

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Master of Business Administration (MBA) Modular Program





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It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Graduate School of Business (GSB) at the University of Cape Town, an institution recognised as a leader in business education on the African continent and beyond. Since our founding, the GSB has been committed to cultivating innovative and responsible business leaders who can navigate complexity, drive growth, and contribute meaningfully to society. As you consider the transformative journey of an MBA, I invite you to explore what makes the GSB a unique and enriching place to advance your career and deepen your impact.



At the UCT the GSB, our mission is anchored in a commitment to excellence, relevance, and societal impact. Our faculty comprises renowned experts and thought leaders, many of whom are at the forefront of research and practice in African and global markets. They bring a wealth of expertise and insight to the classroom, enabling our students to gain both a rigorous academic foundation and an in-depth understanding of today's business challenges. Through a curriculum that emphasises values-based leadership, innovation, and sustainable business practices, we prepare our students to lead effectively and ethically, with a deep respect for the interconnectedness of global economies.

As a student at the GSB, you will find yourself in an environment that fosters diversity of thought and encourages the exploration of new perspectives. Our student body is a dynamic mix of individuals from varied cultural, professional, and personal backgrounds, creating a truly global classroom. This diversity enriches the learning experience, fostering vibrant discussions and innovative solutions to complex business problems. Beyond academics, you'll have access to an expansive network of alumni, mentors, and industry leaders, who bring real-world insights and facilitate connections that extend far beyond your time here.

One of the defining features of the GSB is our commitment to social impact. We are deeply invested in making a difference in Africa and across emerging markets. Our programs emphasise the importance of sustainable business practices and encourage students to think critically about how their work impacts society. This approach not only sets our graduates apart but also ensures they are equipped to lead responsibly in an ever-evolving world. The GSB is proud to be consistently ranked among the top business schools globally, with accolades that underscore our dedication to impactful education and pioneering research.

At the UCT GSB we are shaping the leaders who will shape a future built around inclusive and sustainable growth—and we believe Africa will be at the heart of our shared global future.

The UCT GSB MBA is designed to be more than a degree—it is a transformative journey. By choosing the GSB, you join a community committed to pushing the boundaries of business knowledge and making a tangible difference in the world. I encourage you to explore the unique opportunities the GSB offers and to consider how this journey could shape your future as a leader.

Catherine S.M. Duggan, Director (Dean)

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WELCOME TO THE UCT GSB MODULAR MBA

An MBA for the Leaders of the Future

The UCT GSB Master of Business Administration (MBA) is designed for ambitious professionals who are not only looking to advance their careers but also to make a meaningful impact in society. This modular MBA, tailored for working professionals, provides the flexibility to balance rigorous academics with real-world responsibilities, making it the ideal choice for individuals seeking to grow in their current roles while preparing for the future demands of leadership.

Our MBA curriculum is structured to build a dual foundation: immediate, practical skills for today's complex environments and the deeper competencies needed for long-term, values-based leadership. We encourage students to develop an understanding of complex, global business landscapes, with a particular focus on the African context. Our approach enables students to navigate diverse professional challenges and seize emerging opportunities, equipping them with a holistic toolkit that prepares them to lead organisations sustainably and innovatively.



Associate Perofessor Caiffin Ferreira

Modular MBA Program
Director

Students in our MBA program embark on a journey that is designed to be applied and relevant and that will lay the foundation for a legacy of responsible leadership, personal impact, and positive societal change.

What sets the UCT GSB MBA apart is its commitment to creating leaders who drive positive societal change. In a world increasingly marked by interconnected and complex challenges, we believe that business can and should be a force for good. Our students are challenged to think beyond profits and to consider the broader impact of their decisions, preparing them to lead organisations that are both resilient and responsible.

The program's excellence is recognised globally: as the only African MBA ranked in the Financial Times' global MBA ranking, it stands out for delivering exceptional value, ranking 5th in value for money and 12th in Corporate Social Responsibility. Further, Corporate Knights' 2025 Better World MBA ranking places us 7th globally and #1 in Africa, affirming our leadership in sustainability and social impact.

