

Department of Student Affairs
Student Housing & Residence Life

2026

General Housing Information Handbook



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CONTACTS

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Student Housing & Residence Life (SH&RL)

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Or

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Monday - Friday

08h30-16h30

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09h30-16h30

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OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Off-Campus Student Accommodation Services

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Fees Office

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Student Financial Aid Office

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UCT Communication and Marketing

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UCT Admissions Office

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1 Welcome

You have applied to study and live at the University of Cape Town. We thank you for applying and welcome your application.

As a prospective continuing student at UCT or a new accommodation applicant, we would like to inform you of the residence application process. This booklet includes some important details for applicants, parents and sponsors, as well as **the rules and conditions which apply once you have accepted the accommodation offer**.

1.1 Disclaimer

This handbook must be read in conjunction with the STUDENT HOUSING ADMISSION POLICY FOR 2022-2026.

1.2 Information

There are several sources of written information on student housing:

- [2026 Undergraduate Prospectus](#)
- The www.uct.ac.za website
- [The UCT Prospectus \(Admissions Office\)](#)
- [Living at UCT brochure](#)
- [Vacation information](#)
- For accurate and useful information on housing, it is usually advisable (once you have read all available information sent to you), that you direct any further enquiries you may have to the Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services (SHAAS).

Continuing students will receive information most relevant to the conditions of offer, each time accommodation is offered for a subsequent residence admission year.

We at housing will do our best to ensure adequate and timely information. To assist in this process, we request that any matter of importance be put to us in writing.

Always quote your student / applicant number e.g. **ZZZJOB001**, as a **reference**. We will log any matters which require a response as systematically as we can to minimise repetition and duplication of effort.

1.3 Goals

The primary goals that the University has in providing student housing are to:

- Support the general Admissions Policy that seeks to admit to UCT students of high academic quality.
- providing redress by addressing the legacy of racial discrimination and inequality in schools and in the higher education system and building a diverse students profile that reflects the demographics of South African society. Eligible applicants for housing will be reviewed against the UCT Student Equity Policy. The equity principles of diversity, inclusion, redress, equity of access, and equity of outcomes will be considered. In particular, the principle of redress will be given priority.
- contributing to academic success, retention and throughput by providing a living environment conducive for learning; and
- enhancing and facilitating the living learning experience of students within a diverse student residence community.

1.4 Capacity

The University of Cape Town has approximately 28000 students registered in 2025. Only a total of 8200 students will live in UCT residences in 2026. Space is limited and demand by far exceeds capacity. Approximately two thirds of residence space is occupied by eligible returning students, leaving the remaining space available for new applicants each year.

New applicants are considered for a residence place once they have been accepted to study for a **full-time degree programme** at UCT.

2 Offers

The application and residence offer process sequence is set out below. The policy and criteria for admission to university housing assume that a student will initially be admitted into a 1st tier (catering) residence and subsequently move to 2nd tier (senior catering or self-catering) accommodation. Postgraduate students will be considered for entry into 2nd and 3rd tier accommodation.

The application process for all successful applicants includes the following stages:

- (a) **New applicants:** submit application via the UCT online application - the closing date is 31 July
- (b) An **offer** is made to eligible applicants; and the **allocation** to specific residences of students with residence offers. Applicants may track their application status on our [Self-service portal](#)
- (c) **Returning students:** submit application via the [Housing online facility](#)

An offer is made to eligible students along with more information on the residence offer. You reply by the due date using the online facility. Once an offer is made, you must accept the offer by the due date.

- (d) **Signing into residence:** When you sign into your residence by the indicated date, you will receive information about your new 'home' on arrival, including the residence orientation and welcome events planned.

NB: The accommodation offer letter may be used when application is made for study visa and local bank account applications.

2.1 Allocations

2.1.1 FIRST TIME ENTERING (FU)

Residence allocation aims to allocate new and returning students to individual residences (i.e. buildings) with the aim of achieving race, academic merit and area of study diversity within each residence (and gender diversity in mixed-sex residences).

Residence allocation will take account of the need to make a particular placement if it would make a significant difference to the well-being of the student concerned; examples are physical disability; certain health problems; the placement of siblings together, and affordability (allowing for choice of double room).

