

University of Cape Town

fall / spring / academic year / calendar year



african studies / archaeology / art / art history / biology / chemistry / computer science / drama / economics / engineering and technology / environmental studies / gender studies / geography / history / independent research / management / mathematics / philosophy / political science / religion / sociology / theology



program snapshot

- Choose from a wide range of course offerings at the University of Cape Town in commerce, engineering, humanities, and science
- Immerse yourself in the culture through a township homestay, the CIEE community service program, and independent study opportunities
- Live, interact, and study with African students in a society in transition
- Visit local theater, music, and dance productions, museums, rural cooperatives, and cricket and rugby matches

what you'll learn

The CIEE Arts and Sciences program at the University of Cape Town provides students with a range of academic and intellectual experiences that enable them to reflect upon the complexities and challenges facing the new South Africa. Through integration in local communities, students become participants in, rather than mere observers of, this dynamic and evolving environment. Through this process, students gain a comprehensive understanding of social relations within South Africa.

thoughts from abroad

Cape Town has a reputation for being the most open-minded and relaxed city in South Africa. This impression, however, is disparate: the city looks European, but it is not European; it feels African, but it is not African. It is a mixture of First World and Third World. There are parts of Cape Town that are very affluent and areas that are very bleak and poor (normally the townships) with very few resources. As a direct result of many years of apartheid, Cape Town has a First World infrastructure with Third World development challenges.

Cape Town gives you the opportunity to experience South Africa with its problems and its joys. It gives you a chance to enjoy Cape Town as the gateway to the rest of Africa, and at the same time, provides the opportunity to be part of the rebuilding of a nation that was almost destroyed by apartheid. Come to Cape Town to enjoy the natural beauty and be part of the rebuilding of a new nation that in 2009 celebrated 150 years of democracy.

— Quinton Redcliffe, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Born in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, Quinton Redcliffe previously worked in the International Office at the University of Cape Town as the manager responsible for international student programs. Quinton earned his B.A. Honors degree in Religious Studies from the University of the Western Cape, and his M.A. in Conflict and Conflict Management from the University of Port Elizabeth. His research interests include religious education in public schools, religion and democracy, religion and development, and religion and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

About Other CIEE Staff

A native of Johannesburg, Assistant Resident Director Felicity Inns received her M.A. in International Education at the University of Cape Town. Felicity assists the CIEE Resident Director in all aspects of program management and student support.

Ronel Stevens, Program Assistant, works with both the Service-Learning and Arts and Sciences programs. Ronel received her B.S. in Politics and History and she also completed a law degree at the University of South Africa.

Earl Erasmus, Resident Life Coordinator, manages a team of dedicated Resident Assistants who work with him to make the CIEE students' study abroad experiences as meaningful as possible. Earl is currently completing his B.A. at UCT.

Michelle Diedericks is the Financial Administrator at the CIEE Study Center. She has worked with the finance department at the University of Cape Town for many years and has been with CIEE since 2008.

Thabisile Miya, Program Assistant, is responsible for the many volunteer opportunities for our students. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Cape Town. She is currently completing a M.A. in Disaster Management through the University of Free State.

about cape town

Situated on the southern tip of Africa, Cape Town is a vibrant multicultural city with a rich selection of day and night activities. Water sports, mountaineering, nightclubs, and restaurants are readily available. The city is also a microcosm of the challenges facing many African countries in transition: how to successfully operate within a global economy while grappling with the vast socio-economic inequalities that are the legacy of the colonial and apartheid past.

academics

Academic Program

The rich academic program, established in 1998, allows students to pursue their own academic studies while providing firsthand knowledge of contemporary South African society. Students are required to enroll in at least one course with specific African content or one that offers a distinctive African perspective in their area of interest. Courses may be taken in all University of Cape Town faculties excluding Health Sciences.

Students participate in the cultural program and are strongly encouraged to take part in community service. Students should develop a program that complements the requirements of their home institution and meets their own personal needs.