Our faculty, experts in business and markets across Africa, deliver a world-class academic experience. Students also benefit from an international exposure component, offering the opportunity to study at renowned partner institutions without additional tuition fees. This, combined with a strong and engaged global alumni network, ensures that an MBA from the UCT GSB is more than just a qualification, but rather it's a gateway to a global community committed to impactful leadership.

Join us in pursuing an MBA that equips you not just to navigate complexity but to thrive within it, creating value and positive change on a global stage.



MBA ranked in the top 10, globally, by the Corporate Knights Better World MBA (2024)

MBA ranked in the top 100, globally, by the QS *Global MBA Rankings* and #1 in Africa (2025)

MBA ranked #12, globally, for Corporate Social Responsibility by the Financial Times (2021) Choosing the University of Cape Town means joining Africa's leading university, recognised globally for academic excellence and impactful research.

The UCT GSB stands out for its globally ranked MBA, triple crown accreditation, and focus on leadership in complex, dynamic markets. With cutting-edge research, world-class faculty, and a commitment to sustainability and social impact, the GSB equips you with the skills to excel in a competitive global economy.

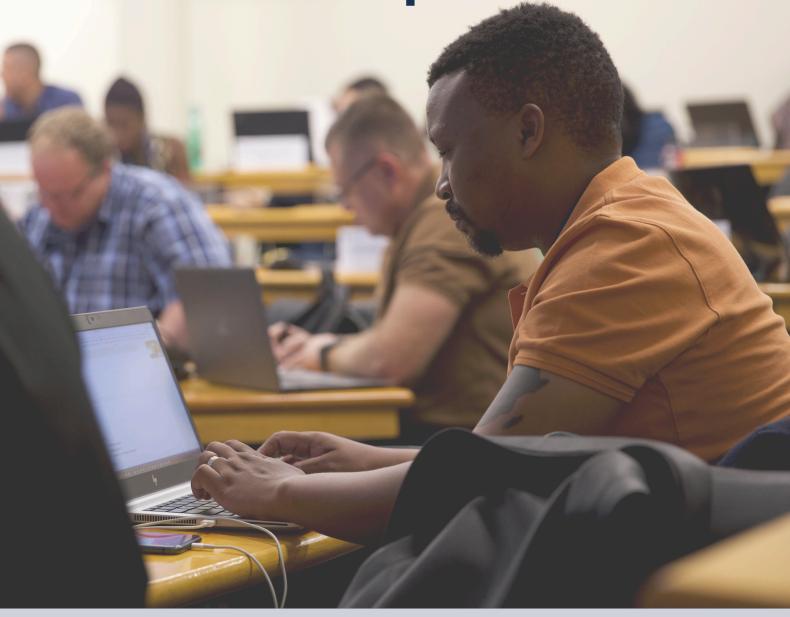
Studying at the UCT GSB offers a unique opportunity to learn in Cape Town, one of Africa's most vibrant economic hubs. Renowned for its dynamic business ecosystem, Cape Town serves as a gateway to emerging markets and fosters innovation across industries.

Beyond academics, the city's rich cultural diversity and breathtaking natural beauty create an inspiring environment for personal growth and networking.

University of Cape Town ranked 77th, globally, by THE Impact Rankings (2023)

University of Cape Town ranked 57th most international university in the world by *THE* (2023)

University of Cape Town ranked top 200 among global universities by US News, THE and QS (2023) We shape the leaders who shape the future



"The UCT GSB not only delivered a worldclass Afro-centric MBA program with theoretical and practical insights from local industry experts, but as a student we had network opportunities and exchanges with top business schools through international partnerships. I've left the program ready to seize opportunities and drive impact within our setting."



MODULAR MBA STRUCTURE

The UCT GSB Modular MBA is a rigorous, two-year part-time program specifically designed to meet the needs of working professionals by offering a flexible block structure. This structure combines in-person and hybrid blocks, with weekly online classes between each block.

