diploma and Master of Commerce in Development Finance, a Master of Philosophy specialising in Inclusive Innovation, and a PhD programme. We also offer international study tours/ global immersion programmes and our Executive Education programmes include open and customised offerings.

Our campus is located in the heart of the City of Cape Town – one of Africa's most vibrant and culturally diverse cities. Wamkelekile! We look forward to you joining the UCT GSB family!



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# Programme Dates

	2026 MBA EXCHANGE BLOCK 1	2026 MBA EXCHANGE BLOCK 2	2026 MBA EXCHANGE BLOCK 3
MANDATORY ORIENTATION	26 - 28 January 2026	30 June 2026	24 - 26 August 2026
TERM DATES	26 January - 20 March 2026	01 - 19 July 2026	24 August - 18 December 2026
NOMINATION DEADLINE	14 November 2025	31 March 2026	31 March 2026

## Nominations

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nomination from home university exchange coordinator</li><li>• CV</li><li>• Online Exchange Application</li><li>• Copy of valid passport</li><li>• Degree transcript</li><li>• Passport-size photo (jpeg preferred)</li><li>• Proof of medical cover (in English)</li></ul>
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must have 3 years of professional work experience</li><li>• English proficiency <a href="https://www.gsb.uct.ac.za/toefl">https://www.gsb.uct.ac.za/toefl</a></li></ul>



# Registration and Visa Process

Once nominated, we direct students to a link to apply online using the UCT GSB Exchange Application Portal. A place offer can be sent after the student completes the online application and submits the required documents. The system will automatically generate the students' UCT student number, student profile and the required letters for the study visa application.

The UCT GSB is prohibited from registering foreign students unless they are in possession of a valid visa for South Africa for the duration of their study period. It is every student's responsibility to ensure that they are in possession of a valid visa to enter South Africa before travelling.

We advise all students to contact their nearest South African Embassy or Consulate before travelling to South Africa, in order to confirm visa requirements.

**More information on visa conditions, exempted countries and entry requirements is also available on the South African Department of Home Affairs website:**

- [South African Home Affairs](#)

Study Visas are required for all foreign students intending to study at a learning institution in South Africa for longer than three months. Students must apply for a South African Study Visa through their nearest South African Embassy, Consulate or Trade Mission, and should include a copy of the admissions letter offering them a place at the UCT GSB, together with a brief motivation of their reasons for wanting to study in South Africa.

## **Kindly note:**

Certain documents take several weeks to obtain, for example, police clearances or FBI reports (for US students) could take up to 12 weeks to process.

**Visit the South African Consulate/Embassy in your home country to confirm the study visa dates and details:**

- [South African International Relations and Cooperations](#)

Visa applications take a minimum of 8-10 weeks to process in the case of complete applications (all documentation in English) meeting all the requirements. Students should therefore ensure that they obtain the list of required documentation from their nearest SA foreign mission and start collecting their supporting information well in advance. Upon receipt of their UCT GSB Admissions Letter they should immediately submit their visa application for timeous processing.

## Health Care

### **STUDY PERMITS: HEALTH INSURANCE**

One of the requirements of a study permit is proof of medical cover that is registered in and/or recognised in South Africa. You may select any medical aid scheme (NOT medical insurance) registered in South Africa and shown as "open" on this [list by the council of medical schemes](#).

We recommend the following because they provide the best cover for international students and offer the best value for money:

- [Compcare Wellness](#)
- [Momentum Medical Aid Life Cover](#)



# Learning Environment

## **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:**

English

## **CLASS FORMAT**

Lectures, groupwork, discussions, case studies, and presentations.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is mandatory, except where permission is granted by the Academic Director.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Active participation is encouraged and forms part of each student's grade, (5–10%). Much of the coursework is carried out in groups, preparing students for the challenges of managing and being part of a team. Skills such as team-building, communication, delegation, negotiation and conflict resolution are honed through group interaction.

## **MBA EXCHANGE COURSES**

MBA Exchange Courses have either a weighting of 5, 10 or 15 South African credits (2.5, 5 and 7.5 ECTS respectively) and usually consist of 16 two-hours lectures, group work and individual preparation.

The total workload per 5-credit course is around 50 hours (including lecture contact sessions, syndicate group work and individual preparation).



# Course Credits

Below are the **compulsory courses** that all MBA Exchange students must enroll for:

BLOCK 1 COMPULSORY COURSES		
COURSE	ECTS	TYPE
Economics of Emerging Markets	5	MBA ELECTIVE
Political Economy of Doing Business in Africa	5	COMPULSORY ELECTIVE

You may choose only **one** of the following Development Finance electives.  
You are only permitted to register for one course since the lectures happen at the same time.

