



UCT ONLINE
HIGH SCHOOL

2023



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

UCT Online High School

[Start Application Process](#)



in collaboration with
VALENTURE INSTITUTE



WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Find answers to commonly asked questions about UCT Online High School. If you are looking for answers on a specific category, please click on the arrow to the right of the categories and this will direct you to the page you are looking for.

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DISCLAIMER

The information provided in this presentation is consistent with the current policies and guidelines laid out within our office, Valenture Institute and UCT Online High School. The information provided here is subject to change. Please visit our website regularly for up-to-date information.

Why is the University of Cape Town launching a high school? Why now?

As several top universities, like Stanford’s Online High School, have proven, the academic excellence of universities can be extended to high school learners and create new opportunities for a diverse group of learners to join an aspirational school.

We asked the question: what if we broke down the unnecessary silos between high school and university and offered a solution where the high school experience sets our learners up for success in their university studies and careers?

Bold innovations are required to bring more cohesion to our education sector, and more access for the next generation of leaders across Africa. In response to the education crisis currently facing our country, the time to lead is now – in this regard, we are thrilled to launch the UCT Online High School.

What is UCT Online High School?

UCT Online High School is a bold new initiative from the [University of Cape Town](#) and its partner, [Valenture Institute](#). Developed to enable high school and adult learners throughout South Africa, and beyond, to choose an aspirational secondary school. UCT Online High School’s ecosystem is designed to help learners unleash their potential and set them up for success in school, university and life.

Where does UCT Online High School operate?

As an online school, we accept international learners from all over the globe, provided that they are not on our sanctioned list (see [T&Cs](#)), agree to adhere to the school academic calendar and are able to operate in South African Standard Time (SAST).

If you would like more details about how to join our online school from your country of residence kindly contact our Admissions Team at admissions@uctohs.valentureonline.com

What are your operating hours?

Our support staff keep regular weekday operating hours between 8am - 5pm (SAST) and adhere to South African public and school holidays. Please note that all internal examinations and live events happen in South African Standard Time (SAST).

When does your academic year start?

We follow a southern hemisphere academic calendar, which runs from January to December each year.

Who is Valenture Institute? What is the relationship between UCT (the university) and Valenture Institute?

[Valenture Institute](#) is an ed-tech company that partners with leading education institutions to offer aspirational high school experiences to learners worldwide. Valenture Institute’s proprietary learning technology, analytics and learner support model are at the forefront of online education.

[UCT](#) (the university) has partnered with Valenture Institute to create UCT Online High School. By combining UCT’s research-driven excellence with Valenture Institute’s proprietary learner support model, we’ve created something truly special at [UCT Online High School](#).

UCT and Valenture Institute have a shared governance structure to manage UCT Online High School, with UCT’s Vice-Chancellor as Chair of the Oversight Committee, which is responsible for setting strategy and measuring the performance of the school. UCT and Valenture Institute appoint members of the Operations and Governance committee, which is responsible for academic quality assurance, governance and overall management of the school. Valenture Institute is responsible for the technology and day-to-day operations of the school – it’s a classic case of teamwork making the dream work!

Is this an online university?

Nope, UCT Online High School is an online high school for Gr 8-12 learners for the SA National Senior Certificate (CAPS), learners in Year 10 for the Cambridge International IGCSE curriculum* and adult learners who want to receive their Amended Senior Certificate (ASC) through the Adult Matric programme; an incredible, cutting-edge, online one at that!

Years 11, 12 and 13 for the Cambridge International curriculum will be offered in the coming years.

Does UCT Online High School have any physical campuses?

No, we are an entirely online high school.

Are any assessments involved in the application process?

To find out more details, please reach out to our Admission Team [here](#).

Who are the Learning Facilitators?

They are the remarkable group of individuals responsible for educating, motivating and inspiring our learners. They’ve been hand-selected and are some of the best in South Africa.

Our Learning Facilitators are passionate about making a lasting, positive impact in the world by enabling high school and adult learners to reach their full potential. They know that the way to elicit the best from each learner is through meaningful engagement and a sincere commitment to their success.

We can’t wait for you to meet them!

Will I/my child get into UCT (the university) if they attend UCT Online High School?

Not automatically. Getting into any university requires good grades and hard work, and the normal application processes (and requirements) apply to all high school and adult learners seeking admission to any tertiary institution locally or abroad. We’ll champion you/them every step of the way through!

What role does UCT (the university) faculty play in the high school?

UCT Online High School hires dedicated Learning Facilitators, Support Coaches, Support Advisors and educational professionals who are incredibly good at creating and delivering content to high school and adult learners.