Most Health Sciences students who are offered student housing places will be allocated to one of the (usually) first-tier residences close to the Health Sciences campus i.e. Carinus House or Rochester House.

Discretion will also be exercised in allocating a student to a different residence where a strong disciplinary case exists for this (e.g. Performing Arts and Music students).

2.2 Residence offers types

- **Specified Residence Offer** - The letter offering accommodation specifies the name of the building to which you have been assigned.
- **Unspecified Residence Offer** – Due to over offers, we also make unspecified offers, which are actual residence offers, where the placement can only be confirmed later in the cycle and before the opening of residences.
- **Transit Residence Offer** - Transit accommodation is a form of accommodation utilised at the start of the year when we are still unsure of exactly how many students will take up their offers. Approximately 5-10% of our new students are placed in temporary accommodation for a short period. Transit accommodation is an important contingency ensuring that the available accommodation is maximised to the benefit of all students. These students will participate fully in-residence life provided the offer is accepted. Applicants should be assured that transit accommodation is secured within our existing complexes and all services, residence rules and security features apply to such an accommodation offer.

3 Waiting list

3.1 New applicants

Applicants who are unsuccessful in their attempts to secure accommodation will have their names retained on the waiting list. You are however not guaranteed accommodation if your name is on the waiting list. Depending on the number of vacancies and the length of the waiting list, it is very likely that we will only be able to assist a limited number of students.

We recommend that applicants not be dependent on the waiting list and make alternative arrangements for accommodation by consulting with the [Off-Campus Accommodation Office](#)

The waiting list placements/allocations will be done by mid- February.

Waiting list accommodation offers will be determined by SHAAS in accordance with the policy and criteria for admission to student housing.

3.2 Returning students

Returning students eligible for housing who are unsuccessful in securing accommodation, must inform the SHAAS office if they wish to have their names retained on the waiting list.

We recommend that students not be dependent on the waiting list and make alternative arrangements for accommodation by consulting with the [Off-Campus Student Accommodation Service](#)

4 Late arrivals

Students who intend arriving after the last day of signing in must complete the late arrival form available on the UCT website (<http://housingonline.uct.ac.za>) to give notice as to when they will arrive and confirm their residence place. Their residence spaces will be reserved for a period of five days after the last day of signing in. Students who fail to sign in by the agreed date will have their space cancelled.

5 Conditions

Here is an outline of the conditions of an accommodation offer. To ensure that the University is efficient and effective in its implementation of the residence services, these conditions have been set, based on the policy on admission to student housing will **apply once you accept the accommodation offered:**

All new and returning applicants must read these conditions before accepting an offer of a place in the University's residences. Accepting and signing the letter of offer will be taken as an indication that the conditions have been read, understood and accepted.

Both new and returning applicants will be required to submit an **annual application** for consideration for housing. The SHAAS office will not make a firm offer of accommodation unless the applicant has been made a conditional or firm offer of an academic place for the year of admission.

Any **breach** of the following conditions may lead to the University either cancelling or withdrawing the Student Housing offer.

5.1 Housing eligibility criteria for first time entering undergraduates (FU)

Housing offers to new undergraduate applicants will be made according to the criteria as set out below:

- **Financial Aid:** All students who are made an academic offer and are awarded financial aid will be prioritized for a housing offer
- **Minors:** All students who are minors before the opening of residences in the year of registration and are made an academic offer will be prioritized for a housing offer
- **Excellence:** all entering u/g applicants who score 540 APS points will be prioritized for a housing offer
- **Rules-based** and discretionary offers will be made according to faculty-specific strategic criteria, to be reviewed and approved annually by the Admissions Committee
- **Special Circumstances:** Students with disabilities, health concerns, or other extenuating circumstances may also be considered for priority placement. Supporting documentation is required for these cases
- **Medical needs:** These will be based on recommendations to the Director: SH&RL by the Disability Service and Student Wellness Units
- **Director's Discretion:** These are special circumstances, not covered by the above criteria, to which the Director must apply their mind when considering a request for housing.

