



## Student Records Office

Masingene Building • UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN • Rondebosch • 7701  
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 3595 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5714  
E-mail: [graduation@uct.ac.za](mailto:graduation@uct.ac.za)  
Internet: [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)

JANUARY 2025

### NOTICE ABOUT 2026 GRADUATION

#### 1. Graduation sessions and deadlines

Graduation sessions will be held in autumn (March/April 2026) and spring (September 2026).

Once approved by Senate and Council, the schedule of graduation ceremonies will be published at <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/current-students/graduation>.

Graduation information will be sent out only to qualifiers. It is thus important that you note and adhere to the deadline dates, which will be enforced in all cases. This means that to be included in graduation, you must be added as a qualifier on system by your faculty office by the deadline for qualification entry. Check your qualifier status on Peoplesoft. Also check that your full name, programme, any distinctions and all other details are correct. Please refer any queries regarding the above to your faculty office.

Submission dates for master's and PhD students to submit their dissertations and theses are a guide. However, the date by which you must be a qualifier on system is an **absolute deadline** and will be applied strictly.

##### 1.1. Autumn 2026 graduation (March/April 2026)

<b>Research students</b> August 2025	Submission of dissertation/thesis (to have been preceded by the intention to submit) is recommended 5 months before the deadline for qualification entry to allow for delays in examination. It is possible that submissions after this are examined in time for the deadline. The University does not however undertake to reach a decision on the award of the degree by any specific date.
<b>All students</b> 18 December 2025	Final date for qualifier status to be on system and for all outstanding fees, fines, interests or dues to be cleared.

##### 1.2. Spring 2026 graduation (September 2026)

<b>Research students</b> February 2026	Submission of dissertation/thesis (to have been preceded by the intention to submit) is recommended 5 months before the deadline for qualification entry to allow for delays in examination. It is possible that submissions after this are examined in time for the deadline. The University does not however undertake to reach a decision on the award of the degree by any specific date.
<b>All students</b> 7 July 2026	Final date for qualifier status to be on system and for all outstanding fees, fines, interests or dues to be cleared.



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### 2. Letter of qualification

Students who qualify for the award of their qualifications will be able to download a letter of qualification from PeopleSoft Self-Service which may be used for job-seeking purposes etc.

The letter will indicate the **confer date** which should not be confused with the **graduation date**. The confer date reflects on the academic record and indicates the graduation session the student is eligible to graduate (provided there are no outstanding fees or disciplinaries). The graduation date is the date when the formal graduation ceremony is scheduled. UCT's student system records one confer date per graduation session which means that the first date of the graduation session is used for **all** students and **all** qualifications. While the graduation date might differ from the confer date, it will always occur on or after the confer date and never before.

### 3. Certificates

Please be aware that certificates are only issued at the time of graduation and qualifiers cannot receive them in advance. The letter of qualification will suffice for use in cases in which third parties require proof that students have completed their studies. The global verification MIE database will be updated so qualifiers will be able to have their qualifications verified by their (prospective) employers etc.

### 4. *In absentia* at graduation

Qualifiers unable to attend their graduation ceremony will graduate *in absentia*. They will be able to arrange for collection or couriering of their degree certificates. *In absentia* graduates will **not** be allowed to attend a subsequent graduation ceremony.