

South Africa, Cape Town

CALENDAR YEAR/SPRING 2010 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Cape Town, South Africa program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the University of Cape Town (UCT). This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbooks or materials you receive from UCT as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.

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Contact Information

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

Your primary contact will be:

International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO)
Semester Study Abroad Program (SSA)

University of Cape Town

3 & 4 Lovers Walk

Lower Campus

Rondebosch 7701

South Africa

+27 21 650 2822/3740

+27 21 650 5667 fax

int-iapo@uct.ac.za

www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/semester/overview/

The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. An emergency contact number will be given to you at registration—you can use this to contact the office 24 hours a day, should the need arise.

Primary IAPO Contacts for UW-Madison Students at UCT:

Ms. Lisa Essex - lisa.essex@uct.ac.za

SSA Administrator - Assists with all aspects of the administration and record-keeping of the program.

Ms. Meg Goedhals – meg.goedhals@uct.ac.za

SSA Housing Co-ordinator - Assists SSA students with finding and arranging their housing in Cape Town.

Other IAPO Contacts:

Ms. Lara Hoffenberg - lara.hoffenberg@uct.ac.za

Manager: International Students and Linkages - Lara has overall responsibility for international students at UCT. The SSA Program Office reports to her.

Ms. Naasiha Abrahams - naasiha.abrahams@uct.ac.za

SSA administrator - Assists with all aspects of the administration and record-keeping of the program.

Mrs. Allison Jansen - allison.jansen@uct.ac.za

SSA administrator - Assists with all aspects of the administration and record-keeping of the program.

UW-MADISON INFORMATION

International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
250 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329, Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

For Program Advising & Grades:

Kate Hamoonga

IAP Study Abroad Advisor

(608) 265 6296

hamoonga@bascom.wisc.edu

For Financial Matters:

Judy Humphrey

IAP Financial Specialist

(608) 262 6785

jhumphrey@bascom.wisc.edu

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265 6329 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516 9440.

EMBASSY REGISTRATION

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country's embassy or consulate.

United States Consulate
PostNet Suite 50, Private Bag x26
Tokai 7966
2 Reddam Ave, Westlake 7945
+27 (0)21 702 7300
+27 (0)21 702 7493 fax
<http://southafrica.usembassy.gov>

Program Dates

Semester 1 (Spring 2010)

Mid February – Mid June

Semester 2 (Fall 2010)

Mid July – Late November

UCT will provide you with detailed program dates as well as arrival information in your IAPO acceptance packet. A five-day orientation program is held for students during the week prior to the start of the semester. Please do not purchase your air tickets until you have received confirmed dates from UCT! The UCT IAPO office recommends that students arrive no later than eight days prior to the start of classes.

Please note that students must write exams on pre-set dates at a pre-arranged venue. Examination timetables are not published prior to departure and exam dates cannot be changed to accommodate travel plans. **In order to allow for exam re-writes, students are strongly advised to not leave Cape Town any earlier than the date noted in the IAPO acceptance packet.**

Preparation Before Leaving

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Passport: A passport is needed to travel to South Africa and to obtain your residence permit. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Residence Permit: All students planning on studying in South Africa for a semester or year are required to obtain a "Temporary Resident Permit - Study Permit" before leaving the United States. This permit is issued by the South African consulate that has jurisdiction over your home state. For residents of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, and several other midwestern states, the following is your consulate:

The South African Consulate General
200 South Michigan Ave 6th Fl
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 939 7929
sacongenchicago@sacg.xohost.com
www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate/

To apply for a study permit, you will need a completed application form, a valid U.S. passport, and other supplementary documentation. A letter from UCT to the issuing authorities and a letter from IAP certifying your enrollment in the program will be provided to you. Consult the Consulate General website for other additional materials required with the study permit application. More detailed instructions regarding this process will be provided at your pre-departure orientation

IAP will collect your materials and forward them to the consulate on your behalf. When your passport is returned with your visa, you will be contacted to pick it up in Bascom Hall. If you are unable to pick up your passport, you will need to provide IAP with a pre-paid envelope to return your passport. A trackable envelope such as USPS Express Mail, FedEx, or UPS is highly recommended.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The cost sheet for your program provides an outline of the basic costs you can expect while in Cape Town. You are responsible for the costs of the study permit, airfare, housing, meals, personal expenses (including school supplies), and any additional travel you may wish to do while in South Africa. Before leaving the United States, work out a budget (with your parents if appropriate) and plan how you will handle your money while abroad.

Before you leave for South Africa, purchase some South African Rand (perhaps \$100 USD) from your bank or through a travel agent. This will give you a small amount of money for any immediate, incidental needs when you first arrive.

Banks: For accessing money once you are in Cape Town, the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) recommends that you open a non-resident personal bank account. More details on how to set up this type of account will be provided during orientation at UCT (A non-resident account allows you to take money with you when you leave South Africa). You can do this either by bringing money in the form of travelers' checks, which you would then deposit in your new account, or by arranging for a bank-to-bank transfer to **The Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd. Rondebosch SWIFT number SBZAJJ, branch code 025009** to yourself. The instructions should also include "pay on application and identification." Note that what we call a checking account is a "current account" in South Africa; a savings account is a "deposit account."

