



**AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES**  
urbanism from an african perspective



# MASTERS IN SOUTHERN URBANISM

Fostering the next generation of urban scholars  
from Africa rooted in Southern city perspectives

**FAQs**  
- updated July 2023

## WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE MPhil SOUTHERN URBANISM PROGRAMME?

The MPhil curriculum combines course work (50%) and a minor dissertation (50%), a full-time load completed over a minimum period of 18 months.

## IS THE DEGREE FULL TIME OR PART TIME?

This is a full time course completed over a minimum period of 18 months.

## WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION?

The language of instruction is English.

## CAN I COMPLETE THIS DEGREE REMOTELY?

This degree can not be completed remotely as the teaching methodology relies on small group seminars and city-based experiential and embodied learning.

## HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

In year one students complete the Masters coursework, which includes a compulsory City Research Studio, a choice of two of three interdisciplinary urban modules, and an urban focused elective.

In year two students write minor dissertations based on their own fieldwork, under the supervision of expert faculty and researchers in either the Humanities, Engineering and the Built Environment, or Science Faculties at the University of Cape Town.

<b>YEAR 1</b> Coursework 90 credits	Three Core Courses City Research Studio (Compulsory, year-long course)
	2 of 3 MPhil Urban Studies course - Urban Theory - Urban Everyday - Curating Urban Regulation
<b>YEAR 2</b> Minor Dissertation 90 credits	Designated Urban Course (minimum of 23 credits)
	Exisiting courses with a disciplinary or thematic urban focus from approved list and with convenor approval
Semester 1: Minor Dissertation Research	
Semester 2: Thesis submission/examination	

## WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME?

In order to apply for the Masters in Southern Urbanism prospective students need to have completed a four-year Bachelors, Bachelors and Honours, or a Masters degree.

Students from institutions whose language of instruction is not English may be asked for proof of language proficiency.

Entry to all our postgraduate programmes is competitive. In special circumstances graduates who have shown by examination, or publication, or a record of appropriate training or professional experience, that they have reached a level equivalent to an Honours degree may be admitted, at the discretion of the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE). Such cases usually involve proof of research, professional experience or publication record that demonstrates competence in an appropriate field, usually considered to encompass approximately five years of experience in a relevant field subsequent to obtaining



a first degree in that field. Applicants without an Honours degree but with significant experience are encouraged to get in touch with the course convener to discuss potential eligibility.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Complete the online application process here: [applyonline.uct.ac.za](https://applyonline.uct.ac.za)

Faculty: Engineering and Built Environment

Programme name and code: *Urban Studies, M027APG15*

Please attach the following documents with your application:

- Current CV
- Certified copies of your university degree/s
- Letter of motivation
- 2 reference letters from academic or professional referees

For more information read the [2024 Directions for Postgraduate Applicants](#).

**DEADLINE FOR SA & INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES:** 31 October 2023

You should receive confirmation of submission immediately. Within three working days, you will receive formal acknowledgment of your application, containing your applicant number and login credentials to UCT's online student self-service called PeopleSoft. Log in to PeopleSoft to monitor the status of your application.

It is important to note that acknowledgment of your application does not mean you have been accepted and admitted to UCT.

Consideration of your application may take up to a couple of months or more. You may be asked to submit further information and/or documentation.

Communication about your application will reach you by email at the UCT email address assigned to you at the time of first application.

## ONCE I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED, WHEN DO I REGISTER?

Generally registration takes place at the start of the academic year; for certain research-only postgraduate degrees you may register later. The process and dates for your programme registration will be sent at the time of acceptance/ admission but do check for updates on faculty or programme websites.

NOTE: You are not officially a UCT postgraduate student (with access to the required facilities and resources, including supervision) unless registered.

International Postgraduates (including from SADC countries) must report to the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) for [pre-registration clearance](#). This includes fee clearance, presenting your study permit and health insurance information. Your registration at the faculty will only be processed once you have been cleared by IAPO.

## IS THERE FUNDING OR BURSARIES AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROGRAMME?

We have a limited number of bursaries available for South African and international students. For up-to-date details, regular check the ACC website and social media profiles for details.

All applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding, as the number of the programme's own bursaries is limited and the selection process is therefore competitive. Please regularly check the [Postgraduate Funding Office's website](#) for current funding opportunities.

Should you have any further questions regarding funding, please email the course convener, Dr Anna Selmeczi ([anna.selmeczi@uct.ac.za](mailto:anna.selmeczi@uct.ac.za)).

## WHAT ARE THE FEES FOR THE MPHIL SOUTHERN URBANISM?

For the latest fees information, [download the 2023 Fees Handbook](#) (Handbook 12) from the handbooks page or visit the website here: <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/fees-funding/fees/handbook>

UCT Fees Office  
+27 (0)21 650 1704  
[fnd-feeeng@uct.ac.za](mailto:fnd-feeeng@uct.ac.za)

## WHERE CAN I FIND ACCOMMODATION AT UCT?

UCT can offer on-campus accommodation to just over 600 postgraduates, so space is limited. If you are looking for on-campus accommodation, apply early. You will not be considered for on-campus accommodation unless you apply.

The allocated bed space for postgraduate students is proportionally divided between the faculties. Each faculty has a set number of housing places for the year, and placement is dependent on individual faculty rules. Some residences provide for the needs of students with physical disabilities.

Third-tier residences offer semi-autonomous self-catering accommodation. They have wardens who oversee the academic and social well-being of the students in the sector. The wardens ensure that there is a good community life in the houses, flats and the purpose-built residences like Obz Square. Since there are limited places in UCT residences, many postgraduate students find their own accommodation in private housing off campus.

If you wish to join one of UCT's student accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to apply early. For all information regarding student accommodation, please contact the accommodation office. Note that the course convener will not be able to assist you regarding housing issues.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT UCT?

Visit the postgradhub at [www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za](http://www.postgradhub.uct.ac.za)

## CONTACTS

### Course convenor

Dr Anna Selmeczi  
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+27 (0)21 650 7396

### Postgraduate Administrator

Faranaaz Bennett  
[faranaaz.bennett@uct.ac.za](mailto:faranaaz.bennett@uct.ac.za)

### Postgraduate Funding Office

[pgfunding@uct.ac.za](mailto:pgfunding@uct.ac.za)  
+27 (0)21 650 3622

### International Academic Programmes Office

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