Academic Culture

CIEE students are taught alongside University of Cape Town (UCT) undergraduates and are required to undertake a full program of courses, including all assignments and written examinations. Teaching methods at the University normally involve a mix of lectures, tutorials, seminars, and, in the sciences, laboratory classes.

The system is geared toward the scholar who is motivated, self-sufficient, and deeply interested in the subject matter. Participants may notice striking differences between their home educational system and the UCT system. The University allows students greater responsibility and initiative in a less structured environment. Courses may involve relatively few contact hours each week, since they are intended as a starting point and focus for a great deal of individual study.

Class sizes are very big at UCT and range from 100–300 people. UCT has both class lectures and tutorials (sections). The sizes of the tutorials are much smaller, ranging from 20–40 students. Students generally do not have to

buy books for their classes, as many lecturers provide a course reader. This reader has all the reference materials for the class.

The CIEE Study Center follows the University's calendar with additional time for orientation at the beginning of the semester. The South African academic year runs from early February through late November with two semesters. Many University of Cape Town courses are yearlong courses and run from the U.S. spring through the U.S. fall semester. Students on the academic or calendar year program have a break between semesters; they can remain in or move into off-campus housing. Meals are not included during this time.

Nature of Classes

Participants enroll directly in host university courses and take classes with CIEE, South African, and other international students. The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning is for CIEE students only.

Grading System

Grading for University of Cape Town courses is by continuous assessment, but anywhere from 50–75% of the final grade is based on the final examination, which is conducted by outside examiners.

Grades are on the basis of 100. A "First" is equivalent to 75 percent and above. Very few students achieve this mark. Students who receive marks that fall between 70–74 percent are awarded the grade of "Upper Second." A good number of students achieve this mark. The next mark is "Lower Second" with a range of 60–69 percent. The majority of students achieve this mark. Students with 50–59 percent receive a "Third" (passing grade). Students achieving a mark below 50 percent receive a "Fail." Grades and credits are converted to the U.S. system according to a standard scale.



where you'll study

Established as the South African College in 1829, the University of Cape Town is internationally recognized as one of Africa's leading research universities. Its campus has sweeping lawns, pathways, trees, ponds, and waterfalls that combine with attractive physical structures and extensive playing fields to create a pleasant study environment. A range of commercial, medical, recreational, and sporting facilities is available on campus. These include a swimming pool, gymnasium, basketball, tennis, badminton and squash courts, and a weight room.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing is included in the program fee. Students have several choices:

UCT Residence Hall—Students live in apartment-style UCT residence halls with South African or other African students. Students have small single rooms and share kitchen and other facilities with two or three other students. CIEE Resident Assistants live in the residence hall with the students. All of the residents of the apartment share basic cleaning duties. Students are responsible for their own meals which are not included in the program fee. Students can prepare their own meals or eat at establishments on or off campus. Please note that amenities are more basic in the UCT residences, but students looking for an immersion experience will enjoy interacting with South African and other African students. Shuttle buses link UCT residence halls with all UCT campuses, a five-minute ride.

Off-Campus Houses or Apartments—Students share off-campus houses or apartments near campus with fellow CIEE program participants and local students. Students have small single rooms (some houses have a small number of double rooms) and share kitchen and other facilities with five to ten other students (fewer in apartments). All of the residents of the houses or apartments share basic cleaning duties. Students are responsible for their own meals which are not included in the program fee. Students can prepare their own meals or eat at establishments on or off campus.

Local UCT students (CIEE Resident Assistants) are selected and trained to live in off-campus houses and in the UCT residence hall with CIEE students. See additional information in the Engagement box.