You can also have funds wired to your bank in Cape Town after you have established your account. The two most popular banks in Cape Town are *The Standard Bank* and *ABSA Bank*. In order to have money wired once you are in South Africa it is easiest to have someone in the United States (parent, etc.) have joint access to your account (this can be established by visiting your local U.S. bank before departure). This way you have a more direct contact with your U.S. bank in order to get money transferred. The above address can be used if appropriate or request the transfer information (SWIFT # and branch code) from your new bank. Usually money can be transferred in a short period of time.

ATM/Debit Cards: Another common way to access funds in South Africa is with an ATM card from your U.S. bank account. With most U.S. banks you are able to withdraw money from South African ATMs just as you would in the United States. Frequently there is a larger service charge for overseas transactions. It is a good idea to check with your U.S. bank before departure to see what their ATM policies are and notify them that you will be abroad for an extended period of time (so overseas transactions don't come as a security surprise). Again, it is also a good idea to have someone in the United States (e.g. parents) have joint access to your U.S. account. This is a good "safeguard," for in the case something were to happen to your ATM card while abroad, you could still get access to your money.

You should also ensure that you have your daily withdrawal limit on your U.S. account lowered to a maximum of ZAR1000 / day to protect you in the event of ATM fraud. Be careful when and where you use your ATM card. ATM fraud is common, so it is best to use ATMs located in a public area and without strangers around. Never allow someone to "help" you with your ATM transaction. ATMs located on the UCT campus are easily accessible and safest during the day.

Credit Cards: Most major U.S. credit cards can be used worldwide and are extremely valuable in a financial emergency. It is highly advisable to obtain a major credit card in your name (not the name of a parent) before studying abroad. Master Card and Visa are the most widely accepted cards worldwide. Be sure to record your credit card number and emergency card numbers in a separate place in case your card is stolen or lost.

Important Tips:

- Not all merchants accept credit cards, regardless of the name brand. Past participants have found it difficult using a Discover Card or American Express as they are not as widely accepted.
- Be aware that credit card companies do charge a fee for "cash advances" if you choose to take money out of an ATM using a credit card. Be sure you know what these fees are before you leave the U.S. as well as the maximum daily withdrawal.
- Before you leave for South Africa, make sure to get a confidential four-digit international identification number to use with your credit card while you are overseas.
- Typically, the amount charged to your credit card bill is based on the exchange rate on the day that your bank or credit card company processed the transaction.

PACKING

The climate in South Africa is generally milder than in some parts of the United States and Europe, and the temperatures do not reach the extremes that they do here. Keep in mind, however, that the seasons are reversed and that you will be arriving to the opposite season. When you arrive in June/July, it will be winter in Cape Town and temperatures will be between 3C and 18 C (38F and 65F). Winter is also the rainy season so a good rain jacket is a must! In February, it will be summer in Cape Town and can get quite hot (temperatures vary between 15C and 35C (59F and 95F). In Cape Town, summer time is very casual, with students wearing shorts and T-shirts to lectures. Don't forget to bring or buy an excellent sunscreen with a high protection factor, as the sun can be fierce.

Cape Town has a Mediterranean climate, with dry summers and wet winters. A raincoat will be very useful to you because umbrellas are somewhat useless in Cape Town against the strength of winter winds; however, you may wish to bring a travel size umbrella. Bear in mind that, in winter, it may well feel cooler to you than the temperature would indicate. This is because most buildings do not have central heating. You will want to bring clothes that can be layered.

Besides clothes for class, you'll want to bring at least one dressier outfit (a dress for women, a coat and tie for men), something suitable for special events. Many formal / semi-formal events in South Africa ask that guests wear formal or traditional attire. It is also a good idea to have casual dress clothes (collared shirts, "non-tennis" shoes, etc.) if you plan on going out in downtown Cape Town. Most of the clubs require more "formal" dress.

Specific items you may want to bring:

- Medication, if you take a prescription drug on a regular basis (enough for your entire stay in Cape Town)
- Sleeping bag (if you want to go camping), also can be purchased at a cheap rate or rented in Cape Town
- Winter coat (not your heaviest)
- Raincoat
- Shoes for hiking or all-day walks
- Towels (can also be purchased cheaply in Cape Town)
- Sheets (can be purchased for about \$50)

ELECTRONICS

Electrical service is not identical throughout the world. South Africa's electricity runs on 230 volts, while the U.S. runs on 110 volts. Hence, if you plan to bring any electrical appliances (hairdryer, electric razor, radio, etc.), you will need to purchase in the U.S. both a converter for the voltage and an adapter to fit South African sockets. IAP advises students against bringing any appliances from the United States. Instead, we recommend that you purchase an inexpensive hairdryer or radio in South Africa—the money you spend will save you from blown fuses in your flat and fried converters.

