FACULTY OF LAW

CHOOSE LAW

www.law.uct.ac.za
Number of students in 2017
Undergraduate LLB: 326  Graduate LLB: 341  Masters students: 386  Doctoral students: 137

Research Units
The Faculty is home to eight research units, and two community-serving law clinics (one is focused on refugee rights). These include:
1. Centre for Comparative Law in Africa
2. Centre of Criminology
3. Democratic Governance & Rights Unit
4. Institute of Development & Labour Law
5. Intellectual Property Unit
6. Centre for Law & Society
7. Institute of Marine & Environmental Law
8. Land and Accountability Research Centre
9. Refugee Rights Unit
10. UCT Law Clinic

Faculty Staff
The Faculty has 26 professors, and 17 associate professors, as well as 15 senior lecturers, 23 lecturers and 22 teaching assistants.

International Partnerships
The Faculty has over 25 international agreements that enable students and staff to pursue exchanges in countries such as (amongst others) Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Europe, Kenya, the UK and the USA.

Employment straight out of varsity
The majority of UCT's Law graduates are either already employed, taking a gap year, are seeking studies, studying further or are undecided. By the time our students graduate from the UCT Law Faculty, 61% are employed, with 18% still seeking employment.

UCT Law graduates are in demand globally by top law firms and in other sectors. In terms of South Africa, destinations for our graduates include the following:
- To register for articles of clerkship with a law firm
- To register for a Masters degree
- To join a company to work in a legal capacity, perhaps as an advisor
- To work for an NGO
- To join the National Prosecuting Authority
- To work for government
- To do pupillage at the Bar towards becoming an Advocate.

The Faculty is in the Top 100 Law Schools globally, according to the 2018 QS Rankings.
To become an attorney or an advocate you need an LLB (Bachelor of Laws) degree. An LLB is the universal general qualification for the practice of law, although the content of LLB programmes differs from country to country, and from university to university. At the University of Cape Town, students are taught the fundamentals of South African law and the South African legal system. At the same time, students are taught three crucial skills, namely:

- to read, comprehend and critically evaluate complex documents
- to write clearly, logically, coherently and succinctly
- to analyse and solve problems with a good grasp of the issues, options and implications.

We call these “transferable skills” as they are useful in many contexts and make the LLB a flexible qualification and a great career choice. Some of the many law-based career paths are set out below.

**Academic:** An LLB degree is the first step to an academic career. There is no Honours degree in Law, and LLB graduates wishing to study further would continue into the Master of Laws (LLM) or Postgraduate Diploma programmes. These options offer a very broad range of graduate courses from which to select a specialisation.

**Advocates:** An LLB graduate wanting to become an advocate must undergo one year’s training (called “pupillage”) with a practising Advocate who would be a member of the Bar. The “pupil” then has to write an examination and, if they pass, would be admitted to the Bar. Only South African citizens and permanent residents can be admitted as advocates in South Africa. The work of an advocate generally involves research, drafting opinions and pleadings, and presenting cases in court, most often - though not exclusively - in the High Court. Advocates must be briefed or instructed by attorneys, and do not take instruction from members of the public.

**Attorneys:** For an LLB graduate to become an attorney, they need to do their “articles” at a law firm - which means serving as a candidate attorney with a practising attorney. After this, candidate attorneys write a professional examination set by the relevant provincial law society to become an attorney. Only South African citizens and permanent residents can be admitted as attorneys in South Africa. Attorneys' work includes drafting legal documents, negotiating settlements of disputes, and preparing cases for presentation in court. Attorneys take instructions from members of the public and, if necessary, may brief or seek an opinion from an advocate.
**Business:** Law graduates are employed across the whole business spectrum, from small firms to large corporations, for example as legal advisors in tax, real estate, labour relations, contracts, public information, and mergers & acquisitions. Lawyers are forensic auditors and ombudsmen, ethics and employment officers, policy and legislative analysts, legal editors, researchers and writers. There is a world of options around what kind of company to work in, what sort of business sector to position oneself in, and where a law graduate could best apply their skills.

**Government:** Government departments at national, provincial and local levels all employ lawyers as do the National Parliament, provincial legislatures and municipal councils. There is no sector of government in which lawyers do not play a role. For example, the Department of Justice employs state attorneys, prosecutors, legal drafters and of course magistrates and judges. Law graduates interested in international law can join the departments of Foreign Affairs or Trade and Industry. Again, as with the business sector, the options are wide open.

**NGOs and Public Benefit Organisations:** Many Law graduates who are committed to social justice and the transformation of South African society seek work in the non-profit and social change sector, using their knowledge of and skills in the field of law to effect change. Researchers and lobbyists with law qualifications are in demand by such civil society organisations.