5.2 Housing eligibility for postgraduates

There are limited places in university residences. Many postgraduate students find their own accommodation in private housing off-campus. Places in student accommodation are awarded to applicants based on the criteria described below.

- Priority is given to black South African applicants admitted into a full-time honours program
- Discretionary offers will be made according to faculty-specific strategic criteria. A housing offer for this category is not guaranteed and placement is due to the limited number of bed spaces available.

5.3 General provisions

1. Students placed in student housing by the Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services (SHAAS) will be subject to the University's general residence rules (in UCT Handbook 3 – "General Rules and Policies") and to the specific rules applying to their residence, house or flat. Students must ensure that they understand and conform to these rules. Students who do not conform to these rules are liable to be excluded from the residences.
2. Free-standing houses and flats (3rd tier accommodation) into which postgraduate students are placed by SHAAS are part of the Student Housing system. Students in 3rd tier accommodation are subject to the general residence rules and to any special rules drawn up for those houses and flats.
3. An offer of a place in a residence, house or flat is for one academic year only. Students who wish to return in a subsequent year will have to reapply for admission during July-August each year. Late applications will not be considered. Applications will be subject to eligibility criteria and procedures
4. Students may not give any person permission to stay in or use their room under any circumstances not approved by the Warden. Students in residences, houses or flats are not permitted to sublet the room or flat allocated to them nor can any other person share the room unless that person has been allocated to the same space by the Warden. Dependants (e.g. spouse or children) may not occupy the student's allocated room for any period.
5. Students who enter the UCT residence system for the first time as undergraduates may be permitted to remain in residence for a maximum of a first undergraduate degree/diploma duration (i.e. the length of the undergraduate qualification for which the student is initially registered when they entered UCT for the first time). They will be able to remain in a 1st tier residence for a maximum of two years.
6. Notwithstanding this general two-year limit for 1st tier residences, students who are eligible in terms of permitted years of remaining in residence may be readmitted to that residence for a third or fourth year based on their role and contribution to the residence concerned, if recommended by the warden
7. Students who wish to apply for a leadership position or to run for elected positions in a residence for the following year must be eligible for residence in terms of the permitted years of remaining in residence.
8. Students who enter the UCT residence system for the first time as postgraduates are permitted to remain in residence for a maximum of 3 years.
9. Students who complete all the requirements of a degree or diploma while in the UCT student housing system will be eligible for student housing if they register for, or intend registering for, a postgraduate degree or postgraduate diploma, and if admitted to residence may be permitted to remain in residence for a maximum of three years as postgraduate students.
10. Students who have been granted leave of absence (LOA) on medical and psychosocial grounds will only be readmitted/allocated to residence on an advisory from the "Fit for Study Panel." Upon readmission to residence, the period of absence for such students (as covered under the approved LOA) will not count towards their "N" rule. Students who take leave of absence for any other reasons, other than those stated above, will be subject to the "N" rule in terms of the duration of their stay in residence as outlined in No. 5. When such students return to UCT, their period of absence will count towards the "N" rule.

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11. If too many students wish to return to residences, then preference will be given to applicants who:
- 11.1 have spent the least number of years in residence for undergraduate studies.
 - 11.2 are postgraduates and in their first year of study.
 - 11.3 have made special contribution to the residence.
12. Students in their first undergraduate year of study are not permitted to park a motor vehicle on any part of the University's property. Limited parking for students other than first year is available in the residences. Application for parking to be made at the Traffic Administration, Upper Campus or e-mail traffic@uct.ac.za
13. **Places for students with disabilities**

Limited accommodation is available in some residences to provide for the needs of students with physical disabilities. As a matter of policy SH&RL will try to accommodate students with disabilities.

5.4 Length of the residence year

Kindly refer to the dates which apply to the tier in which you have been offered accommodation in 2026. Once you accept the accommodation offer, the residence fee for the respective tier is applicable.

5.4.1 1st tier residences

Avenue Road Residence, Baxter Hall, Carinus, College House, Fuller Hall, Glendower Residence, Graça Machel Hall, Kilindini (as College House annexe), Kopano, Leo Marquard Hall, Rochester House, Upper Campus Residence, Tugwell Hall, University House and Varietas

The residence year for all students in 1st tier accommodation is as follows:

First semester:

Students in these residences may move into their assigned accommodation on **31 January 2026** and stay until no later than **72 hours** after their last scheduled examination during June 2026. However, all catering residences close at 10h00 on **23 June 2026**. Students are not required to move during the short April vacation.

