



Scholars Program

In partnership with



UNIVERSITY *of the*
WESTERN CAPE

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of the Western Cape

"Developing Africa's Next Generation of Transformative Leaders"

**Mr Sibulelo Ganda, Coordinator Postgraduate Recruitment &
Liaison**

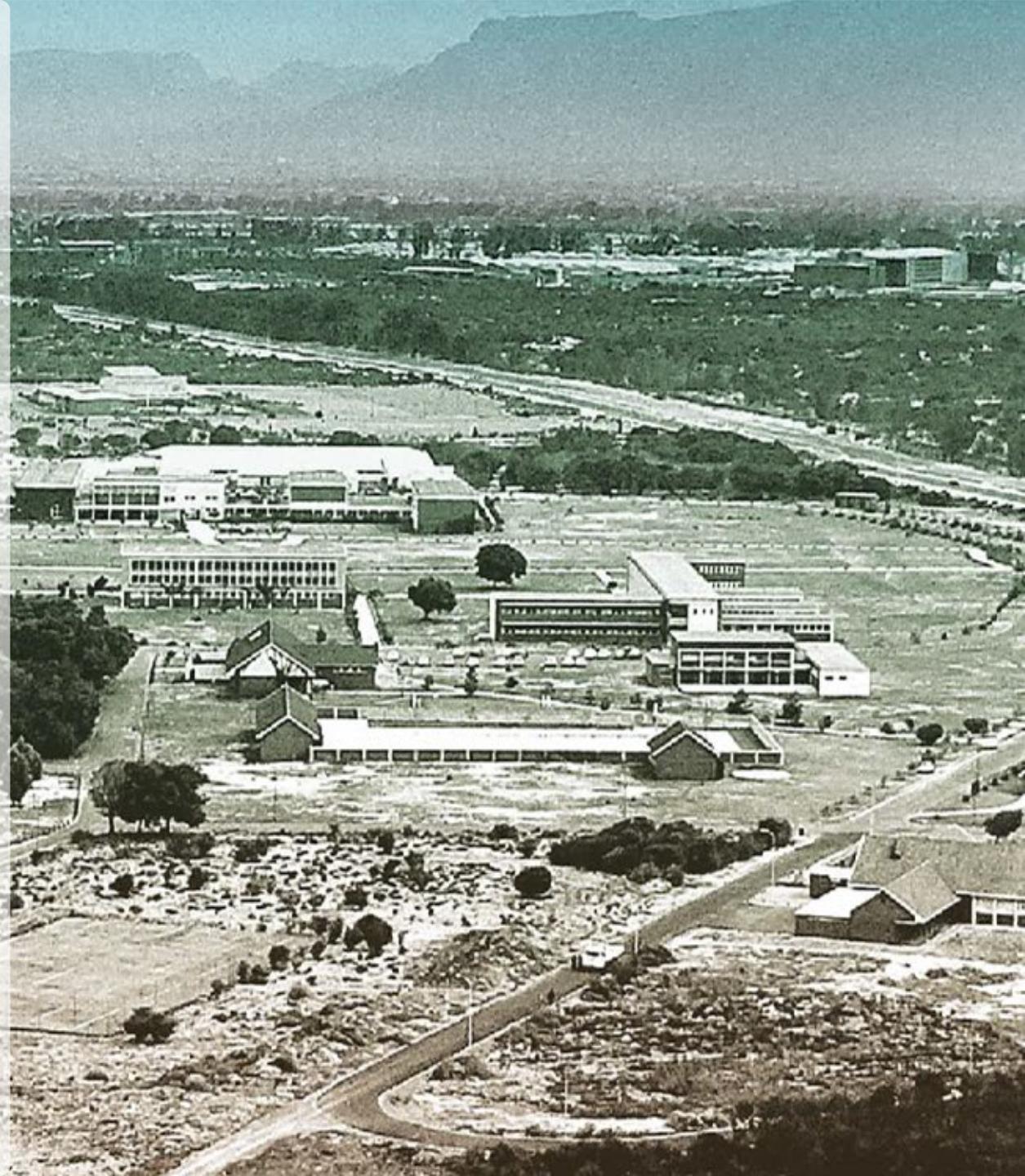
The University of the Western Cape

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

The University College of the Western Cape, as it was known, opened its doors in February 1960. A decade later, the institution gained independent university status and was allowed to award its own degrees and diplomas.

The 1980s, was marked by increased activism and resistance against apartheid, with UWC playing a significant role in the struggle for democracy and social justice. The university became a center for anti-apartheid activities, academic freedom, and intellectual engagement.