Homestay with South African Family—This option provides an excellent opportunity for immersion into the local culture and is strongly recommended for students who wish to take full advantage of their experience in South Africa. Breakfast and dinner are provided during the week. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided on weekends. Lunches during the week are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Since homestay families are located throughout the Cape Town area, students are required in most cases to utilize public transportation to and from UCT, a 20–30 minute commute.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experi-

ence in Cape Town before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

During the mandatory orientation, students participate in programs organized by CIEE as well as UCT activities for international students. The goal is to introduce students to the country, culture, and academic program, and to provide practical information about living in Cape Town. Students are also introduced to the academic requirements of the University and are shown how to make best use of campus facilities and services. Sessions include lectures on African history, politics, geography, safety, and “survival skills” for visiting students. During orientation, local UCT students assist the international students. The services provided during orientation are maintained on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have access to email and the Internet at the University of Cape Town. On campus, the labs can be crowded and often full, but off-campus Internet cafés are inexpensive and easily accessible. Many students have brought laptops with them and are able to register their laptops and use them in the computer labs on campus. Wireless connections are available in the off-campus houses. Ethernet connections are available in the rooms at the UCT residence halls. Internet reliability and access is not always available at the same level as in the U.S. Wireless internet is available for an extra fee. Students should be aware that the cost of wireless internet in South Africa is typically higher than service in the U.S.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 3.0
- Junior standing and above
- College-level coursework in African studies recommended

duration

Fall

18 weeks: mid-July—mid-November

Spring

18 weeks: late January—early June

Academic Year

48 weeks: mid-July—early June

Calendar Year

44 weeks: late January—mid-November

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented by field trips and excursions to various points of interest in Cape Town and in the Western Cape Province. Previous field trips and excursions have included the Cape Peninsula, the Cape Flats, Robben Island, Newlands Grounds to watch cricket or rugby, and a whale-watching excursion.

The program covers the cost of participants' membership in up to three social, sport, or cultural clubs at the University of Cape Town. Many students have found that cultural immersion is made easier when they join a club or society on the UCT campus.

The comprehensive cultural program developed by CIEE consists of visits to local theater, music, and dance productions; museum tours; and rural cooperatives. Events and activities are chosen to provide students with a good overview of the diversity in South Africa.

A three-day homestay with a local family in the “colored” community of Ocean View is also included in the cultural program. This exposes CIEE students to positive images of previously disadvantaged groups of people in South Africa, including the “colored” and Muslim communities.

engagement

CIEE Resident Assistants

Resident Assistants (RAs) are a dedicated group of UCT students who assist CIEE students during orientation and throughout the semester. Through ongoing interaction with these local students, CIEE participants are able to meet local South African and international students and learn firsthand about student life in Cape Town. These local students, recruited and trained by CIEE, are an important part of the CIEE student experience. RAs assist with cultural excursions and live with CIEE students in the off-campus houses and apartments, providing a reliable local peer network and helping CIEE students to integrate into the local student community.

Volunteering

The Community Service Program provides students with volunteer opportunities in the historically disadvantaged communities around Cape Town. Past activities have included tutoring in local schools, assisting at the Red Cross Children's Hospital, working on AIDS and HIV projects, and caring for children with mental problems. Many students rate their volunteer experiences as one of the highlights of the overall CIEE program.

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$13,600

Spring 2012: available 8/15/11

Academic Year 2011–12: \$25,900

Calendar Year 2012: available 8/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include tuition, housing, orientation, optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, cultural activities, local excursions, field trips, pre-departure advising, visa fees, and a CIEE iNext travel card which includes insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs

{Fall 2011}

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 2,200
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,000
Meals* (dormitory and off-campus houses or apartments)	\$ 1,200
Books and Supplies	\$ 250
Local Transportation	\$ 500
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 6,150

*Homestay students only need to budget for lunches during the week, estimated at \$500.

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

The University of Cape Town follows the Higher Education Qualifications Framework (HEQF) credit system. Per this system, CIEE requires all study abroad students to take between 62 and 82 HEQF credits per semester. A full course load is considered three or four courses. At least one of these courses must have specific African content or offer a distinctive African perspective in their area of interest. Courses may be taken in all University of Cape Town faculties excluding Health Science. Students may also take the CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in addition to their normal course load.

Credit

Total contact hours for each course vary, and recommended credit for the semester is 14–18 semester/21–27 quarter hours and for the year is 28–36 semester/42–52 quarter hours.

