

# CEMS

## MIM EXCHANGE



2026/27



# 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 prestigious international accreditation bodies—the **AACSB**, **AMBA**, and **EQUIS**—the UCT Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) is one of only three schools in Africa to hold this "Triple Crown" status.

Reaffirming its place as a global leader, the UCT GSB MBA is currently ranked **#86 in the world** and **#1 in the Middle East & Africa** (QS Global MBA Rankings 2026), continuing a long-standing tradition of being the most consistently ranked full-time MBA on the continent.

Furthermore, the UCT GSB Executive Education division has been ranked in the **Financial Times Top 100** for over 15 consecutive years. It currently holds the top spot in South Africa and is ranked **61st globally** for its customised programmes, while its Executive MBA (EMBA) is recognized as **#1 in Africa** and **11th globally** (CEO Magazine 2025).

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 Specialising 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.

## WAMKEKILE!

**We look forward to you joining the UCT GSB family!**



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**MIM PROGRAMME DIRECTOR**

**Dr. Annika Surmeier**



# PROGRAMME DATES

	TERM 1: (2026)	TERM 2: (2027)
TERM DATES	24 August – 18 December	25 January – 21 May
ORIENTATION	24 August – 28 August	25 January – 27 January

# NOMINATIONS

## DEADLINES

Exchange students must be nominated to the UCT GSB by the CEMS Programme Manager of their home university on the CEMS.org site. Following this, accepted students will be invited to complete a UCT application.

**15 April:** Nomination Deadline

**1 June:** Elective course registration for Term 1

**30 November:** Elective course selection for Term 2

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Nomination from University Programme Manager
- CV
- Online exchange application
- Copy of valid passport
- Degree transcript
- Passport photo (jpeg preferred)

# 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  
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.

## ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses are offered each year, depending on student interests, and our offering changes from year to year.

**During Term 1, CEMS MIM students can participate in exclusive CEMS MIM elective courses.**

**During Term 2, students participate in special international student electives with students from the UCT GSB partner schools.**

Elective courses have either a weighting of 5, 10 or 15 South African credits and usually consist of 16 two-hour lectures plus syndicate groupwork and individual preparation.

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

Full elective course outlines will be made available via the student online platform in June and November.



# COURSE CREDITS

TERM 1		TERM 2
24 August – 18 December		25 January – 21 May
Business Development and Doing Business in Africa (Block Seminar) <b>3 ECTS</b>	Global Strategy <b>7.5 ECTS</b>	Global Citizenship Seminar <b>1 ECTS</b>
	3-4 Elective Courses <b>22.5 ECTS</b>	Global Leadership <b>6 ECTS</b>
	Business Communication Skills <b>1 ECTS</b>	Business Project <b>15 ECTS</b>
		1-3 Elective Courses <b>10 ECTS</b>
		Business Skills Seminars <b>1 ECTS</b>



# GRADING



## THE FINAL COURSE GRADE VARIES FROM CLASS TO CLASS, BUT CAN BE BASED ON:

- Class participation
- Individual assignments
- Group projects
- Oral and written presentations
- Mid-term tests
- The final examination or term paper

See UCT's recommended grade conversion table, below, which we issue with your final transcript.

This is intended as a guide to your home university.

**Please 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	APPROXIMATE CEMS GRADE EQUIVALENT
75 - 100% First class	A
70 - 74% Second class (division one/upper second)	B
60 - 69% Second class (division two/lower second)	C
50 - 59% Third class	D
0 - 49% Fail	F
DPR: Duly Performed certificate refused (not permitted to write examination)	F
AB: Absent from examination	F
INC: Incomplete	INCOMPLETE

# 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 meetups 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](#)



# ACCOMMODATION

**THE UCT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (GSB)**  
does not offer campus residence accommodations.

**We encourage visiting students to explore private housing options instead.**

As we understand the importance of managing expectations, please note that the UCT GSB is situated in South Africa's premier tourist destination, which can lead to a shortage of student housing.

**It's strongly recommended that students begin their search for accommodation early, as securing short-term rentals, especially for exchange students, can be challenging.**



**There are a number of online rental booking platforms available.**

**The following are recommended by students:**



Airbnb

<https://properliving.co.za/greenpoint/>

<https://metropole.co.za/green-point/>



## AREAS NEAR TO THE UCT GSB CAMPUS:

Greenpoint, Mouille Point,  
Sea Point, Waterfront, De Waterkant,  
Cape Town, City Centre/City Bowl,  
Three Anchor Bay, Bo Kaap,  
and Gardens.



# 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 R19 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)

Meals	€ 250,00
Rent	€ 600,00
Transportation	€ 75,00
Pocket Money	€ 100,00
Living costs	€ 100,00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 1 125,00</b>



### MORE INFORMATION:

- Exchange rate used for the above table: **€1/ZAR19**.
- All amounts listed above are estimates and subject to change, depending on economic factors.
- Above-mentioned expenses may not all be incurred by the student.

# WHY STUDY AT THE UCT GSB?

## LOCATION

Cape Town is often ranked most beautiful city 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.

# HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS



 Clickable text links shown in **light blue colour**.

 [cems.uct](https://www.instagram.com/cems.uct)

 [cemsclubcapetown](https://www.instagram.com/cemsclubcapetown)