Students are required to take 20 days of leave per year of the program to attend block sessions.

Each year, two blocks are conducted in person at our historic Breakwater Campus, while the remaining blocks are offered in a hybrid format. During hybrid blocks, classes are delivered from campus, and students can engage remotely with the same immersive experience.

There is no online-only option for the GSB MBA program.

First Year Second Year Block 4: In-person Block 1: In-person January/February January/February 2.5 days of leave 15 days of leave **Block 5: Hybrid** Mav 2.5 days of leave **Block 2: Hybrid** July Elective Block: In-2.5 days of leave person July 12.5 days of leave Block 3: In-person Block 6: Hybrid October September 2.5 days of leave 2.5 days of leave

MBA Curriculum Overview

The MBA curriculum comprises four distinct components: (1) three core courses, (2) electives, (3) the Responsible Citizenship module and (4) an independent research component.

- Throughout the two-year program students complete **three framework courses** each carrying a weight of 45 credits.
- Students complete 20 credits worth of **electives** from our suite of electives. The elective courses provide students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of specific areas of interest or to enhance their knowledge across a broader range of skills.
- The **Responsible Citizenship** module is a standalone module that offers students the opportunity to invest their time with an approved NGO.
- The Independent Research component allows students to delve deeply into a relevant business problem or opportunity.

Course 3: Strategic Course 1: Business and Course 2: Managing decision-making in Electives leadership in global changing complex organisations contexts (20 credits) (45 credits) environments (45 credits) (45 credits) Responsible Citizenship Independent Research

MBA CURRICULUM

The core curriculum comprises three themed courses, each of which is made up of a number of modules. These courses are sequential and move from the development of a foundation of core business functions through to a broader managerial perspective and then focusing on the application of knowledge.

COURSE 1: BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL CONTEXTS

During this module, students explore economic, social, political and environmental trends that influence business strategy in emerging markets. Students will also be introduced to leadership theories, organisational dynamics, and the complexities of diverse managerial situations, with insights into underlying processes.

- Strategic Accounting for Business Leaders
- Politics & Economics in Context
- Strategy, Society and the Environment
- Leadership and Personal Development
- Navigating Digital Disruption
- Doing Business in Africa

COURSE 2: MANAGING COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS

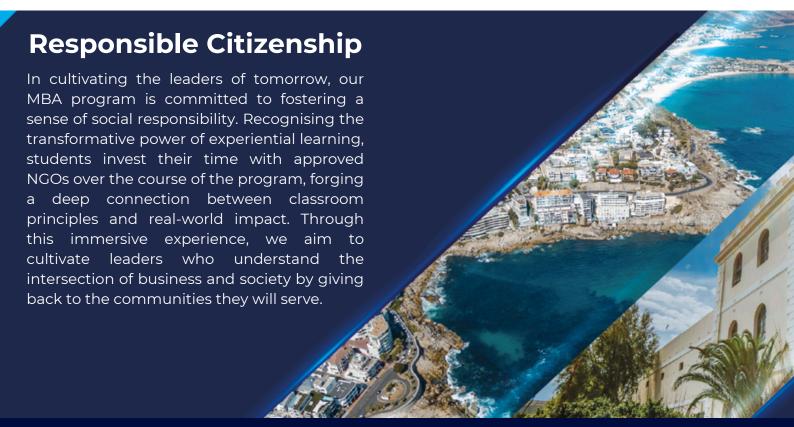
This module provides students with practical business acumen across various functions of the organisation. The course uses an overall organisational approach to people management strategies, and equips students with the skills to analyse operations and understand key decision areas. The course further develops an understanding of the practical aspects of finance and marketing in an organisation.