Whether you choose to be a lawyer in the corporate world, or as an academic, working for Government, or in the non-profit sector, the UCT LLB degree is an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers.
Why study Law?
Many students come to study Law, knowing absolutely that they want to work in the Law sector - these students don't usually require convincing or persuasion, and may have had a long-time passion for and interest in Law. This can often arise from or be stimulated by life experience - for example, someone who has seen and experienced injustice first-hand may be committed to spending their life working for justice.

But for those who aren't sure, and who perhaps have a choice of offers from a university, here are a few good reasons why studying Law is an excellent choice:

Making a difference
There are many reasons why people choose Law. These include, amongst many others, being able to earn a good, secure living - because at some point, everybody needs a lawyer; status - as a traditional profession with good income potential; acquiring the skills to make a difference in the world; using Law to ensure access to justice amongst marginalised communities; having the knowledge and skills to make a real impact in specialised areas of commerce - e.g. shipping, tax and contracts; contributing to the quality and security of people's lives by ensuring they have their personal legal documentation in order; and contributing to academic knowledge about how the law is developed, practiced, implemented and accessed. These are just a few reasons.

A combination of theory and practice
All Law schools seek to ensure that students learn, understand and can argue legal theory and the theoretical underpinnings of the Law. Some Law schools (such as UCT) also ensure that practical experience in Law is a core component of the degree programme - for example, running mock courts and moot competitions. An important component of the UCT Law programme is ensuring that students do pro bono community service as part of their qualification.

Making the Case
Law education is about cases - actual examples of cases that have been argued and judged in a real court. Cases are used to demonstrate various theoretical points and how theory is applied in practice. This approach also serves to maintain an understanding of how the law is applied in practice.
Following a skilled professional path

Good law schools will ensure that their graduates have a minimum set of competences and skills. Here are a few of the skills essential to a career in Law:

- Critical analysis - being able to read, understand, analyse and make up your own mind
- Writing - being able to draft a clear written argument
- Research - being able to find relevant case law in support of a legal argument
- Argument and presentation - being able clearly to formulate and argue your position or point (often taught through moot competitions in and between law schools)
- Sharing ideas - it is required in Law that you are able to argue complex ideas in simple terms, so that not only other law professionals but also your clients are able to understand you.

All of these skills - and the many others you will learn at Law school – are in high demand in other sectors, so moving industries or professional focus is relatively easy, adding to Law graduates’ mobility in terms of career, income potential and other decision factors in choosing your course of study.

In high demand

The rigour of a Law school education, and the range of skills in which excellence is required for graduation, ensures that law graduates are sought after across a range of endeavours. In other words, Law graduates enjoy excellent career prospects.

Clear career pathways

There are a number of options for those graduating with a Law degree - including doing a postgraduate Law Masters (LLM), taking up a position as a candidate attorney at a law firm or doing a Legal Practice course, for example.

Studying Law at UCT

These are the top reasons for studying Law at UCT:
1. UCT attracts excellent students from diverse backgrounds, ensuring a rich learning environment
2. UCT Law graduates are highly sought after, not only in South Africa but internationally
3. The UCT Faculty of Law is rated among the Top 100 Law Schools in the world (2016, 2017 and 2018 QS World University Rankings)
4. At the UCT Faculty of Law we are committed to furthering the goals of the Constitution
5. Our aim is to train the next generation of skilled legal professionals who will ensure the maintenance and strengthening of an open, free and democratic South Africa
6. UCT Law offers different programme options to attain an LLB degree
7. We are home to almost 100 academic staff in the Faculty
8. The Faculty hosts at least 11 world-class research units, focused on various aspects of legal theory, practice and implementation
9. The Faculty is unique in its practical graduation requirement of 30 hours of community service, which ensures that UCT Law students graduate not only with experience of law practice, but also with a sense of their role in society
10. The excellent law library which is linked to major international electronic databases, and also houses 284 top class law journals and more than 85 000 books in its constantly-updated collections
11. The Faculty has the fantastic Oliver Tambo Moot Court for student use
12. 23 of the Faculty's academic staff have a National Research Foundation rating - based on the quality of their research publication, their standing internationally amongst their peers, and other factors. The ratings are hard to achieve, and the Faculty is very proud of the excellence of its staff, recognised through their NRF rating.

**LLB Accreditation**

South Africa's Council on Higher Education began its national review of the LLB programmes at 17 South African universities some years ago. The process of ensuring that every LLB programme meets a set of minimum standards has been detailed, complex, and thorough. Although the University of Cape Town's Law School was informed in 2017 that it had to address a number of key issues, or it stood the risk of losing its LLB accreditation, the university is confident that it is able to address the points raised by the Council within the established timelines.