Language of Instruction

English

Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty from the University of Cape Town. The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning is taught by the CIEE Resident Director and Assistant Resident Director.



courses

University of Cape Town Departments

A list of University of Cape Town courses is available on the UCT website at www.uct.ac.za. Not all courses within UCT faculties or departments are appropriate for program participants, and many have prerequisites. Students are advised that due to possible changes in the courses offered each term, they should be flexible in course selection and not necessarily expect to fulfill specific major requirements of their home institution.

Faculty of Commerce

Accounting
Actuarial Science
Economics
Information Systems

Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

Architecture and Planning

Faculty of Humanities

African Languages and Literature
African Studies
Afrikaans and Netherlandic Studies
Classics
Drama
English Literature
Fine Art
Hebrew and Jewish Studies
History
History of Art
Independent Research
Linguistics
Music
Philosophy
Political Studies
Psychology
Religious Studies
Social Anthropology
Sociology
Theory of Literature

Faculty of Science

Archaeology
Astronomy
Botany
Chemistry
Computer Science
Environmental and Geographical Science
Geological Sciences
Mathematics
Oceanography
Physics
Statistical Sciences
Zoology

CIEE Elective Courses

CLST 3001 CTSA

Seminar on Living and Learning in Cape Town

The CIEE Seminar on Living and Learning in Cape Town is designed to improve students' intercultural communication and competence while studying abroad by considering how South Africans are different from and similar to themselves and others. The course offers opportunities, both in and outside the classroom, to develop insights and the skills necessary to interact effectively and appropriately, and to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural richness of South Africa. Students in the Seminar have the option to participate in a CIEE-subsidized three-day excursion to Johannesburg. Staff and students stay in Soweto and visit the Apartheid Museum (additional cost to students is approximately \$300 USD). Contact hours: 25. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours. *Instructors: Quinton Redcliffe, CIEE Resident Director, and Felicity Inns, CIEE Assistant Resident Director*

INDR 3003 CTSA

Directed Independent Research

CIEE supports qualified students who wish to pursue an academically rigorous independent research project while abroad. In order to enroll, students must submit a research proposal including a clearly defined research topic, an explanation of research plans, a description of preparation in the planned area of study, a list of resources, a tentative outline of a final paper, and a suggested schedule of progress. Students complete a total of 135 hours of research and meet regularly with an advisor to complete an academically rigorous, ethically sound, and culturally appropriate research project and final research paper. Approval for participation in Directed Independent Research must be obtained from the Resident Director and the student's home institution prior to arrival on the program. Upon receipt of the approved plan, the Resident Director meets with an appropriate faculty member and, after arrival, meets with the student to work out the details of the student's project. The Resident Director also provides a course component on research methods. Students may choose to combine their community service volunteer work with their independent research. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

a student's story

Strolling the beautiful beach of Camps Bay, hiking Table Mountain, being greeted by friendly South Africans, and spending leisure time at the Waterfront are some wonderful memories of Cape Town. Although I enjoyed all of those events, there is something else about Cape Town that makes me want to live there in the future: volunteering in Khayelitsha Township.

Volunteering at the Baphumelele ("we have conquered") orphanage has been the most influential experience of my life. The orphanage is run by Rosie Mashale who started the home with a baby girl left on her doorstep. There are currently about eighty children, from infants to eighteen-year olds. They lived in one small home until recently, when Habitat for Humanity built an additional house. The infrastructure of this township of about 1.5 million is gradually progressing where sewage, running water, and electricity was installed a few years ago. Khayelitsha is third world within the first world, Cape Town.

I became very attached to the children at Baphumelele and it was difficult to leave. The children usually eat bread and water, although they do have healthier meals at times. Even though they were hungry, I always saw them share food with each other to make sure that everyone had some. The children were like brothers and sisters caring for each other. My friends and I bought them new clothes, good food, and took them to the beach. It has been almost two months since I left and I still remember their kisses, their faces when I carried them, and the way they slept with exhaustion. I think I had more fun than they did and I will remember them as not being poor, but as being joyful at heart. I pray that God will watch over them and keep them safe.

— Vanna Leelapumipongchai,
California State University-Long Beach