- Operations, Supply Chains and Digital Transformation
- Finance
- Purposeful People Management
- Strategic Marketing
- Strategic Entrepreneurship
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

COURSE 3: STRATEGIC DECISION-MAKING IN CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS

The module consolidates the core concept of strategic management, giving students an opportunity to practically explore business models and innovative practices. Students will develop strategic decision-making skills in order to make ethical, sustainable and opportunity-focused decisions in fast-changing environments.

- Business Model Innovation Lab
- Strategy
- Company Analysis
- Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Research for Responsible Management
- Organisational Leadership and Values
- Data-driven Decision-making



Students independently produce a Research Report in the final year of the Modular MBA program. The aim of the report is to explore a relevant business problem or opportunity and make practical recommendations.

The Research Report, which is both a research and a communication exercise, needs to be methodologically rigorous and meet management consultancy industry standards.

The Research Report is guided by an overarching theme: **Embedding sustainability and driving regenerative business strategies in Africa.**







MBA SPECIALISATIONS

Students can select from six specialisations to tailor their MBA degree. The specialisation streams are made up of specific combinations of electives combined with the core focus of the research report.

Management Consulting

Gain the strategic insights, problem-solving skills, and client-focused expertise needed to excel in the dynamic field of management consulting

Leadership & Change

Build the expertise to lead transformational change and navigate complex organisational challenges with confidence and resilience

Marketing Management

Develop the acumen and skills to lead impactful marketing strategies and drive business growth in competitive markets

Operations & Supply Chain Management

Master the skills to optimise processes, and enhance operational efficiency in a fast-paced, global business environment

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Empower yourself to drive change by mastering the skills to launch and scale new ventures in today's dynamic business landscape

Corporate Finance

Gain the expertise to make strategic financial decisions, and drive sustainable value creation in complex, competitive markets

A PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR **WORKING PROFESSIONALS**

Success in the GSB MBA program requires exceptional time management and a reliable support network. Balancing academic rigour with personal and professional commitments requires strategic planning and prioritisation.

Equally vital is a strong support network who provide encouragement and guidance throughout the journey. By mastering these elements, students can navigate challenges confidently and maximise the transformative opportunities that the GSB MBA offers.

Committing to Your MBA Journey

At the GSB, we are committed to providing holistic support to ensure students thrive both academically and personally. Academic support is available through our well-resourced library and expert guidance from the Writing Centre. Personal support is offered via our Student Wellness Services, and tailored learning support equips students with the tools and strategies needed for success demanding environment. comprehensive approach ensures that every student is empowered to achieve their full potential and make the most of their MBA experience.

Syndicate Groups

Syndicate groups are a cornerstone of the MBA experience, fostering collaboration and interpersonal skill development. Working closely with peers, students refine teamwork, conflict resolution, and leadership abilities while tackling real-world business challenges. These groups also form strong support networks and offer encouragement throughout the rigorous MBA journey.

Planning your week

Students should dedicate 10-20 hours per week to individual preparation, assignments, and collaborative work with their syndicate groups. Consistent effort and effective time allocation are essential for meeting program demands and achieving academic and professional growth.

Assessments

The MBA program uses diverse assessments, including individual and group work, written assignments, presentations, tests and case studies. These assessments are designed to evaluate critical thinking and problem-solving, ensuring students gain practical experience while mastering theoretical concepts essential for success in complex business environments.



UCT GSB MBA 2022/2023

effectively in corporate

management. It has

deepened my understanding

of business and provided a

fresh perspective on African

markets, significantly

improving how I run my startup.

ENRICHING YOUR UCT GSB MBA EXPERIENCE

At the GSB, we understand that building a network of like-minded peers across various programs is essential for supporting future career development. Engaging beyond the classroom not only broadens your perspectives but also strengthens the connections that will become invaluable as you advance in your professional journey. With this in mind, we offer numerous opportunities to foster interaction and collaboration among our students, creating a vibrant community that extends well beyond academics.

Student Clubs

Student clubs are a great opportunity to extend your networks and business skills. They are open to all UCT GSB students and alumni.