For more information on the accreditation process, please go to the Law Faculty's website at [www.law.uct.ac.za](http://www.law.uct.ac.za)
There are three routes to obtaining an LLB degree:

- the four-year undergraduate LLB route
- the Humanities or Commerce degree with a law major, and two-year graduate LLB route
- the three-year graduate LLB route

### THREE ROUTES TO AN LLB

- Undergraduate LLB (4 years)
- BA/B Com / B Soc Sc and LLB (5 years)
- B Bus Sc and LLB (6 years)
- Graduate LLB (3 years)

### CORE CURRICULUM

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**NB:** Law That Counts: Quantitative Literacy for Law is compulsory for all who do not gain an exemption

### PRACTICALS IN FINAL YEAR

Each student must complete an Integrative Assessment Project and four elective courses, including at least one seminars-and-research-paper elective.

### SEMINARS-AND-RESEARCH-PAPER ELECTIVES INCLUDE

- Advanced Property Law
- Civil Justice Reform
- Competition Law
- Constitutional Litigation

- Criminal Justice & Constitution
- Current Developments in Company Law
- Jurisprudence and SA Law
- Law and Post-Apartheid Literature

- Legal Pluralism & Human Rights
- Private Law & Human Rights
- Social Justice & Constitution
- Women and Law

**In addition, the Undergraduate LLB student must complete**

One English course or Word Power, a non-law option (two semester courses in another faculty), two semester courses in a single language, or a whole course in a language and a non-law option (two second-year level semester courses in one discipline in another faculty).
The Faculty receives a huge number of applications from those hoping to study Law. Due to the limited number of places, the university is not able to admit all those who apply. If there are more applicants who meet the admission criteria than there are places, only the best applicants in each category will be made an offer. The application process is therefore quite competitive. However, we encourage those with an interest in Law and who want to study Law to apply to UCT - if you don't apply, you can't be considered for a place in the Faculty of Law!

**Admission to the undergraduate LLB**

All applications are assessed on the basis of the applicant's results in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) or other school-leaving examination, together with the applicant's results in the Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy components of the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs). These results are used both in deciding whether to admit students and whether students will be made an offer on the four-year LLB programme or on the five-year LLB programme. For international students, it is important to note that there are only ten places for international applicants on the undergraduate LLB programme.

**Calculating the Faculty Points Score (FPS) and Weighted Points Score (WPS)**

An applicant's NSC results are converted into a Faculty Points Score (FPS), based on the percentage obtained in each subject. The FPS is out of 600, and the score is derived by calculating the applicant's average across the six best subjects, excluding Life Orientation. For those applying to the undergraduate LLB who have socio-economic disadvantage related to home and/or schooling circumstance, the applicant's Weighted Point Score (WPS) will also be considered alongside the FPS and NBT results. The WPS is calculated by multiplying the FPS by up to a maximum of 10% depending on the applicant's circumstances. This ensures greater fairness in the assessment process.

**The National Benchmark Tests**

All applicants normally resident or at school in South Africa are required to write the National Benchmark Tests (NBTs) in Academic Literacy (AL) and Quantitative Literacy (QL). The results of the NBTs are used for both admission and placement purposes. Applicants who meet the FPS but whose NBT results are below the ‘proficient’ range in AL and the ‘intermediate’ range in QL will generally not be admitted to the undergraduate LLB degree, so bear in mind that the NBT is an important part of the application process. Applicants from redress groups who meet the minimum FPS and NBT admission criteria, but who do NOT achieve the FPS or WPS required for admission to the four-year LLB programme may be offered a place on the five-year programme (see note 1). Admission to the programme is made on a competitive basis.

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1 The five-year programme differs from the four-year programme only in that the first year of the four-year programme is taught over two years rather than one year, and additional support is provided to students during the first three years of the degree. UCT offers the five-year programme so that students who are not fully prepared for university, but who have great potential to succeed, are provided with the necessary support and the best possible opportunity to do well in their LLB studies.
### REQUIREMENTS FOR 2019

The criteria for the 2019 admissions cycle, for students entering the LLB in 2019, are as follows:

