

COURSE BROCHURE  
**MBA**



IT TAKES THE  
RIGHT PEOPLE  
TO BUILD  
A NATION.

# THEY SEE BEYOND THE OBVIOUS

These are the people we are looking for at the UCT Graduate School of Business. People who can change their point of view for a fresh perspective, uncovering uniquely African solutions to uniquely African challenges. Opening yourself up to new ideas is the only way to find new answers and on the UCT GSB MBA programme your brain will be satiated with new knowledge. In a year that is both a marathon and a sprint. With a focus on Africa, you'll leave thinking about the world and business in a new way.

No longer will you be the smart one competing with average, but you will find yourself up against other bright, successful and dynamic people from all over the world. MBA students come from businesses, banks, NGOs, the arts, medicine and a myriad of other backgrounds. The only thing you will have in common is a commitment to achievement and excellence.

It's a year that will change the way you look at the world. After the programme you will have learnt more about yourself and your capabilities and once you've stretched yourself, you can never go back to the size you were before.



# WHY OUR SCHOOL

The GSB Masters in Business Administration (MBA) is the only MBA programme in Africa listed in the Financial Times Global Top 100 Full-Time MBA ranking. And of course, being in Cape Town allows students to live in one of Africa's most beautiful and creative cities.

The programme challenges your perspective and pushes students to their limits, empowering you to reach your best, professionally and personally.

The curriculum is international in scope, with a focus on the (South) African developing context, characterised by uncertainty, complexity and high levels of inequality. This environment informs much of our teaching and learning. It has a strong practical emphasis and in addition to addressing the functional areas of business, new streams of learning around communication, leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship keep it at the cutting edge of professional development.

*Graduates find that not only is it an outstanding qualification, and intensely rewarding course, but typically a life-changing experience, teaching graduates to hold their own wherever they choose to go.*

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## OUR CREDENTIALS

The UCT GSB MBA has been featured consistently in the Financial Times Global Top 100 Full-time MBA ranking. The school is one of only 66 business schools in the world and two in Africa to hold Triple Crown Accreditation: EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System), AMBA (Association of MBAs) and AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).

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## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Situated in the heart of Cape Town, an African city renowned for its striking beauty, cosmopolitan international community and first world facility, the school attracts highly motivated and talented students from a variety of different backgrounds and experiences. The school benefits from leading academics who have international standing, both as researchers and teachers. And the school has partnerships with some of the world's leading business schools, including a lively exchange programme with 40 top schools.

The programme provides a solid grounding in international business; however, there is a focus on business in the emerging African economy, which is confronted by a high degree of uncertainty, complexity, and often excessive inequality. Such a world needs innovative solutions, and the GSB is focusing its energies on developing teaching and research that responds to this need. It seeks to find ways to use the tremendous power of business to solve real issues from housing and health to economic growth.

# INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The school has partnerships with some of the world's leading business schools, including lively exchange programmes with 40 top schools. These allow UCT GSB students, without having to pay academic fees, to spend at least a term at a foreign school. This gives students the opportunity to study and live in a different environment and to gain a fresh perspective on their development. The UCT GSB, in turn, benefits from the influx of overseas exchange students who bring with them new insights and attitudes.

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# THE CURRICULUM

In addition to gaining a solid grasp of complex business related issues, the key differentiating factor for the UCT GSB MBA is its strong emphasis on personal growth. This includes group work, developing leadership skills, self-awareness and self-confidence, including how to achieve balance in one's work and personal life.

The course has immediate practical application and students are exposed to real world issues, synthesising the learning content and process. Students develop improved communication, analytical, strategic and communication skills.

The curriculum comprises core and elective courses that ensure a solid grasp of complex business related issues, a capstone company analysis project and a research report.

Faculty are readily accessible and learning support is available. In addition, career services are available to help students create connections and advance in their chosen careers after graduation.

# CORE COURSES

There are 16 compulsory core courses including the dissertation. They are designed to give students a solid grounding in the fundamentals of management within a holistic framework that is sensitive to the key challenges facing business.