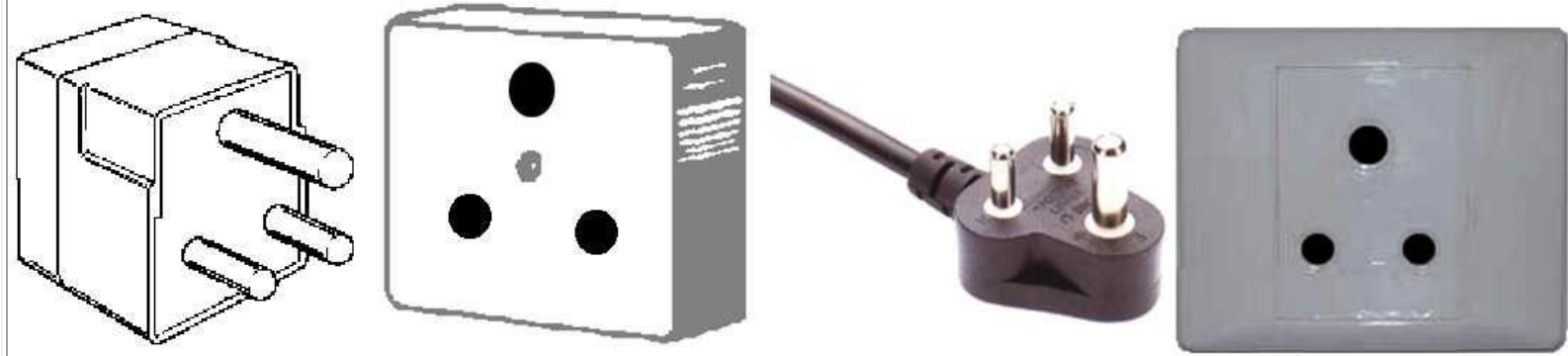
If you do decide to bring electrical appliances from the United States, make sure the converter (transformer) is suitable for the appliance. Computers require a higher capacity

than other appliances. Radio Shack, Best Buy, or another appliance store can help you find what you need. Make sure that you purchase both a converter and adapter. Be aware that sockets vary from country to country.

If you plan on taking a laptop computer with you, please make sure that the computer can operate on 240 volts or that you have the necessary transformer for the current. You will also need to purchase an adapter which enables you to plug your computer into an outlet. (The transformer may be hard to find in South Africa, but the adapter plug is easy to obtain in Cape Town.) Ask your nearest electronics or computer store where you can get a converter and adapter to fit your computer. Laptops can be very handy to have, but can be a high-risk theft item so make sure your computer is insured. You will not need to take a printer with you because you will have access to the printers in the computer lab.

TYPE M

(used almost exclusively in South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho)



Travel and Arrival

You are responsible for making your own flight arrangements to Cape Town. Typically, travel to South Africa involves two overnight flights, one from the United States to Europe and a second flight to Johannesburg and/or Cape Town. The International Academic Programmes (IAPO) recommends that students arrive one or two days before the orientation begins—enough time to begin to adjust to the time change (South Africa is six hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time in the United States), but not so far in advance as to wander around on your own before you have been briefed about safety. **Do not purchase your plane tickets until you have received official confirmation from UCT of your acceptance.**

Once you have made your travel arrangements you must notify IAPO and IAP of your travel dates, flights, and time of arrival. Please plan to arrive in Cape Town between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., if possible. Students arriving within the recommended times on the stipulated arrival days will be able to make use of a free airport shuttle service.

Upon arrival, students should look for the UCT/International Office staff at the airport, identifiable by signs that say "UCT Semester Study Abroad Students." Identify yourself to them and they will direct you to the shuttle. The driver will have instructions to take you to your temporary accommodations for your first few days in Cape Town. The shuttle service is free of charge and tipping is at your own discretion. It is not recommended that you try to make your own way from the airport to UCT; you will have traveled a very long time and are likely to be both exhausted and unfamiliar with the city.

The Academic Program

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

The University of Cape Town (UCT) was established as the South African College in 1829 and is South Africa's oldest university. Originally an institution providing schooling and some tertiary-level education for boys only, the college grew rapidly during the 1880s as South Africa itself entered a boom period. By 1918 the tertiary-level part of the College had become the University of Cape Town. In 1928 it moved to its current site of the main campus, which was originally part of Cecil Rhodes' estate on the slopes of Devil's Peak. During the period of apartheid, UCT was a whites-only university. However, today's campus has been transformed to reflect the diversity of the entire South African population in terms of students, faculty and staff.

Consisting of over 70 departments across 6 faculties, UCT is a university that is widely respected both in South Africa and throughout the world. Like UW-Madison, UCT is a university that prides itself on not only its undergraduate education, but also its graduate programs and the excellent research carried out by its faculty. The University offers programs in the major disciplines leading to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees.

UCT has an enrollment of about 22,000, from over 70 countries, and many of the students come from the countries in the Southern African Development Community such as Botswana and Zimbabwe. It also admits approximately 500 American study abroad students each year.