Second semester:

All 1st tier residences re-open on **24 July 2026** when students return and will be required to vacate their rooms within **72 hours** after their last scheduled examination in October / November 2026. All catering residences close on **21 November 2026**. Students are not required to move during the short September vacation.

Health Science Undergraduate Accommodation (catering/self-catering)

Medical Residence, Carinus House, Rochester House (Health Science) and Obz Square (Health Science)

Students may move into their assigned accommodation on **8 January 2026**. Health designated residences will close at 10h00 on **28 November 2026**. Students in Health Science residences are not required to move out of residence during the vacation periods.

5.4.2 2nd tier residences (Catering/Self-Catering)

Catering: Groote Schuur Residence, Medical Residence

Self-catering: Forest Hill, Groote Schuur Flats, Liesbeeck Gardens, Obz Square (2nd tier) and The Woolsack

Leased accommodation(self-catering): Roscommon House, My Domain Salt River

Students in these residences may move into their assigned accommodation on **31 January 2026**. Except with the permission of the warden, a student must vacate and clear his or her room and leave the residence no later than **72 hours** after his or her last scheduled exam during October / November 2026.

Students in 2nd tier will not be required to move during the vacations. The residences listed above will close at 10h00 on **22 November 2026**.

5.4.3 3rd tier residences (Self-Catering)

Amalinda, TB Davie, Dullah Omar, Edwin Hart, Ex-Air, Forest Hill F, Harold Cressy, Linkoping, North Grange, Rondeberg, Obz Square (postgraduates) 11 Woodbine Road

Students in 3rd tier will not be required to move during the vacations. These residences open on **31 January 2026** and close on **11 December 2026**.

5.5 Room allocations, withdrawals and cancellations

NB: Each building structure and design is unique and results in different styles, dimensions and shape which are complex to standardise. Be assured of the best quality of service and living and learning arrangements at UCT residences.

1. The SHAAS Office is responsible for allocating students to specific residences, houses and flats. These allocations are determined by the Student Housing Admissions Policy framework, implemented under the guidance of the Student Housing Admissions Committee (SHAC) and approved by the Admissions Committee (AC).
2. Allocations to specific rooms within the residence are managed by the Warden or by his/her nominee within the residence. While returning students can select a room during the readmission process, choice is subject to internal demand, capacity and students signing in as designated. Rooms are not reserved permanently at any time. It is envisaged that approximately 50% of undergraduate students new to UCT will be placed in shared rooms in the first year of residence.
3. Withdrawal from residence:

Students must complete the *Notice of Withdrawal from Residence* available at <https://housingonline.uct.ac.za/> The fee liability of a student who withdraws from a residence, house or flat during the academic year is set out in *Handbook 3: General Rules and Policies*. Students must acquaint themselves with the details set out in this handbook. An extract is enclosed below. It is imperative that students, parents / guardians and sponsors note this policy and practice which is aimed specifically at optimising student occupancy for the residence year.

4. Cancellation of Offers:

The University will cancel the offer made to any new or returning applicant who:

- owes more than R10000 in outstanding fees for a preceding academic year by 20 January of the admission year
- is academically excluded
- has a residence offer yet fails to sign into residence by the date stipulated
- signs into residence but fails to complete academic registration by 22 February.