Africa Business Club

Consulting Club

Entrepreneurship Club

Women in Business Club

Get on Board Club

Venture Capital Club



Global Student **Competitions**

Showcase your skills and passion for impact by participating in competitions on a global stage that encourage innovation and problemsolving.

Three Peaks Challenge

Participate in this unique challenge that combines physical endurance with teamwork and goal-setting, building bonds that last a lifetime. Each year, a group of students and alumni summit Devil's Peak, Table Mountain and Lion's Head in this physical challenge.

The Brig

Socialise and unwind at The Brig, a dedicated space at our Breakwater Campus where students gather for informal networking and relaxation.





MNTASE CARES

Educate. Empower. Transform











Dr M Venter Ms L Tasaranarwo Ms V Kirtley Ms N Ntsangani Dr G de Ponte

WORLD CLASS FACULTY AT THE UCT GSB

The GSB's world-class faculty comprises renowned academics and industry leaders, bringing cutting-edge research and real-world expertise into the classroom. With a deep understanding of global and African markets, our faculty equips students with the knowledge and critical thinking skills to navigate complex business environments. Committed to excellence in teaching and thought leadership, they inspire innovative solutions and foster a transformative learning experience for future leaders.



Professor Mikael Samulsson
A distinguished
entrepreneurship professor,
award-winning researcher, and
founder of three business
incubators.



Or Amika Surmits
Senior Lecturer specialising in social innovation and value chains, with deep knowledge of African markets and experience in social business incubators.



Senior Lecturer in Accounting, sustainability reporting expert, with over 15 years of experience in banking, professional services, and higher education.



Senior lecturer and sustainability scholar, blending academic excellence with industry expertise in strategy, ESG, and renewable energy.



Professor Kut April
The Allan Gray Chair, an expert in
leadership, diversity, and inclusion,
with extensive global teaching, a
renowned author, with significant
industry experience.



Assoc Prof Blussing Mudararhu Specialist in financial derivatives and data science applications in finance. Founder of Dura Capital with extension executive experience.



Asystems and complexity theorist specialising in values-based leadership and sustainable development.



Fuerifa Professor Linda Ronnie An NRF-rated, award-winning scholar and educator, renowned for her research on psychological contracts and higher education.



Professor RaphHamann A specialist in business sustainability, social innovation, and entrepreneurship, with extensive publications and global recognition.





CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Centre for Professional Development is dedicated to empowering students with a competitive edge in today's dynamic global marketplace. Through personalised career guidance, impactful co-curricular engagement, and access to an influential alumni network, we provide the resources you need to achieve your professional goals.

The Centre for Professional Development is more than a service. it is your lifelong partner in career development, committed to helping you make a lasting impact in your industry and beyond.





Career leadership coaching



leadership brand development





network.

Networking opportunities and speaker engagements



Career purpose workshops

recruitment program specific Industry mock interview preparation

and

virtual

On-campus

The Mentorship **Program**

Our mentorship students connects distinguished alumni who are associate seasoned industry experience and industry insights. Through onetailored quidance and access to broad and accomplished

Global Network of Associate Coaches

program Gain insights from industrywith certified. coaches leaders, specialised sector knowledge offering extensive real-world and regional expertise. Our specialised coaches bring firsthand industry insights and the geographic on-one sessions, you will receive acumen essential to excel in empower various markets.

Career Development Workshops

Our career development globally-based workshops equip students with essential skills for professional growth, includina personal branding interview and preparation. These interactive sessions are designed participants confidently navigate their career trajectory and maximise their in potential competitive markets.



Salma Zacharia

"My experience with the Career Centre was truly life-changing. I was going through a challenging period and the team provided the support I needed. Through one-on-one sessions organised by the department, they recognised my need for a career coach. This shift allowed me to view my achievements in a new light and see new possibilities for my future. In this process, I reinvented myself."