University of Cape Town www.uct.ac.za

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFICE

Wisconsin's program at UCT is a direct-enrollment program in which you will be enrolled in the same classes as South African students attending UCT. You will be expected to fulfill the same academic requirements and are subject to the same rules as other students at the University. There is no director for UW-Madison students on-site; rather, UCT's International Academic Programs Office (IAPO) will handle all arrangements for housing, guidance in class selection, and the pre-semester orientation.

International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO)
www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/semester/overview/

THE SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

The South African academic year is divided into two semesters, with the first semester beginning in February and concluding in mid-June and the second term running from mid-July to mid-November. In general, a bachelor's degree is a three-year program of study in South Africa, with students required to take four courses their first year, three courses in the second year, and two courses in the third year. As is customary in most university systems outside the United States, students are very specialized in their studies at the university level. Students are accepted into and enrolled in a single department and expected to take all their classes in that department. (More information about selection of classes for UW-Madison students is given in the following section.)

MATRIC EXEMPTION

All students registering at UCT must qualify for matriculation exemption. This means that you must either agree to take a voluntary placement test upon arrival at UCT or must take a notarized copy of your high school diploma. Please see the following letter from UCT:

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES OFFICE

3 & 4 Lovers Walk • Middle Campus
University of Cape Town • Rondebosch 7701 • South Africa
Tel: (+27 21) 650 2822 or 650 3740; Fax: (+27 21) 650 5667



18 November 2008

To: All Students Intending to Study as Semester Study Abroad or Exchange Students at the University of Cape Town

Matriculation Exemption as a Requirement to study at UCT
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With immediate effect, all students registering at UCT must qualify for matriculation exemption. This is a national statutory requirement. Our office will handle the costs and administration involved in making such applications to the Matric Board on behalf of our SSA / Exchange students. All students accepted to study at UCT through our office will be eligible for Matric exemption, and it is imperative that the administrative processes are completed.

There are two routes to access the exemption:

Preferred route:

Students agree to take a voluntary placement test on arrival at UCT. This test will take place during the orientation period. On the basis of the test results, we will be able to apply for the students' exemptions. There is no fee to take the test, no preparation is required.

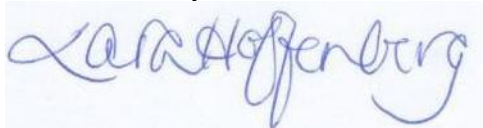
Alternative route:

Students could choose to provide either an original or a certified copy of their high school certificates / diplomas on arrival at UCT. Should the student choose to bring a copy, it should be certified correct by the **Registrar of a South African public university** or by a **South African Embassy, Consulate, High Commission or Trade Mission or Public Notary in a foreign country**. Sworn translations into English must accompany documents originally issued in another language. Unfortunately, copies certified by international universities or other institutions cannot be accepted.

We are aware that this issue has caused confusion and concern in the past, and there has been conflicting information sent out in this regard. However, it is now certain that the exemptions **MUST** be obtained. The simplest route to doing so is to take the test on arrival, and we would urge you to agree to use this preferred route.

Please reply to your Study Abroad Administrator to acknowledge that you have read and understood the contents of this letter, and indicate whether you will choose the preferred or alternative route.

Yours sincerely



Ms LD
Hoffenberg
Manager: Mobility and Links

ORIENTATION

UCT provides an onsite orientation that includes critical information about academic procedures, financial arrangements, and safety concerns. It is very important that all study abroad students attend this orientation. As part of the orientation, students will register for classes.

Typical events in the six-day orientation program include:

Guided tour of the Cape Peninsula - All-day tour of the Peninsula. The tour highlights the natural beauty of the Cape, including a visit to Cape Point, an opportunity to see the penguins at Boulders Beach, hiking, lunch and refreshments.

Information and activity day:

- Personal safety at UCT and in Cape Town
- International clearance information
- HIV and AIDS in South Africa and "culture shock"
- Matric Exemption requirements
- Travel opportunities
- Landlord briefing - discuss house rules, sort out payment of rental or deposits and answer questions
- Cell-phones / mobile phones - vendors available for purchases
- Walking tour of surrounding area to see location of shops, banks, etc

Academic advice and welcome to UCT:

- Academic advisers talk about course selections. There are also personal consultations.
- International clearance to register - bring passport and proof of payment of fees.
- Opening address by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Njabulo S Ndebele, at 17:00.
- Drum circle - wear comfortable clothes for drumming. This is an interactive event.
- Welcome reception - eats and soft-drinks are served. An African marimba band will be performing.

Community service day

- Cape Town in context including an overview of townships in the Cape and a history of the Students' Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO) - www.shawco.org/.
- Visits to community centres in the townships where you may volunteer through SHAWCO (UCT student-run charity) to work with those in need. Bring money for snacks and purchases.

Registration Day:

- All students must have received their International clearance prior to registration.
- Bring your passport and proof of payment of tuition fees.
- Registration takes place at the various faculties, but you must have your clearance letter from IAPO.
- After registration you will get your student card, assisted by Orientation assistants.