UWC has continued to evolve, committed to promoting access to higher education and addressing the legacies of apartheid, prioritising inclusivity, diversity, and social responsibility in its mission, fostering a culture of critical inquiry, community engagement, and transformation.



UWC's Location: Western Cape, Cape Town



The University of the Western Cape

UWC: A Leading Research University

Key points:

- All UWC courses are offered in English
- Seven diverse faculties with comprehensive programs
- Pivotal role in drafting South Africa's Constitution
- Top 12% globally in World University Rankings for International Students
- Committed to addressing global challenges through innovative research
- Focus on excellence in teaching, learning, and knowledge application
- Vision: A beacon of research excellence across Africa
- Mission: Academic rigour + social responsibility = positive change



WHY CHOOSE UWC?

TOTAL STUDENTS



Undergraduates

19 321

Postgraduates

5 469

First-time Entering Undergraduates

4 483

BY THE NUMBERS

3 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRES in Oral Health, Health Systems Complexity and Change, and Bioinformatics and Human Health are hosted at UWC.

10 UWC ALUMNI served as Rectors or Vice-Chancellors of South African universities to help shape the direction of higher education.

7 There are seven NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (NRF) A-RATED RESEARCHERS at UWC.

18 A TOTAL OF 18 SARCHI RESEARCH CHAIRS are held at UWC, providing leadership from Astrophysics to Health Systems Governance to Post-school Education.

52% 52% OF SOUTH AFRICA'S DENTISTS are produced by UWC's Faculty of Dentistry – Africa's leading dental school and a WHO Centre of Competence.

55 UWC REDUCES WASTE AND MAINTAINS A GREENER CAMPUS by recycling about 55% of its paper, cardboard and organic garden waste.

558 SPECIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA have been recorded in the UWC Cape Flats Nature Reserve, including 249 indigenous plant species, 268 animal species, seven lichens and mosses and 34 species of mushrooms.

12 000

Soph THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS from South Africa and other African countries who have participated in the UWC School of Public Health's Summer and Winter School since it began.

BY THE NUMBERS

 **170** UWC is home to 170 NRF-RATED RESEARCHERS.

600 THE 33-YEAR PARTNERSHIP between UWC and the University of Missouri has seen over 600 ACADEMIC EXCHANGES between students and staff, strengthening international collaboration and research.

2 500 UWC'S RESEARCH REPOSITORY holds over 2 500 open access papers by researchers in a variety of fields.

2 673 ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFF are employed by the university.

 **8** THE 2023 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION UNIVERSITY RANKINGS place UWC in the 601–800 grouping globally, eighth in South Africa and 16th in Africa.

401-600 IN THE 2023 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS, which assess universities' contributions to attaining the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UWC is rated in the 401–600 group.

113 THE US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT ranks UWC 625th overall and an impressive 113th globally in the space science category.



of the permanent academic staff hold PHDs.



of the students enrolled in 2021 were studying towards POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS.

122 PHDs WERE AWARDED at UWC in 2021.

24 500 UWC ENROLLED more than 24 500 students in 2021 in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across seven faculties.



The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UWC

Partnership established between the Mastercard Foundation and UWC: July 2023

Grant cycle: 7 years (July 2023 - June 2030)

Scholarship allocation:

- 250 undergraduate scholarships (4-year duration)
- 250 master's degree scholarships (2-year duration)

Priority Scholar Target Groups:

- Young women in STEM fields
- Refugees (25% target)
- Forcibly displaced youth
- People living with disabilities (10% target)



The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program Funded Faculties



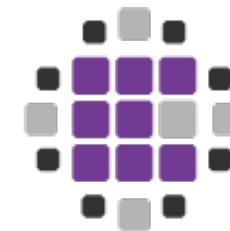
FACULTY *of*
ARTS & HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY *of*
COMMUNITY AND
HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY
of EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY
of EMS
UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY *of*
NATURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY
of LAW
UNIVERSITY *of the* WESTERN CAPE

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Faculty of Natural Sciences

Masters Degrees:

- MSc Biodiversity & Conservation
- MSc Biotechnology
- MSc Environmental & Water Science
- MSc Mathematical Science
- MSc Bioinformatics
- MSc Chemical Science
- MSc Computer Science
- MSc Medical Bioscience
- MSc Mathematics and Statistics
- MSc Physical Science

Bachelor Degrees:

- BSc Biodiversity & Conservation
- BSc Biotechnology
- BSc Environmental & Water Science
- BSc Mathematical Science
- BSc Bioinformatics



FACULTY of
NATURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Bachelor Degrees:

- BSc Biodiversity & Conservation
- BSc Biotechnology
- BSc Environmental & Water Science
- BSc Mathematical Science
- BSc Bioinformatics
- BSc Chemical Science
- BSc Computer Science
- BSc Medical Bioscience
- BSc Mathematics and Statistics
- BSc Physical Science

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Faculty of Law Masters Degrees:

- Masters of Law (LLM International Human Rights Protection)
- Masters of Law (LLM Local Governance)

No undergraduate degrees or disciplines are funded by the Program in the Faculty of Law

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Masters Degrees:

- Masters in Developmental Studies
- Masters in Information Systems
- Bachelor Information Systems

Bachelor Degrees:

- Bachelor General- Focus Economics
- Bachelor Public Administration

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Faculty of Community and Health Sciences: Masters Degrees:

- Masters in Public Health

No undergraduate degrees or disciplines are funded by the Program in the Faculty of Community and Health Sciences

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Masters Degrees:

- Masters of Arts in Linguistics
- Masters of Arts in History
- Masters of Arts in Sociology
- Masters of Arts in Women & Gender Studies

Bachelor Degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts

**Please note you will have to major
In either Linguistics, History,
Sociology or Women & Gender Studies**

Funded Degrees and Disciplines



Faculty of Education

Bachelor Degrees:

- Bachelor Education Foundation Phase
- Bachelor Education in Mathematics & Natural Science
- Bachelor Education in Mathematical Literacy & Natural Science

No masters degree or disciplines are funded by the Program in the Faculty of Education

Postgraduate: Master's Degree - Eligibility Criteria

At the time of application, an applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

- ✓ Age: 30 years or younger
- ✓ Must meet UWC minimum admission requirements
- ✓ Must have applied for academic admission for 2026
- ✓ SAQA verification certificate required (90,32 USD)
- ✓ Must begin full-time master's study in January 2026
- ✓ Must demonstrate social and economic barriers to university access and leadership and community engagement



Undergraduate: Bachelors Degree - Eligibility Criteria

At the time of application, an applicant must satisfy the following criteria:

- ✓ Age: 26 years or younger
- ✓ Must meet UWC minimum admission requirements
- ✓ Must have applied for academic admission for 2026
- ✓ USAF equivalence Required (53,13 USD)
- ✓ Must begin full-time undergraduate degree study in January 2026
- ✓ Must demonstrate social and economic barriers to university access and leadership and community engagement



How to Apply to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UWC



STEP 1:

Apply for admission to UWC for the 2026 academic year by **scanning the QR code**/ go to our website on: <https://www.uwc.ac.za/admission-and-financial-aid/apply>. Applications for 2026 intake open: **2 April 2025**

Important Notes:

- Check minimum admission requirements for your desired program
- Note application closing dates
- No application fee required

Step 2:

Apply to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

Call for Application Opens: 28 April 2025
APPLY NOW by scanning the QR Code

Note: Applications are limited to specific study programmes /disciplines listed in the application form



How to apply to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

- **Application deadline date – 31 August 2025.**
- **Final selection and awards to be made mid - November 2025.**
- **Conditional award letters (subject to academic admission to UWC) will be sent to successful applicants by mid - December 2025.**
- **Virtual or in person interviews of successful applicants conducted in November and December 2025.**
- **Upon notification of a confirmed offer of admission to UWC, successful applicants will receive a final / formal notification of the award for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UWC.**

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UWC: Selection Process



Academic Assessments

- **Undergraduate Applicants:**
 - Must meet faculty minimum requirements.
 - USAf verification of high school certificate (for non-South African syllabus)
- **Postgraduate Applicants:**
 - Qualification must allow pursuit of a Master's degree.
 - Proposed topic must have a supervisor's support for two years.
 - SAQA verification of results.

Non-academic Assessments

- **Leadership Experience:**
 - Demonstrated leadership roles and initiatives.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Active participation in community service and projects.
- **Financial Standing:**
 - Assessment of financial need and support requirements.



Application form: six main sections to be completed

- ✓ Personal Information**
- ✓ Academic Information**
- ✓ Family Information**
- ✓ Short Narratives - leadership experience, honours and awards, future career**
- ✓ Participation in leadership and community engagement**
- ✓ Certification**



Mastercard Foundation Scholars Receive



- Pre-arrival support and an official on-boarding welcome programme;
- Housing in a UWC residence on campus;
- Personalised support throughout their studies, ensuring that every Mastercard Foundation Scholar has the best possible experience at UWC;
- A monthly stipend and meal allowance;
- Medical aid;
- A laptop;
- Study materials allowance;
- Holistic wrap around support programmes.