5.6 Financial liability

1. Fees: Students in residences, houses or flats will be required to pay an annual residence fee, a meal plan fee (where applicable), amenities and laundry levies as may be defined by the University Council. The full amount due will depend on the residence, house or flat to which a student is eventually allocated. Fees are charged from the opening date of the respective residence. A student is liable for the applicable fees, when an accommodation offer has been accepted.
2. Fees will be finalised in November of the preceding year. For a detailed residence fee breakdown please consult the [Fees Office website](#)
3. An initial (part payment) amount for residence fees (R 41 000 in the case of catering and R 27 500 for self-catering) must be paid to the University by **6 February 2026** or prior to registration in the case of non-South African students eligible for local fees, as determined by the University's Finance Department, and the balance by **31 July 2026**.
4. Failure to meet the set payment requirements could result in the student facing de-registration. Students should ensure that they are acquainted with the rules for fee payments. Students who will be moving into student accommodation must adhere to the payment schedule stipulated by the University's Fees Office. Information on this can be obtained from the Fees Office at [UCT Fee Structure](#).
5. Damages: Students are responsible for damage caused to the furniture, fittings or fabric of their rooms and of all other parts of the residence, house or flat. The cost of making good any damage for which a student is responsible will be charged to his/her fee account at the standard rates stipulated by the maintenance department.
6. Insurance Cover: The University will not under any circumstances accept responsibility for any loss or damage to students' possessions and does not offer or sponsor any insurance plan for students. Students or their parents are urged to take out their own insurance, particularly for computers, expensive equipment and any valuable items brought to the residence.

5.7 Housekeeping

1. **Meal Plans:** Students can choose between:
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (plan 1) **7 days per week**
Lunch and Dinner (plan 2) **7 days per week**
Breakfast and Dinner (plan 3) **7 days per week** or
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner (plan 4) **Monday to Friday only**.

All applicants will be allocated to Meal Plan 1 as above upon receipt of a student housing offer. After registration and once students have timetables, Meal Plans can be changed to accommodate the students' timetable or affordability. The meal plan selected may not be changed during the semester after the closing date of changes that will be announced in 2026.

2. Students can also change Meal Plans at the end of first semester for the second semester. **Please note that the University does not cater for special diets.**
3. Students are not permitted to heat, prepare food or cook in their rooms.
4. Centralised laundry facilities are available in all residences.
5. Furnishings and Equipment: All rooms are curtained and equipped with basic furniture such as a single bed, wardrobe, desk and a chair. Self-catering units contain a fridge and a stove. The University does not provide kitchen and dining utensils for those who live in self-catering facilities. Students in self-catering units need their own cooking and cleaning equipment. The University does not provide bedding. All students bring their own blankets, pillows, linen, towels, etc.
6. Limited housekeeping services are provided in all junior and senior catering residences. All the public areas and bathrooms are cleaned daily. Students make their own beds and should keep their rooms clean. Electrical cleaning equipment (polishers and vacuum cleaners), chemicals, mops, buckets, brooms, etc. are available from the Residence Facilities Officer.
7. Housekeeping services are not provided in flats and free-standing houses. Only the public areas such as entrance foyers and passages, etc. of the complexes are cleaned by university appointed staff. Students in flats and houses are required to clean their own rooms as well as the common areas within the unit.
8. Students may not keep pets in any University residence, house or flat.

5.8 Searches, Room Entry and Inspections

The University reserves the right to enter a student's room or flat for health, safety and administrative purposes. University Officials may also enter a student's room to investigate suspected violation of University Policy. Students must comply with the directions of members of the University, including, but not limited to, Campus Protection Services and residence staff performing their official duties. A student's room may be entered with the consent of the resident or under the following circumstances:

1. Authorised Members of the University may enter a student's room for administrative purposes, such as safety inspections fire drills, facility repairs and general housekeeping. After knocking and waiting for a reasonable period, entry may be made. If a resident is not present, a note will be left indicating the name(s) of the person(s) entering and the reasons for doing so. It is a rule that Authorised members will lock the door upon leaving, regardless of the room being unlocked or locked upon entering.
2. Authorised Members of the University will enter a student's room without obtaining prior consent to conduct a search only when there is evidence or strong suspicion of an emergency that warrants immediate entry: For example, the presence of smoke, flooding, screams for help or danger to others.

This must be read together with the search policy and the Rules for Residences.

6 Withdrawal from residence

All cancellations of student accommodation must be made on the following link: <https://housingonline.uct.ac.za/> It is important that students and parents/guardians or sponsors note that the policy and practice of Student Housing is aimed specifically at keeping residences full throughout the academic year. Following, for your information, is an extract from the **General Rules and Policies 2026 Book 3**:

6.1 Annual Residence Fee

Rule 14 - For the purposes of determining the penalties and refunds referred to in the rules which follow, the annual residence fee shall be deemed to be the sum of room and catering overhead charges and meal option charges. The annual residence fee for these purposes **does not** include **amenities or damage or laundry levies**.