BLOCK 1 ELECTIVE COURSES		
COURSE	ECTS	TYPE
International Trade: Policy and Practice	6	DEVELOPMENT FINANCE ELECTIVE
Climate Finance	6	DEVELOPMENT FINANCE ELECTIVE

BLOCK 2 ELECTIVE COURSES	
COURSE	ECTS
Advanced Corporate Finance	5
Advanced leadership	5
Change management	2.5
Coaching	2.5
Management consulting	2.5
Company valuations	2.5
Integrated reporting	2.5
Lean thinking and operational excellence	2.5
Mergers and Acquisitions	2.5
Management control systems	2.5
Negotiation to create value	2.5
Social finance	2.5
Strategic marketing	2.5
Venture launch	5
Venture exploitation	5
Advanced Corporate Finance	2.5

BLOCK 3 ELECTIVE COURSES	
COURSE	ECTS
Negotiation For International Managers	5
Topics In Social Innovation	7.5
Financial Analysis for International Managers	5
Economics of Emerging Markets	5
Business Development and Doing Business in Africa	5
Business Communications Skill Seminar	4

# Grading

The final course grade varies from class to class but may be based on the following: Class participation, individual assignments, group projects, oral and written presentations, mid-term tests, final examination, or term paper.

See UCT's grading table to the right, which we issue with your final transcript. This is intended as a guide to your home university. Please do note that grade conversion varies from one university to another. It is up to your home institution to convert your grades into their system.

UCT GRADES
<b>75 - 100%</b> First class
<b>70 - 74%</b> Second class (division one/upper second)
<b>60 - 69%</b> Second class (division two/lower second)
<b>50 - 59%</b> Third class
<b>0 - 49%</b> Fail



# Facilities

The UCT GSB's Breakwater Campus is situated in the heart of Cape Town's most popular tourist attraction, the Victoria and Alfred (V&A) Waterfront. Centrally located and easily accessed, the UCT GSB is just 1.5km away from the central business district and 20 minutes from Cape Town International Airport.

The campus is equipped with modern lecture theatres and syndicate rooms for group study, as well as a library and restaurants.

The Breakwater Campus, once a 19th century prison, offers library services, student work rooms, a new Solution Space environment specially designed to foster creativity and collaboration with floor-to-ceiling chalkboard walls, flexible furniture for multiple setups, hot-desk facilities, lounge areas, a computer lab (e-mail, internet and Wi-Fi), an open learning space including tele and video conferencing facilities for virtual meet-ups and presentations.

The Cape Town V&A Waterfront is a major tourist attraction on our doorstep and Cape Town's famous Table Mountain overlooks the School, the City and the Harbour. Students may make use of the University's sports facilities on the main campus, or private arrangements may be made with the Virgin Active Gym nearby. As an added benefit to studying at the UCT GSB, you'll be situated in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Visit [Cape Town Travel](#) to see what else Cape Town has to offer.

**For more information about all the services on the UCT GSB Breakwater campus visit:**

[GSB campus-locations](#)



## ACCOMODATION

[The Protea Breakwater Lodge](#), on the UCT GSB campus, features 18 conference venues, four public lounges, gym, spa, business centre, and 24-hour secure parking with 250 parking bays. It also offers airport transfers and laundry service.

The hotel boasts 191 modern environmentally conscious rooms with standard rooms, business suites and family units. All rooms are equipped with a minibar fridge, free uncapped Wi-Fi, tea/coffee facilities, air-conditioning, an LCD flat-screen TV, telephone and laptop-friendly electronic safes.

Please contact The Protea Breakwater Lodge for the 2025 Hotel rates.