WRAP AROUND SUPPORT PROGRAMME | CALENDAR OF ACTIVATIONS

Leveraging the expertise and the unique strengths of our UWC Wrap Around Support Programme (WASP) team. This allows for a structured transformative learning experience and application of theory, impacting the individual, institution and community at large.



Leadership Skills-CSSS	Research & Mentoring Skills - RDPS & FYTP	Mastering Digital Skills/CECT	Entrepreneurial Community Engagement Skills -CEI & CEU	Employability Skills- Career Services
Focusing on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health Support Personal Mastery Academic Coaching Emotional Intelligence Conflict Management Diversity & Inclusion Social Responsibility & Leadership Resilience 	Skills to produce research outputs and mentoring support transition undergraduates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Coaching Editorial Support Specialist Coaching Writing Retreats Mentoring Circle First Year Experience Talks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital skills and applications to their current academic studies and the world of work Develop a digital Story & E-Portfolio Create Multi-media Content Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint Artificial Intelligence (AI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipping individuals with the skills creates value for communities Entrepreneurship Financial literacy Networking Project management Active Citizenship Diversity Consciousness Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital skills and applications to their current academic studies and the world of work Develop a digital Story & E-Portfolio Create Multi-media Content Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Access & Thrive; Community Engaged Learning; Dignified & Fulfilling Work and Agency & Voice

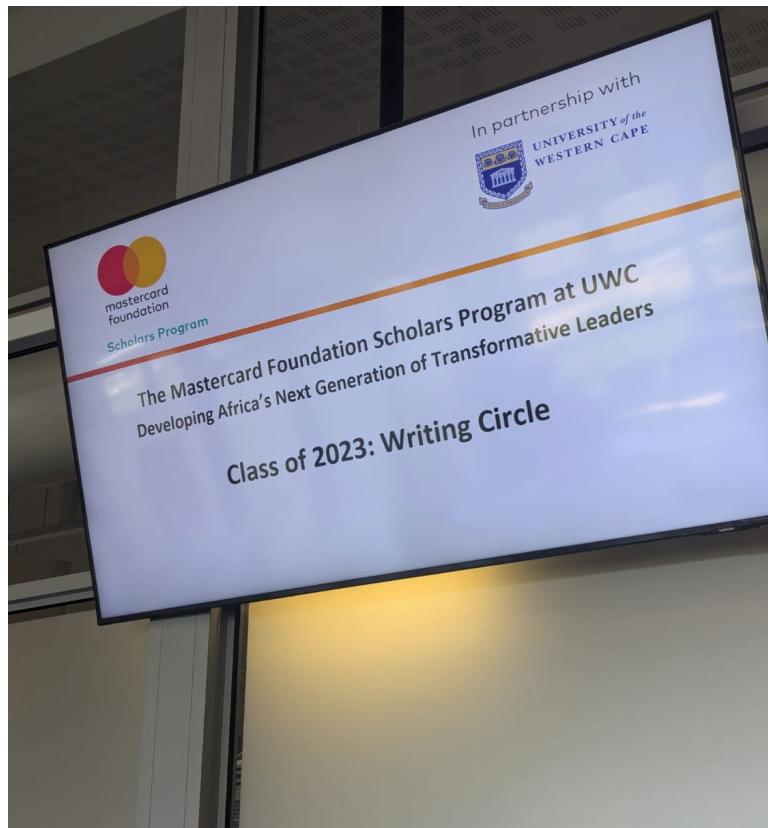
CONNECT

COMMUNICATE

COLLABORATE

Mastercard Foundation Scholars in Focus - Academic Support

ACADEMIC WRITING CIRCLE



Mastercard Foundation Scholars in Focus - First Year Transitions Programme



Mastercard Foundation Scholars in Focus - Entrepreneurship Training and Development



Mastercard Foundation Scholars in Focus - UWC ENACTUS South Africa National Winner



Mastercard Foundation Scholars in Focus – Centre for Student Support and Services: Office for Students with Disabilities





Mastercard Foundation Scholars – Class of 2024



Mastercard Foundation Scholars – Class of 2024: 2nd Intake



Mastercard Foundation Scholars – Class of 2025



Contact Us

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UWC

University of the Western Cape

Robert Sobukwe Road

Bellville

Cape Town

7537

Ms Qaqamba Mhlauli (undergraduate) - qmhlauli@uwc.ac.za

Mr Sibulelo Ganda (postgraduate) – ssganda@uwc.ac.za

Visit our website by
scanning the QR code





Scholars Program

In partnership with



UNIVERSITY *of the*
WESTERN CAPE

**We look forward to welcoming you to the
Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UWC**

THANK YOU