- Registration process begins at 08:00 and runs through till 13:00.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a learning disability that requires special arrangements (e.g., additional time for exams), contact IAP at UW-Madison prior to departure to initiate arrangements. IAPO requests that you bring official documentation with you about your condition and the academic accommodations made for you at Wisconsin. Upon arrival, you will be assessed by UCT Student Health practitioners and appropriate recommendations will be made on your behalf to the Exams Office.

In special cases, students with a physical or learning disability may be given permission to have extra time to write examinations. If you qualify for extra time at your home institution, please bring proof of this from UW-Madison, as well as supporting medical documents, and make your needs known to staff at IAPO early in the semester. Alternatively, you could be assessed at the UCT Student Health Services—ask at IAPO for details.

COURSE INFORMATION

Courses: A wide range of courses are available, course offerings and descriptions are available in the UCT Faculty Handbooks at www.uct.ac.za/students/undergraduates/handbooks/. You can also learn more about the UCT Faculties and Departments by visiting www.uct.ac.za/faculties/list/. UW-Madison's agreement with UCT permits students to enroll for classes in the faculties of *Humanities* (which includes many social science departments such as Anthropology and Political Science); *Science*; *Engineering*; and *Commerce*. UW-Madison students may not be able to take classes in the faculties of Law and Medicine.

You will only be allowed to take courses in a department if you meet the requirements for the courses. For example, a student will not be able to take a 300-level political science at UCT if s/he has never taken a political science course on the UW-Madison campus prior to studying abroad. Students who participate on the UCT program for one semester (either fall or spring semester) can only select their courses from among the semester-long classes at UCT. Students who plan to attend for the full calendar year (both fall and spring semesters) may select their courses from among the semester-long and year-long courses. Please note that "Intro to Earth and Environmental Science" will not be granted UW-Madison credit in Environment Studies.

When selecting courses, you need to be aware that courses are coded to reflect the year of study, as well as the semester of offer. In general, you learn the following from the course code:

Example of a course code:		ELL104F	
ELL	=	department code	= English Department
1**	=	100-level course	= first year level / introductory course
F	=	first semester	= February – July

When applying for courses, bear in mind that you may need to have passed courses in the same, or a similar, discipline to be admitted to senior courses (200-, 300-level) courses in that discipline.

Also note the semester of offer of a course, and select courses which will be offered during your planned period at UCT.

F	=	first semester (Spring semester at Madison)
S	=	second semester (Fall semester at Madison)
W	=	whole calendar year
H	=	whole calendar year
Z	=	consult IAPO for details

Other guidelines:

- Students have one week after arrival to add courses.
- Students cannot take UCT honors courses.
- Students who plan to take English courses at UCT must sign up for seminars prior to arrival at UCT.
- Difference between lecture and seminars/tutorials:
A lecture is a scheduled time and listed in the timetable. Seminars/tutorials are in addition to the lectures (equivalent to UW-Madison “discussions”) and students can select from a number of options, which meet at different times or days of the week.

Registration: The UCT application form asks students to pre-select courses. Students enrolled in the UCT exchange through IAP can take courses offered by the Faculties of Commerce, Engineering & the Built Environment, Humanities, and Science. Please be aware that course offerings may change from time to time and a course you may have chosen may not be offered upon your arrival to UCT.

Prior to your arrival, IAPO will send the courses you requested on your UCT application to each department for authorization. You will receive confirmation of your acceptance once the departments have accepted your course requests. Depending on the department, you may have to submit additional information for a specific class prior to departure.

Past participants warn that the registration process can be long and complicated (particularly if you try to change classes from what you originally submitted on your UCT application form), and can involve spending nearly a day waiting in line with other students. UCT registration is not computer based and frequently requires you to visit each individual professor to change or approve classes.

When you arrive at UCT you may seek advice from any of the Heads of Departments (IAPO can direct you appropriately) or through the IAPO academic advisor. Students should bring a copy of their UW-Madison transcript to Cape Town to have available during academic advising and registration. Details will be made available at the orientation at UCT.

Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF): Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF). Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

CREDITS

Conversions: The undergraduate courses at the University of Cape Town are offered as first, second and third year courses. In general a South African bachelor’s degree is a three-year degree. First-year courses (100-level) carry 3 credits each, Second-year (200-level) courses carry 4 credits each, and third-year courses (300 or 400-level) carry 6 credits. Students studying on the UCT program through IAP will receive UW-Madison credits as follows:

Course Level at UCT	Number of Contact Hours	UW-Madison credits
100 Level courses	45 contact hours over the course of the semester	3
200 Level courses	60 contact hours over the course of the semester	4
300 Level courses	60 contact hours over the course of the semester	6
400 Level courses	60 contact hours over the course of the semester	6

Limits and Load: In selecting courses at UCT, study abroad students should choose no more than 4 courses per semester. The recommended course load for American study abroad students is 12 to 15 credits per semester, this is considered a full academic load, equivalent to that of full-degree students. Depending on the mix of courses, students will be enrolled in 2 to 4 classes.

PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT

Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS

Undergraduate courses at the University of Cape Town are usually assessed through a combination of essays, assignments, tests, class participation/presentation, and examinations. Exams usually count for a significant proportion of the final course result. The examination system may differ from that used at UW-Madison. Examination timetables are set centrally by the University and are not flexible. All students take the course examination at the same time, in a predetermined venue. Examination timetables are published by the Faculty Offices, and a copy is available at IAPO. You should arrange your travel plans bearing in mind that the last day of term could well be the last day of your examinations – don't plan to do anything until after that day.

UW-Madison study abroad participants will be expected to fulfill the same requirements in their classes at UCT as South African students registered in the class and to take the exams at the times they are scheduled for all students. UCT grades will be converted to UW-Madison grades based upon the following scale.

University of Cape Town	UW-Madison
73-100%	A
65-72%	AB
61-64%	B
55-59%	BC
49-54%	C
48%	D
0-47%	F
AB (absent from examination)	F
DPR (permission to write exam refused)	F

Living Abroad

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's population is estimated to be about 44 million. The climate of South Africa is mostly dry and sunny, lying just to the south of the Tropic of Capricorn. The major influence on the climate is the topography and the surrounding oceans. There are 11 official languages, but most people speak Isi-Zulu and/or English, as well as their mother tongue. The most widely spoken African languages are Isi-Zulu and Isi-Xhosa. The most widely spoken languages in Cape Town are Isi-Xhosa, English and Afrikaans. Afrikaans was developed from the High Dutch of the 17th century. Afrikaaners (as the descendents of the Dutch are named) abandoned the complicated grammar of the Dutch language and adopted vocabulary from French, English, indigenous African and even Asian languages.

South Africa offers a wide diversity of plant, animal and bird species. Climates range anywhere from Mediterranean (called Fynbos by South Africans) Climate in Cape Town to desert, grasslands, deciduous forest and alpine distributed throughout the country. The landscapes in South Africa are just as diverse as the people that live there.

All Africa <http://allafrica.com/southafrica/bydate/?n=32>

ZA Govt. Page www.gov.za

ZA Parliament www.parliament.gov.za

ANC Home Page www.anc.org.za

Inkatha Freedom Party www.ifp.org.za

Congress of South African Trade Unions www.cosatu.org.za

Truth & Reconciliation Commission www.doj.gov.za/trc/index.html

Institute for Justice and Reconciliation www.ijr.org.za

Recommended Readings

- Alexander, Neville. *An Ordinary Country*
- Biko, Steve. *I write what I like: Selected Writings*
- Coetzee, John. *Disgrace*
- Goodman, David. *Faultlines: Journeys in the New South Africa*
- Krog, Antjie. *Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa*
- Mandela, Nelson. *Long Walk to Freedom*
- Sindiwe, Magona. *Living, Loving and Lying Awake at Night*
- Sparks, Alistair. *Tomorrow is another country*
- Thompson, Leonard. *A History of South Africa*
- Wolpe, Harold. *Race, Class and the Apartheid State*
- Zakes, Mda. *Ways of Dying, The Heart of Redness*
- *The Lonely Planet: Africa on a Shoestring*
- *The Rough Guide South Africa*
- *Let's Go South Africa*
- Stuart R. Rose, *International Travel Health Guide*

CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is the capital of Western Cape Province and the parliamentary capital of South Africa. The city is dominated by Table Mountain, a 1000m high, flat-topped mountain with virtually sheer cliffs, and surrounded by mountain walks, vineyards and beaches. For decades, Table Mountain has enjoyed unparalleled status as the country's top tourist attraction. Today, both the mountain and the world-renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at its base continue to attract more than 2 million visitors a year. Cape Town accommodates a range of activities from hiking, climbing, camping and abseiling to water sports, diving, surfing and golf. There is no shortage of beautiful landscapes or activities to fill your days.

Cape Town www.cape-town.org

Mail and Guardian www.mg.co.za/default.asp

Independent Newspapers www.iol.co.za

Cape Times www.capetimes.co.za

HOUSING

On-campus housing at UCT, as at all universities in South Africa, is limited and it is not possible for study abroad students to be accommodated in the residence halls on campus. The International Academic Programs Office (IAPO) has employed Meg Goedhals to find suitable housing for all students on their study abroad program. Direct all housing questions and inquiries to Meg.

Students typically live in houses or apartments with other international students (typically from Europe and/or the United States). The accommodations listed with the IAPO are all within walking distance (20 to 40 minutes) of the campus, or a short public transport journey away. Visit

www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/semester/services/offcampus/accommodation/ for more detailed housing information.