JOIN OUR GLOBAL ALUMNI NETWORK

Our dedicated Alumni Relations Department are committed to fostering a vibrant, global community that supports your growth at every stage of your career. As a member of our alumni network, you'll have access to lifelong learning opportunities and a powerful network designed to enrich your professional journey.



Over 21 000 GSB alumni



Across 121 countries

1. Lifelong Learning

Our boardroom simulation workshops offer invaluable, hands-on experience, equipping you with the skills to navigate the complexities and responsibilities of board-level leadership. MBA alumni have the opportunity to return to the classroom each year to hone their skills through the elective offering.



2. Building Networks Across Borders

Whether you seek to expand your professional network within your home country or are considering relocation, our alumni chapters connect you with supportive alumni who share similar backgrounds and ambitions. Our global presence ensures that you have access to a well-established network, ready to support you regardless of your location.

Each year, our Alumni Reunion Weekend brings together generations of graduates, from our founding in 1966 to the present, in a distinguished celebration of shared achievements and enduring connections. This valued event offers a unique opportunity to reconnect, honour milestones, and reinforce the bonds that define our community.

Joining the esteemed UCT GSB MBA alumni network means becoming part of a community that goes beyond traditional networking. It is a lifelong partnership rooted in shared commitment to continuous learning and professional growth.

3. Alumni Talks

Our alumni talks create an open, discussion-oriented platform for sharing insights and experiences across diverse industries. These sessions are designed to facilitate meaningful information exchange, offering new perspectives and practical knowledge from peers who bring expertise from various fields.

"My UCT GSB MBA experience was a time of immense professional development and personal growth. Reflecting on this year, I feel confident in the technical skills I developed, ready for a career pivot and comforted that I am supported by, and a lifelong member, of the UCT GSB community."



GLOBAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

As a UCT GSB MBA candidate, you'll have the opportunity to broaden your global perspective by participating in an international exchange at one of our prestigious partner institutions. Our international exchange program offers access to a range of both short- and long-term study opportunities at highly reputable business schools worldwide.

These experiences allow you to deepen your understanding of global business practices and build an international network that enhances your career trajectory and broadens your outlook as a leader.



Long-term Exchange We offer international exchange opportunities with close to 50 esteemed partner schools, allowing our MBA students to spend a term or semester abroad without the additional cost of international tuition fees.

Short-term Exchange

We are the only business school in South Africa to be part of the 32-member **Global Network for Advanced Management (GNAM) Network** spanning 30 countries. MBA GNAM Weeks give our students the opportunity to pursue intensive study at another network school.







A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

IN ONE CLASSROOM

At the GSB, we believe that diversity of thought is essential to a transformative learning experience. By bringing together individuals from varied backgrounds and professional fields, our MBA program fosters a dynamic environment where different perspectives spark innovative ideas and enhance critical thinking. This not only enriches classroom discussions but also prepares you to lead and collaborate effectively in a global business landscape.

Based on the 2024/2025 student cohort

42%

Female Students

11

Countries represented

34

Average age

11

Average years of work experience

33

Higher education institutions represented

+12

Academic backgrounds represented



"The MBA journey has taught me that leadership goes beyond giving instructions; it's about empowering those around us to achieve a shared vision. Rooted in the principles of servant leadership, my experiences have shown me the transformative power of innovation and technology, together, let's be the ones who set the standards, uplift each other, and pioneer a sustainable and prosperous world—one innovative idea and committed action at a time."



Kwena Mahotja UCT GSB MBA 2012



Admission Criteria

Prospective MBA candidates must meet the following minimum requirements to be considered for the program. Please note that admission to the program is competitive, with a limited number of places available. Meeting these requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

- Applicants must be at least 25 years or older
- Have a minimum of **three-years** post qualification full-time relevant work experience
- Applicants must be fluent in spoken and written **English**.
- Hold an **NQF 8 qualification** or equivalent (Bachelors Honours or Postgraduate Diploma). Applicants not meeting this requirement can apply through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) route and submit a Portfolio of Learning assessment form.
- Applicants must submit an **official score** from the GMAT, NMAT, Executive Assessment of GRE standardised assessments.