UCT (the university) and Valenture Institute have a shared governance structure to manage UCT Online High School. UCT’s Vice-Chancellor is Chair of the Oversight Committee, and UCT’s faculty sits on the Operations and Governance committee, which

is responsible for academic quality assurance, governance and overall management of the school.

UCT Online High School learners* also gain access to UCT faculty through our virtual My Brilliant Future series, hosted by our Head of Student Culture, Kieno Kammies. In this series, Kieno will interview UCT faculty and industry experts on topics to help set learners up for success at school, university and in life. In addition, UCT Online High School's learners will benefit from access to the UCT Vice Chancellor's Open Lecture Series, as well as faculty-led seminars on areas of research at UCT.

**This is not applicable for Adult Matric learners.*

Are there any demos available for me to view?

Not yet, but we're working on it!

What Learner Management System (LMS) do you use?

Our customised Moodle platform – it's fantastic!

What format is used for the video content? (avi, mov, mkv etc.) as certain formats work on specific programs

Our videos are hosted on our own server and streamed to you via an embedded player. No need to worry about any formats!

How social will the experience be for me/my child?

Good question! High school learners* will have the opportunity to build community and make friends from all over the country through their Support Coach Check-in sessions, which will happen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for 15 minutes, not to mention our school assemblies and Virtual Clubs.

**This is not applicable to Adult Matric learners*

Do learners ever have the opportunity to meet face-to-face?

Yes, high school learners and guardians are encouraged to meet up and get to know each other. UCT Online High School will do its best to enable learners and guardians to do this by creating online spaces to get to know each other and self-organise.

Do you have any traditional extracurricular activities?

Yes, we do. Please see our [extracurriculars page](#).

Please note, this is only for high school learners in South Africa.

What are Virtual Clubs?

Please read about our Virtual Clubs [here](#).

Please note that virtual clubs are only available for high school learners.

Are Virtual Clubs compulsory?

Virtual Clubs do not contribute to a high school learner's* overall grade and are not compulsory, but they are a lot of fun! If a high school learner does sign-up for a club that piques their interest, they need to ensure that they attend their Virtual Club live sessions as often as possible.

**This is not applicable to Adult Matric learners*

How is cyberbullying managed?

UCT Online High School has a zero-tolerance policy toward any form of bullying. We know that learners learn best in a safe and calm environment that is free from disruption.

We take the following steps to address this matter:

Learners, staff and guardians are required to accept the [rules of engagement](#) set out by the institution. These rules set out clear responsibilities, boundaries and expectations for all parties. These rules outline the procedures that are followed when instances of bullying are reported as well as the sanctions imposed if our rules are found to have been breached.

Key staff members that engage with learners during the learning journey complete intensive training that ensures they are fully equipped to offer support in so far as is appropriate. Dialogue regarding the issue of bullying is an ongoing part of the learning community to educate each member further, and strengthen their will to advocate for inclusion. Engagements between individuals on the Online Campus are all held by the system and are monitored.

When members of the learning community encounter engagement, which is not appropriate, they can report the exact piece of engagement immediately.

UCT Online High School is committed to working with a wider community of social services and local authorities where it is necessary.

Further initiatives are in the works!

Is UCT Online High School a safe and inclusive environment?

A resounding yes! UCT Online High School is strongly committed to offering an inclusive learning experience. We celebrate the uniqueness of individuality. Our policies and rules are there to support and uphold these principles.

Where can I access your Learner Code of Conduct?

The Learner Code of Conduct document can be accessed via the [website](#).

Do we partner with tutoring centres or anything of that nature?

Unfortunately, not. We place the highest authority on the safety and security of our learners. Our Learning Facilitators, Support Coaches, Student Advisors, School Counsellors and staff are thoroughly vetted and monitored in line with our Safeguarding Policy to ensure that you/your child is as safe as possible in all their interactions with UCT Online High School. Unlike a traditional school, you/your child will not be on our premises, and therefore, we cannot take responsibility for you/your child's safety at your home or any other environment that you/your child is using to access UCT Online High School.

We cannot take responsibility or vouch for any third parties such as:

- au-pairs,
- tutors,
- schools,
- or any other person or institution that you contract with to supplement, care for, or assist you/your child with UCT Online High School's programme.

UCT Online High School is completely independent of these people or institutions. We cannot take any responsibility for them. Where a learner or guardians contract with another party or school, such a contract is between the learner/guardian and that person or company and in no way involves UCT Online High School.

**Thank you
Enkosi
Ngiyabonga
Dankie
Ke a leboha**