The shared apartments/houses will have one or more bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen, and living room. Some may have a bath, others a shower; most will not have both. All accommodation is fully furnished and includes basic bedroom furnishings (bed, desk, chair, cupboard); bedding and bed linen (pillow, duvet, blanket); kitchen equipment, including cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils; fridge, stove, and a furnished communal living area. Most houses have laundry facilities and those that don't either have a laundry service or are located close to a Laundromat. All houses are secured with burglar bars and security gates. Electricity, water and cleaning services are included in the rental amount. Some accommodation has a pay-as-you-go electricity system—In those cases electricity will not be included in the rent but will be an extra expense.

Upon your acceptance by UCT, secure housing as soon as possible by submitting the Housing Choice Form at

www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/semester/services/offcampus/booking/ to Meg. The form gives you an opportunity to rank which area you would like to live in (Rondebosch, Rosebank, Mowbray or Observatory – refer to the following page for a map of these

areas) and the price range you would like to pay. There will be a booking fee required with your form. This amount, however, is deductible from the total rental amount that will be due for the semester's accommodation. If you do not pay this booking fee, accommodation will not be secured on your behalf.

Landlords "sell" the accommodation in blocks of 5 months. By committing to take the accommodation you are committing to paying for the full 5 months. After arrival in Cape Town, landlords will provide payment information for housing and rental deposits. The most common payment method is to do a bank transfer into the landlord's account. Very few landlords have the ability to accept credit cards, and students should not carry or attempt to pay in cash.

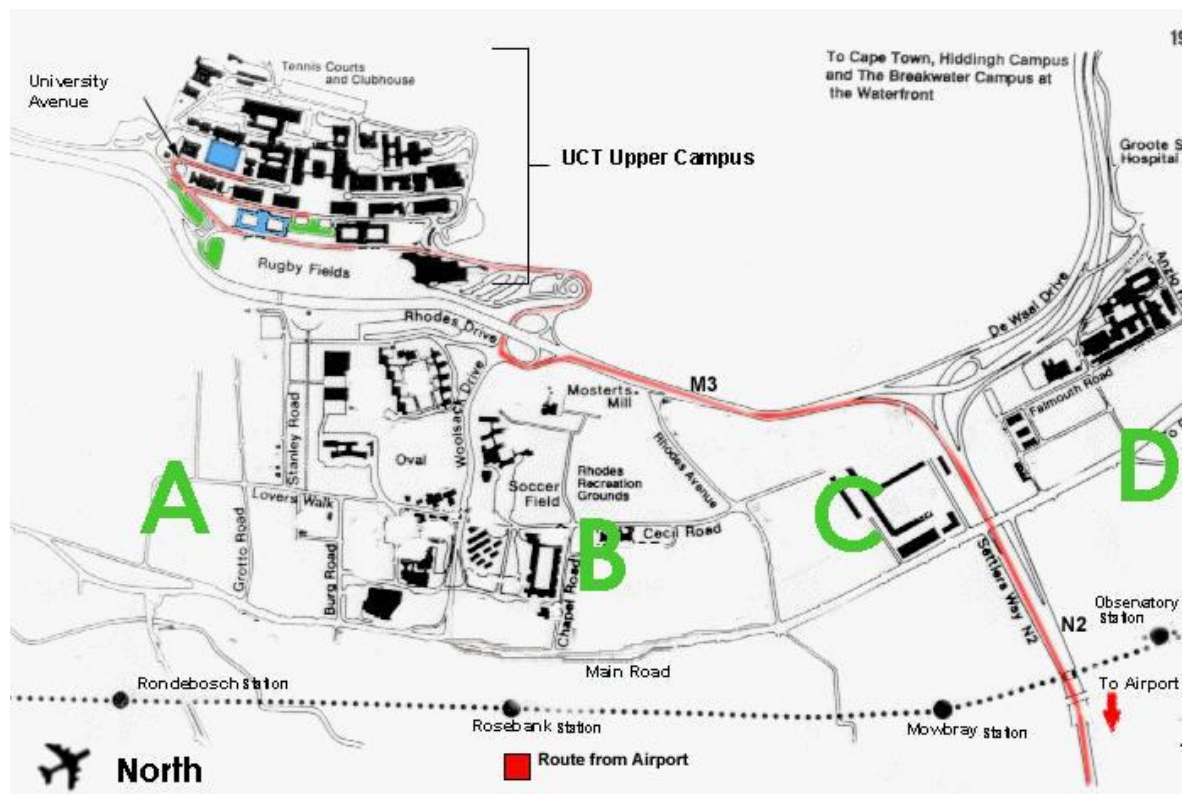
Accommodation Locations

Area A - Rondebosch: approximately 2 km from Rondebosch Station to upper campus

Area B - Rosebank: approximately 2 km from Rosebank Station to upper campus

Area C - Mowbray: approximately 3 km from Mowbray Station to upper campus)

Area D - Observatory: approximately 4.5 km from Observatory Station to upper campus



STUDENT LIFE

Just as in Madison, UCT offers a wide range of clubs and activities for students to participate in. Students can join sport activities or clubs, which are commonly great opportunities to meet South Africans. Clubs made available to students range anywhere from organized sports, such as soccer, rugby and cricket to more outdoor adventure activities such as the climbing, camping and surfing. Students may also participate in academic organizations such as debate club or political clubs. Many students participate in the student run organization (SHAWCO) as well, which places students in service learning programs. It has no cost, and is very well organized. Placements include schools, social service agencies, and other opportunities.