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| All SA applicants                             | Band A FPS | Guaranteed admission<br>
|                                               |          | FPS: 510 or above<br>
|                                               |          | **NBT:**<br>
|                                               |          | AL (Proficient at 70%) QL (Intermediate)                    |
| All SA applicants                             | Band B WPS | **Probable admission**<br>
|                                               |          | Weighted Points Score (only in Band B)<br>
|                                               |          | (This will be determined by weighting the FPS by your disadvantage factor)<br>
|                                               |          | **WPS:** 495 or above<br>
|                                               |          | Note: An applicant with a maximum disadvantage score of 10% and a FPS of 450 will meet the 495 WPS requirement (450 + 45 = 495)<br>
|                                               |          | **NBT:**<br>
|                                               |          | AL (Proficient at 70%) QL (Intermediate)                    |
| Only SA applicants in targeted redress categories | Band C FPS | **Possible admission**<br>
|                                               |          | **FPS:** 420 or above<br>
|                                               |          | **NBT:**<br>
|                                               |          | AL (Proficient at 65%) QL (Intermediate)                    |
| International applicants with NSC            |          | **Probable admission**<br>
|                                               |          | **FPS:** 520 or above<br>
|                                               |          | **NBT:**<br>
|                                               |          | AL (Proficient at 70%) QL (Intermediate)                    |
“A Law degree equips the graduate with finely honed skills that set him or her apart, so that becoming a lawyer is only one of many options.”

**Early offers and scholarships**

Conditional offers will usually be made only once two sets of internal school examination results and the NBT results are available. In exceptional cases, where the applicant is unable to write the NBT and the school results that are available place the applicant in Band A or Band B, a conditional offer may be made on the basis of the FPS results alone. Such applicants will, however, still be required to write the NBTs before the offer is made final. The last opportunity to do so will be in October 2018.

Faculty entrance scholarships are merit-based, and are awarded at the discretion of the Faculty, on the basis of school-leaving examination results and NBT results.

**How do I apply?** All applications for financial aid and NSFAS funding will be managed centrally by NSFAS for all higher education institutions. Apply online at NSFAS.org.za or complete their hard-copy form, which can be posted or emailed.

There are a limited number of Endowment Scholarships for top black SA learners. Email: gaby.ritchie@uct.ac.za

**Admission to the Humanities and Commerce Bachelor’s with a law major**

Applicants to the Humanities and Commerce Faculties must meet the admission requirements of those Faculties. Students who wish to do a major in law begin taking law subjects in their second year of study. However, students are not automatically permitted to do law subjects, and students would still need to achieve certain marks to qualify for entry into the law major in the BA, B SocSc or B Com / B BusSc degrees. Such candidates must have achieved sufficient points in the National Senior Certificate and National Benchmark Tests for admission to the four-year undergraduate LLB or, alternatively, they must have passed all their courses in their first year on a first sitting and have obtained an average of at least 65% in a standard first-year programme (i.e. a programme with 8 semester courses).

The 65% average is calculated on a first sitting of each course. A student must pass the examination requirement in all of the above at the first attempt. Results in supplementary examinations are not included when calculating the average but the results of deferred examinations are included. Once students have completed their Humanities or Commerce degrees with law subjects, they must apply to the Law Faculty for admission to the graduate LLB degree, which they can complete in two years.
Prominent UCT Law graduates include Justice Kate O’Regan and Justice Albie Sachs; Judges Fikile Bam, Dennis Davis, Shehnaz Meer and Vincent Saldanha; the late Minister of Justice, Dullah Omar; and many of South Africa’s best known advocates and attorneys.

Applicants who achieve an average of 60% in their first degree at UCT will be admitted into the graduate LLB degree subject to a place being available. If there are more applicants who meet the admission criteria than there are places, offers will be made on a competitive basis taking into account the university’s policy of redress and diversity. Applicants who complete their first degree at UCT will be given preference over students who complete their first degree at another institution.

**Admission to the three-year graduate LLB**

An applicant can only be admitted to this stream if he or she is a graduate of UCT or of another university or institution recognised by Senate. Students enter this stream after having completed a bachelor’s degree without law subjects. The advantage of this route over the combined route is that candidates obtain a broad education in the Humanities, Commerce or Sciences. Applicants must obtain an average of at least 65% in a standard undergraduate degree in order to be admitted to the graduate LLB. The applicant’s results on a first sitting are used in calculating the average. As such, the results of supplementary examinations are not included but the results of deferred examinations are included. Students with an average of less than 65% will not normally be admitted, but the Faculty may at its discretion admit students whom it believes nevertheless show the potential to succeed in their LLB studies. In exercising its discretion, the Faculty will consider the applicant’s academic performance in the non-law subjects, and will once again take account of the university’s policy of redress and diversity. An applicant admitted on this basis may be offered a place on the 4-year programme.

**Graduate applicants and National Benchmark Tests**

Redress applicants for the graduate LLB who have not previously written the NBTs, and who have an average of less than 65% in their first degree, may be invited to write the NBTs for possible placement in the 4-year programme.

**Transferring / Non-SA students**

International applicants or students transferring from another Faculty within UCT or from another university should contact the Law Faculty Office for details on the admission process.

**CONTACT US**

Law Faculty Office
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