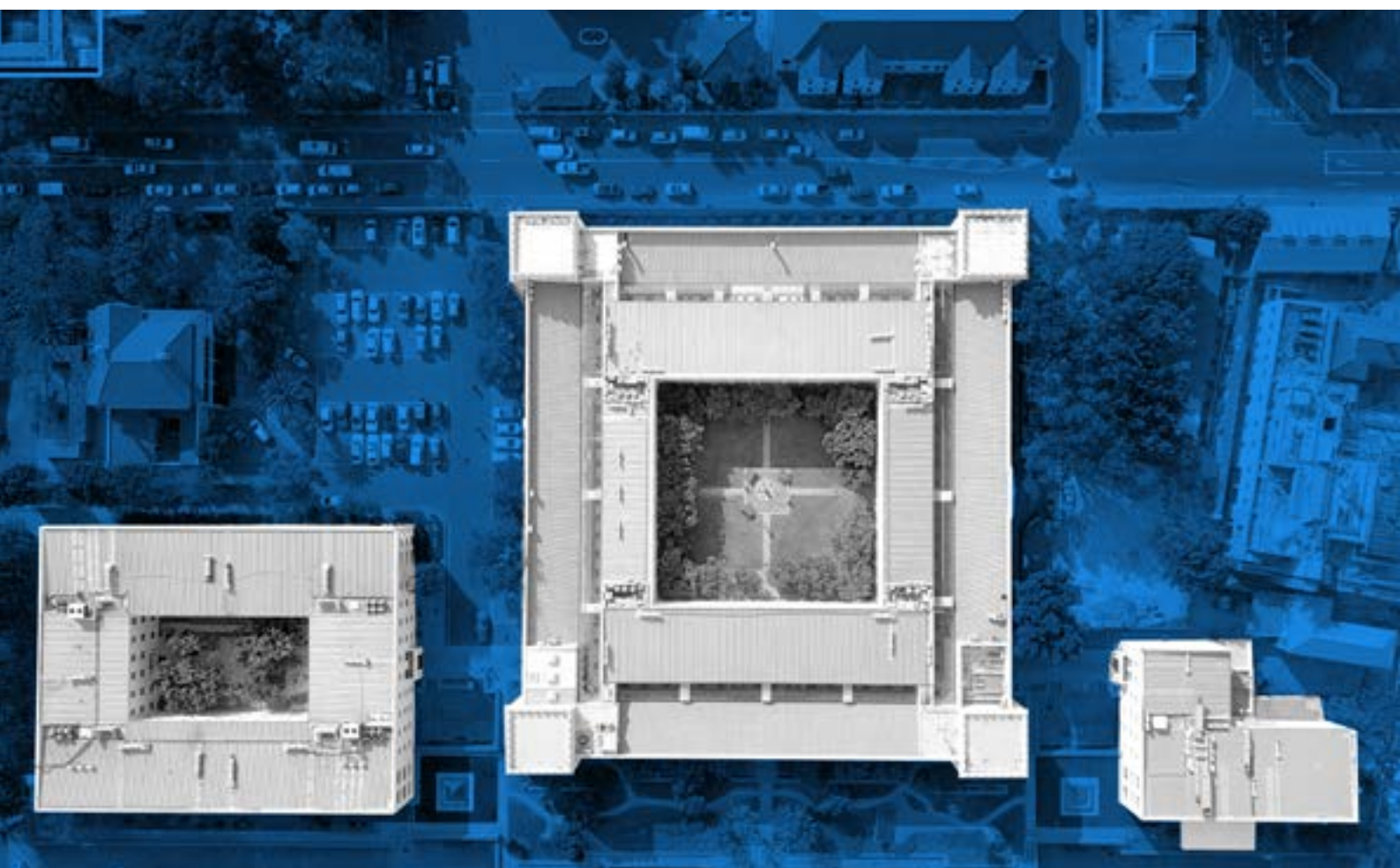
## OFF CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

Students wishing to arrange their own housing should plan to arrive in advance.

There are a number of online rental booking platforms available: **Areas nearby include Greenpoint; Mouille Point; Sea Point; Waterfront; De Waterkant; Cape Town City Centre/City Bowl; Three Anchor Bay; Bo Kaap; and Gardens.**

**The following are recommended by students:**

- [Airbnb](#)
- <https://neighbourgood.co.za/>
- [Property 24](#)
- [Student At Home](#)
- [UCT Off-site Accommodation](#)



## COST OF LIVING IN CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is an affordable destination for many visitors from around the world, with the Rand offering a favourable exchange rate again or global currencies.

Below is a table of approximate costs of living in Cape Town. The exchange rate in the table below is calculated at R20 to the Euro. Please check the current exchange rate before you work out your own budget – and bear in mind that the South African Rand is subject to fairly wide exchange rate fluctuations. All amounts listed are estimates, and of course your expenses will depend largely on your lifestyle while in Cape Town – including whether you wish to travel around our beautiful country or to our neighbouring states, such as Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe or Botswana or prefer to stay in South Africa.

Cost of Living in Cape Town (approx. per month)		
<b>Meals</b>	€ 250	\$300
<b>Rent</b>	€ 500	\$600
<b>Transportation</b>	€ 75	\$90
<b>Pocket Money</b>	€ 100	\$120
<b>Living costs</b>	€ 100	\$120
<b>Total</b>	€ 1 025	\$1 230

- Exchange rate used for the above table: €1/ZAR20.
- All amounts listed above are estimates and subject to change, depending on economic factors.



# Why Study at the UCT GSB?

Location - Cape Town is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and students are enthralled by the diversity it has to offer. The UCT GSB's Breakwater Campus is situated in the [Victoria and Alfred Waterfront](#), which is home to the world-renowned [Zeitz MOCAA Museum of Contemporary African Art](#). The city's iconic [Table Mountain](#), beautiful coastline, premium wine farms and vibrant night-life are all nearby. Cape Town is also home to many global and national organisations in sectors including retail, petroleum, financial services, wine and beer production, fashion, and education. It is a major centre of entrepreneurial activity and is fast emerging as the innovation hub of Africa.

Facilities - Our teaching venues are world-class. Our state-of-the-art academic conference centre, opened in 2019, was specifically planned to conform to the requirements of a technologically advanced era in academic and research circles. Additionally, our satellite site in the community of Philippi, one of Cape Town's poorest suburbs, offers students, alumni, clients and local entrepreneurs a place to meet and engage, and to exchange skills and ideas. It was established in a deliberate effort to deepen our roots and relevance as an African business school. Our teaching, learning and research is directed towards building a more economically prosperous, equitable and integrated continent.

## Africa's Premier MBA



**WATCH:**

<https://youtu.be/9oLeDs86VX4>