6.2 Withdrawal after the start of the academic year

Rule 16.1 Any student who enters residence and withdraws during the first semester and before the commencement of the second semester, shall be liable for a pro-rata charge of the residence fee. This does not include a rebate on the levies. In addition, a residence cancellation fee of R 500.00 is applicable

Rule 16.2 Any student completing his/her studies at the end of the first semester shall be eligible for a rebate equivalent to 50% of the annual fee (excluding levies)

Rule 16.3 A postgraduate student who is required for the purposes of his/her research to move out of Cape Town shall be eligible for a rebate on a pro-rata basis (excluding levies)

Rule 16.4 Any student who withdraws during the second semester shall be liable for the full annual residence fee.

The Director of Student Housing may, however, exercise own discretion in approving a rebate under special conditions pertaining to the reason for withdrawal.

Rule 16.5 Any student who enters residence for the first time during the second semester and who withdraws from residence shall be liable for the full fee for that semester.

The Director of Student Housing may, however, exercise his/her discretion in approving a rebate under special conditions pertaining to the reason for withdrawal.

7 Other student housing services

7.1 Vacation accommodation

Vacation accommodation is defined as the residence period that falls *outside* the official student residence year.

The Vacation Accommodation Office does **not** have the jurisdiction to accept a booking/extension of a student for a period long before or after the commencement/completion of his/her academic programme or Supplementary exam/Deferred exam.

- *Summer term period:* Generally, commences the first week of the vacation period and run through approximately until the third week in December or as otherwise stated
- *Winter term period:* Generally, commences the first week of the mid-year (winter) vacation and run through until the last week of the vacation period or as otherwise stated. It is worth noting that closure of residences for the mid-year (winter) vacation period is only applicable to students of 1st Tier residences
- *Medical students* who are in Carinus House, Medical Residence, Rochester (catering), and Obz Square (self-catering), have an extended residence year and are not required to move out of residence
- *Tier 2, Tier 3 and Leased residences* where students are not required to move out over the mid-year break
- An online booking platform has been made available on the following link <https://housingonline.uct.ac.za> for the following reasons:
 - Academic reasons
 - Summer Term/Winter Term
 - Supplementary and Deferred Exams
 - Any other academic reason
 - Personal reasons

All academic bookings require a proof as in the following:

Reason	Supporting document as proof
Supplementary/Deferred exams	Exam timetable obtained from the UCT Examination Site. A copy of your transcript provided it clearly states that you have a supplementary/deferred/examination will be accepted
Summer Term and other academic reasons	Letter from faculty/department or a transcript with names, student number and course details (course name, start and end dates). The duration of the period must be clearly stated

If you have no immediate academic commitment, and cannot provide this office with proof thereof, you will **not** be granted an extension. You will need to apply for a **PERSONAL** booking which is payable upfront.

7.1.1 Vacation Period Tariffs:

These are agreed to by the Student Housing and Residence Life and are adjusted annually to run from June/July to June/July the following year. The rates do not coincide with the calendar year.

Payment of vacation accommodation fees: the following payment methods are applicable:

Academic Reasons

Where a student needs to stay on in a vacation residence and *submits a letter from his/her academic department* as proof of this, then the vacation charges will be billed to the student's fee account. **Accommodation/meals cannot be charged to the Student Fee Account whether you have a positive balance or not.**

Where the applicant is a Financial Aid student it is advised that the student ensures with the Financial Aid office whether their academic stay will be paid for by that office. Failing this the student will be liable for the charge.

Personal Reasons

Where a student wishes to stay for private reasons or is unable to submit a letter from the faculty or department supporting his/her accommodation request, then *personal rates and conditions of payment shall apply*. Personal rates are *higher* than academic rates and must be paid upfront in full *prior* to moving into residence. *No cash will be accepted*. Payment by debit/credit card or direct bank transfer only.

Personal rates will also apply where a student *elects to stay in residence for a period longer than 10 days* when returning to residence in January to write *supplementary/deferred* exams.