Standardised Assessments

Applicants are responsible for selecting the standardised assessment that best aligns with their needs and capabilities. Each assessment requires extensive preparation, and candidates are advised to allocate sufficient time to achieve their best possible result. While no specific score threshold is provided, each score is regarded as a reflection of the applicant's full capabilities.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants compile and submit a full application pack consisting of the following:

- An updated curriculum vitae
- Three application essays the topics of which are updated regularly and can be found on the application portal
- Two referee reports from individuals that can attest to your suitability for the program
- Official score from one of the accepted standardised assessments
- A 60-90 second **video** introduction
- All degree certificates and aligned complete transcripts
- **Proof of payment** of the application fee
- A copy of a passport or identity document
- If required, evidence of **English** proficiency
- If required, a complete Recognition of Prior Learning portfolio

Tips for the Application Essays

These essays are your opportunity to introduce yourself to the MBA Admissions Board, to explain why you are interested in doing an MBA at the UCT GSB - and to tell us a bit about who you are and what you are hoping to achieve. They also provide a chance for you to display your skills in critical thinking, developing arguments and writing, all of which are important in the MBA program.

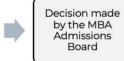
Good essays will be written clearly and honestly, formatted correctly, tailored to the UCT GSB, and will not only capture why you think that this program would be a good fit for you, but also what you think you would be able to contribute to the program and your classmates.





Applications are holistically assessed by the MBA Admissions Board







PROGRAM FEES

Program Fees for 2025/2026	African Students	Non-African Students
Year 1 (2025)	ZAR 216 660	ZAR 431 600
Year 2 (2026)*	ZAR 128 2000	ZAR 255 400
Total Program Fee*	ZAR 344 860	ZAR 687 000
Application Fee	ZAR 1000	\$100
Acceptance Fee**	ZAR 25 000	ZAR 25 000

*Total Fee

Please note that the university increases fees annually. Applicants embarking on the two-year Modular MBA must factor in fee increases for their courses in the second academic year of study.

**Acceptance Fee

The acceptance fee is due upon acceptance of the offer and secures your place on the program. An acceptance fee of ZAR 25,000 is credited against the initial payment due upon registration. Note that this acceptance fee is subject to cancellation charges.

Payment Structures

Please note that fees and the associated payment structures differ for South African students (including permanent South African residence holders), African students (including permanent African states residence holders) and non-African students.

- Non South African Students: All students from outside South Africa (including students with permanent residency status in African countries) are required to make the full payment of tuition fees for the academic year prior to registration.
- **South African Students:** South African students (including students with permanent residence status) must make the initial payment prior to registration. The initial payment amount is typically set as 35% of the total fee payment for the year. Payment of the balance of fees for the year is due on 31 July. Please consult the **fees handbook** for more details.

"When people ask me if my MBA was worth it, I often say it was the most exceptional experience of my life. It gave me perspective, but most importantly, it humbled me to how much more we can be doing with our lives."



Shivari (fhai UCT GSB MBA 2019/2020

FUNDING YOUR MBA STUDIES



Employer funding

Many employers provide funding opportunities for employees seeking further education, acknowledging the substantial value of investing in their professional growth.

The Modular MBA in particular presents a range of benefits for both students and employers as students are able to readily apply their learnings in their organisations.



Third-party bursaries and funding

It is advisable to explore funding opportunities provided by various educational funding bodies and financial institutions that offer postgraduate student loans.

Additionally, many organisations offer bursaries and financial support for deserving and ambitious candidates.







David Chakombera MBA Admissions Advisor



Derek Mande Head: Recruitment & Admissions

Apply Now

Contact the <u>dmissions Team</u>



https://www.gsb.uct.ac.za/ admissions.gsb@uct.ac.za

9 Portswood Rd Victoria & Alfred Waterfront Cape Town 8002 South Africa