These courses are:

- Accounting
- Business, Government and Society
- Markets in Emerging Countries
- Research Methods
- Finance
- Economics
- Evidence-Based Practice
- Business Model Innovation Lab
- Organisational Behaviour and People Management
- Economics Social Innovation Lab
- Operations Management
- Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Marketing
- Strategy
- Leadership and Personal Development
- Dissertation

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# ELECTIVES

Students must earn a minimum of 20 credits from electives, with each elective carrying five to ten credits. Elective offerings may change depending on student selection.

Some examples of themes offered in previous years include:

- Advanced Leadership
- Advanced Finance
- Sustainability / Social Innovation
- Complexity of Change
- Doing Business in Africa
- Global Supply Chain Management

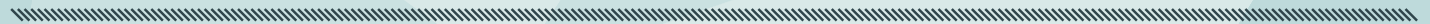
# SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB

The Social Innovation Lab offers a new elective that allows students to create and innovate towards more equitable, purposeful and sustainable organisations. It is a key part of the UCT GSB's full colour thinking.

The lab introduces new paradigms and learning approaches to rethink and redesign business and organisational models to be more inclusive and sustainable, particularly in emerging economies, where rapidly evolving difficulties of youth unemployment, mass poverty, resource consumption and environmental degradation is already fundamentally changing society.

UCT GSB's Social Innovation Lab is a stream on the MBA that runs concurrent to, and is integrated with, the elective programme, combining lectures on systems thinking, design methodologies, social innovation and entrepreneurship and sustainability. Small group tutorials run by key faculty facilitates teams working on real life challenges to develop innovative and relevant solutions and business models.

The Social Innovation Lab will be run by the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship, together with the UCT GSB and visiting faculty.



## DISSERTATION

An important function of graduate professional education is to acquaint future practitioners with current academic research in their field and equip them to apply that knowledge. Although the MBA is a generalist degree that provides a comprehensive survey of management theory and practice, candidates must also acquire depth of knowledge in some area of specialisation.

In this vein, the Research Report assists in acquiring applied competencies, such as the ability to interact with and critique scholarly literature, acquire information, apply appropriate research methods, technologies and techniques and draw implications for management strategy and practice within a field. It also assists in acquiring competencies that help graduates learn autonomously in complex information environments and thereby manage organisations and their own personal professional development better.

# ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The UCT GSB MBA programme is geared towards talented and mature adults who have proven academic ability and business experience, and who are highly motivated to succeed in their studies and careers. Students are selected, inter alia, according to their capacity for personal and professional development. The UCT GSB uses a number of criteria in selecting candidates, and it is important to note that these are considered as a whole.

To be considered for the UCT GSB MBA candidates need to:

- Be no younger than 25 years.
- Have a minimum of three years' work experience.
- Be fluent in English. Applicants whose mother tongue is not English may be required to produce a [TOEFL](#) certificate to verify fluency in English.
- Have completed either a Bachelor Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma or a cognate Bachelor's Degree equivalent at NQF level 8 through relevant work experience. Candidates not meeting the degree requirement can apply through the [Recognition of Prior Learning](#) (RPL) route and submit the Portfolio of Learning (POL) assessment form.
- Write the GMAT test – the UCT GSB is one of the few South African schools to insist that applicants take this test, which provides both the school and our MBA students with international comparability and recognition and is also a requirement for our school to belong to certain international exchange programmes. However, the UCT GSB offers a five-day course to help students prepare for the GMAT.

In addition to the above criteria, the UCT GSB relies on several other indicators of ability and motivation that are provided by the candidate in the MBA application form. These include essays about life experience, goals, attitudes and values; evaluations from two referees; and details of professional, educational and extramural activities. Furthermore, all applicants are interviewed either by the MBA director, members of the faculty or alumni.

Admission to the programme is also guided by indications that the applicant will make a contribution to the programme as well as benefiting from it.

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## DATES & FEES

Fees comprise tuition costs and learning materials.

Where applicable, students incur further costs for staying on campus, onsite parking and/or membership of social or sports clubs.

For more information on fees and term dates, please visit [www.gsb.uct.ac.za](http://www.gsb.uct.ac.za)



AFRICAN CHALLENGES  REQUIRE AFRICAN SOLUTIONS

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