Centre for Open Learning (Col) Courses:

Students will *only be permitted to stay in a university residence* over the vacation periods (Summer/Winter term) where the student *has no outstanding fee debt* owing to the University.

7.2 Off campus student accommodation services:

[The Off-Campus Student Accommodation Services \(OCSAS\)](#) office provides the following assistance to students, who for whatever reason(s) are unable to be accommodated in a university residence:

- A list of private rooms, flats/houses available for letting as *an electronic website* where landlords advertise their accommodation, and students can view what is on offer.
- The student enters a legal / contract / arrangement with *the landlord offering* private accommodation to students and the OCSAS office *cannot be held liable*. Students are therefore advised to take *the necessary precautions before signing* any agreement with a landlord.

8 General

8.1 Administration of the residences

The Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services (SHAAS) processes residence allocations, readmissions and implements Student Housing Admission Policy. The SHAAS staff is responsible for dealing with allocations of new and returning students, to residences. Any issues related to applications, residence fees and allocations should be addressed to this office.

An applicant may, once assigned to a specific residence, liaise with the residence staff on any specific matters that are not addressed in the information provided in the application process.

8.2 Additional costs

Allowance should also be made for food, for those students living in self-catering accommodation as well as unforeseen medical expenses, transport to and from home during university vacations, and for transport home at the end of the academic year. The cost of remaining in residence during the June/July and December/January university vacations should also be budgeted for, should you need to stay.

Students who are moving into self-catering accommodation, and who have applied for financial assistance from the University, must be aware that they will not be able to obtain food or book allowances while they are not registered. They should, therefore, provide for themselves until they are registered and have had their financial assistance confirmed.

8.3 Student accommodation during vacations

If it is necessary for you to remain in Cape Town **for academic reasons** once your residence has closed, i.e. during December / January or June / July vacations, you must apply in writing to the Vacation Accommodation Office. Contact details are provided at the beginning of this handbook. Students staying in a self-catering residence during the academic year and who apply for Vacation Accommodation may be placed in catering accommodation during the vacation. Meals are optional.

Students whose applications are approved will be required to move out of their term residence or house or flat during this period and will be allocated place in a residence which is used specifically for vacation accommodation for students. They will be charged an additional fee at the daily rates approved by the Residences Committee. See also: <http://www.dsa.uct.ac.za/vacation-accomodation/about-vac-accommodation>

8.4 Sharing a room in residence

Fifty percent of first-year students in catering residences are accommodated in double rooms. If you wish to share with a friend who has been accepted into the same residence, you may put your request to the Warden of your allocated residence. You can only do this once you have both been accepted into the same residence.

If there are **special needs** which you'd like to make known before your arrival, you may also send these to the SHAAS for consideration and or communication to the staff of your assigned residence.

If you or your roommate decide that you would prefer to share a room with someone else in the same residence, talk to your Warden or appropriate Sub-Warden who will, where possible, make arrangements suitable to all who are involved. Usually, room changes are only allowed after the third week of the term to allow for settling in during registration.

8.5 Shuttle service

The unique Jammie Shuttle service is available to UCT students and staff at no additional cost. A fleet of 26 buses, including a special one for disabled passengers operates between all residences, campuses and some public bus, train and parking facilities in the local university vicinity.

The shuttle service is available on weekdays, weekends and holidays during term and vacation time. It also includes a late-night service.

The Jammie Shuttle is available for special hire services, such as tours and airport transfers. For more information, please contact the Jammie Office.

University Transport Services oversees the shuttle operation and is at the Transport Office, Baxter Road – telephone (021) 650 5289 or email [UCT Shuttle](mailto:UCT.Shuttle). More information on the shuttle service is available at [Jammie Shuttle](#) web site.

9 Viewing residences

Applicants who wish to see the residences that they have been offered should arrange a site visit through contacting the Residence Co-ordinator. This should only be done, where necessary, once you have been allocated to a specific residence. Some information is available via: <http://www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-housing/about-shrl/about-shrl>

10 Directions

To Upper Campus

The University of Cape Town's Groote Schuur Campus is situated on the slopes of Devil's Peak in the suburb of Rondebosch.

