

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Are students required to attend classes?

No. All of our content is delivered online using the Vula platform. Only PG Diploma students need to write an integrated assessment in November of each year of study at UCT.

Are there satellite sites in my province / country where I can write the integrated assessment?

Unfortunately no. PG Diploma students are required to travel to Cape Town, South Africa in November of each year of study to write their integrated assessment.

How long are the courses versus the Postgraduate Diploma?

Every one of the 5 courses that make up the PG Diploma can be taken on their own over a semester. A semester is usually 4-5 months. The PG Diploma is a two-year qualification.

Should I apply if I am not *that* computer literate?

As this is an online programme, we highly recommend that applicants have an intermediate – advanced level of computer literacy, although we provide extensive technical support throughout the duration of your studies. Students must also have a reliable internet connection.

Can I access the content and activities from a smart device?

Yes. The coursework is compatible with smart devices, although some functionality may be limited. We recommend that students access the course sites from a PC or laptop.

What is the difference between occasional and diploma students?

Occasional students are those who register for an individual course. They receive a UCT-accredited certificate upon completion of the course of their choice, together with a CPD certificate (30 points are awarded if you complete the course). PG Diploma students are registered for a two-year programme after which they graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma.

Can I apply if I don't have an MBChB or Bachelors of Nursing?

Our courses and PG Diploma are clinical in nature and focus on the treatment and management of diseases such as HIV, TB and TB/HIV Co-infection. It is for these reasons that students are required to have access to patients or patient files. Due to the fact that the PG Diploma is offered at a Postgraduate level, applicants must be in possession of a degree. The Operational Research and Biostatistics courses, however, are offered to applicants from a range of different fields of study.

Are students assessed or is it just coursework?

Each of our courses includes rigorous assessment – please consult with the Overview of Assessment document. This document also outlines the notional learning hours for each course and how students make DP (Duly Performed).

Do students write exams?

Yes. An online examination is a requirement for completion of each course.

How much do the courses / PG Diploma cost?

Please refer to the Breakdown of Fees document, as well as the UCT Fees Handbook.

If I have completed a course as an occasional student, do I have to do it again if I register for the PG Diploma?

No. If you complete an individual course with us over a semester and then decide to apply for the PG Diploma, you will not have to repeat that course. Students will have credits transferred to their academic record for the course they have already completed. **NB**: a maximum of TWO courses can be transferred. If you have completed more than two as an occasional student, you will have to repeat at least one course. Only 50% of the curriculum for any programme at UCT can be transferred.

Are scholarships available for the courses or PG Diploma?

Students are required to fund their own studies or apply for external funding – we do not offer scholarships. We strongly suggest that you establish funding before submitting an application. Some students apply for funding through their employer. UCT staff who wish to apply for a staff rebate, will have to inquire with their line manager regarding their eligibility.

What happens if I fail a course if I am a PG Diploma student?

Any course that is failed needs to be repeated before a student is eligible to graduate. If a student fails a course, they continue with their studies; any course / s that are failed are only repeated at the end.

I don't live in South Africa – can I apply?

Yes! Our students are from across the globe which is what adds to the diversity of our courses and PG Diploma. If you are from outside of SA (e.g. SADC region, rest of Africa or outside of Africa) it will be important to familiarise yourself with the additional fees that are payable (please refer to Breakdown of Fees document). **NB**: Our content is based on SA guidelines.