To reach the upper campus from the city, drive along the De Waal Drive or Eastern Boulevard and pass Groote Schuur Hospital on the way. Just past the hospital the road forks, take the right-hand fork (M3 to Muizenberg). Beyond Mostert's Mill (windmill) on your left, take the Woolsack Drive/University of Cape Town turn-off (Exit 7 Rosebank - M89)

Turn right at the traffic lights on Woolsack Drive and go under the bridge and round a hairpin bend to the northern entrance of the campus.

Please check in at the Visitors' Reception and Information Office opposite the Sports Centre, where directions, campus maps and temporary visitors' parking permits may be obtained.

From the southern suburbs the approach is along Rhodes Drive, where the southern entrance to the campus is clearly signposted from the left lane. There is no information office at this entrance - you may continue on Rhodes Drive past the university to the turn-off to the northern entrance, which will give access to the Information Office as described above.

To Middle Campus

To reach the middle campus from the city, proceed as described above but continue straight at the traffic lights, onto a brick-paved road. From the southern suburbs the approach is along Rhodes Drive. To reach the middle campus, take the northern entrance turn-off but continue left, underneath the bridge, and turn right at the traffic lights onto the brick-paved road.

To UCT from Cape Town International Airport

To reach the university from the airport, proceed on the N2 towards Cape Town and take the Muizenberg (M3) off-ramp. Continue until you reach and turn off at the Woolsack Drive/University of Cape Town off-ramp.

Then proceed to the various campuses as described above.

11 Residences

More information is on the website: <http://www.res.uct.ac.za>

1st Tier Residences			
Residence Code	Residence Description	Places for Males	Places for Females
ARR	Avenue Road Residence	250	250
BAX	Baxter Hall		232
CAR	Carinus	300	
COL	College House	119	
GLR	Glendower Residence	40	41
GRA	Graça Machel Hall		382
KOP	Kopano	367	
FUL	Fuller Hall		231
KIL	Kilindini	32	
LEO	Leo Marquard Hall	414	
ROC	Rochester House	397	398
UCR	Upper Campus Residence	235	
TUG	Tugwell Hall		406
VAR	Varietas	50	96
UNI	University House	84	
2nd Tier Residences			
Catering Residences			
Residence Code	Residence Description	Places for males / females	
GSR	Groote Schuur Residence	64	
MED	Medical Residence	102	
Self-Catering Residences			
Residence Code	Residence Description	Places for males / females	
FHB	Forest Hills Complex	821	
GSF	Groote Schuur Flats	81	
LIE	Liesbeeck Gardens	488	
OBM	Obz Square (2 nd Tier Health Science)	144	
OBN	Obz Square (2 nd Tier)	404	
WOO	The Woolsack	206	

3rd Tier Residences		
Residence Code	Residence Description	Places for males / females
DAV	TB Davie Court	28
DOH	Dullah Omar Hall	72
EDH	Edwin Hart	33
EXA	Ex-Air	42
FHF	Forest Hills F	42
HAR	Harold Cressy	58
NGR	North Grange	49
OBP	Obz Square (Post grad)	332
RBG	Rondeberg Flats	36
	Houses	15
Leased Residences		
Residence Code	Residence Description	Places for males / females
RCH	Roscommon House	582
MDSR	My Domain Salt River	353

Important Dates

20 Jan 2026	Cancel offers of students who owe more than R1000 fees for 2025
8 Jan 2026	Health Science Residences open
31 Jan 2026	All other residences open
3 Feb 2026	Final date for all accepted students to sign into residence
23 Jun 2026	1st Tier residences close for mid-term break
24 July 2026	1st Tier residences open for second semester
21 Nov 2026	1st and 2nd Tier residences close
28 Nov 2026	Health Science Residences close
28 Nov 2026	Leased residences close
11 Dec 2026	3rd Tier residences close

12 Disclaimer

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this handbook and other information sent from the Student Housing and Residence Life office. We reserve the right at any time (if circumstances require), to amend any of the published details to ensure that the policy objectives are adequately met. **Dates/Fees published in this handbook are provisional and are subject to change.**