SHAWCO and Community Service: The opportunity to offer service to the disadvantaged communities of Cape Town is a highlight of many students' study abroad experience. South Africa has inherited a fractured, complex social and political system, where resources are not adequate to meet the needs of the people. The legacy of apartheid is still with us, and through community service, we can attempt to redress some of the injustices of the past, by contributing to the future of communities in need.

IAPO has offered study abroad students the opportunity to volunteer for community service through SHAWCO for several years. During the orientation program, students are taken to the various community service sites. At each site students are welcomed by the communities who benefit from the work done there and given first-hand knowledge of the difference their contribution could make. Community service sites offer a variety of volunteer opportunities including: working with students after school to help them be more academically successful, helping organize and run community centers, and working with students and communities through music and agriculture. After visiting each of the sites, volunteers are enlisted at the end of the day in the community service site of their choice.

A student may choose to volunteer for as many, or as few, hours per week as fits well with their academic program. A certificate of participation is issued at the end of the semester if a minimum of 35 hours of service has been completed.

TRANSPORTATION

Cape Town offers many forms of transportation including trains, buses and taxis. Taxis are more expensive than buses and trains; however, the trains and buses stop working early in the evening. It is recommend that students not make use of buses or trains outside of regular commuter hours (07h30 – 17h30, Monday to Friday).

It is highly recommended that students make use of the Boogie Bus. The Boogie Bus allows you to make appointments (even at night) to be picked up by the driver and driven to a specific destination. This is ideal for a ride home from a night on the town, or for sight-seeing trips to scenic places in the local area, such as Hermanus (whalewatching), Franschoek (wine tasting) etc. Contact Steve of the Amazing Boogie Bus Co. at (0)82 495 5698. It can also be a good idea to consistently use the same taxi driver. This can typically save you money in the long run.

SAFETY

Personal vigilance is key to remaining safe in South Africa. Like any big city throughout the world, Cape Town has its share of crime. South Africa is experiencing rapid political, social and economic change, and does have an undesirable incidence of crime, particularly petty theft. It is also a society where guns and other weapons are as prevalent as in the United States. Although Cape Town is relatively safe, you must be careful about what you do and where you go. You will hear about safety in your pre-departure orientation as well as in your onsite orientation conducted by IAPO. Speakers and resources at the onsite orientation will include other students and campus security officers. In addition, IAPO will issue you an emergency phone contact list during your onsite orientation, members of IAPO staff are available 24 hours a day in case of emergencies. Read the following information carefully and also read the "Safety" section of the IAP Study Abroad Handbook to prepare yourself to take appropriate precautions for your personal safety while in Cape Town.

General Rules and Suggestions about Safety in Cape Town:

- Tourists are common targets of pickpockets. Be aware of your backpacks and cameras, especially on crowded buses.
- Keep valuables in a locked place. Do not carry large sums of money, wear expensive jewelry, or obviously display valuable items (cameras, iPods, laptops, etc.) when you walk on the street.
- Do not carry your passport with you on a daily basis. A photocopy of the front page should be adequate.
- Avoid leaving belongings in a parked car.
- Lock your room/house/apartment when you are not home.
- Use common sense just as you would in any other big city. Do not walk alone at night, go with other students, and take the taxi service recommended by IAPO (the Boogie Bus) to get back to your apartment or house. Avoid trains, buses and minibus taxis at night, and never use them at night alone.
- Go into a shop or ask security personnel for directions. Do not stop strangers in the street.
- Cape Town drivers are among the worst in the world, be very cautious of the traffic.
- Avoid exploring unfamiliar areas of town on your own.
- Report to the appropriate authorities, including the International Academic Programmes Office, any harassment or threatening situation which you may experience.
- Know where you can reach someone in case of an emergency. IAPO provides all study abroad students with an emergency phone sheet, and members of IAPO staff are contactable 24 hours a day, should the need arise.

All study abroad students will register at their embassy during the orientation period. IAPO will also retain copies of your medical insurance details on file, should the need arise to consult these during an emergency. It is your own responsibility to keep IAPO, your family and friends at home, and IAP informed of your address and contact details throughout your stay. IAPO also asks students to record their travel plans with their office, prior to departure (many students spend some time traveling through Southern Africa during their stay).

Safety near the water

Tragic water accidents at the sea near Cape Town happen quickly, mostly due to a lack of safety knowledge. The following tips cover water safety as well as protection measures to take if you are planning on swimming near Cape Town.

- Read and obey the beach regulations and follow instructions or advice from lifeguards.
- Make sure you know how to swim if entering the sea.
- Swim in areas supervised by a lifeguard – usually in a zone between two red and yellow flags.
- Never swim alone.
- Swim parallel to the shore if you wish to swim a long distance.
- If caught in a rip current, swim sideways until free and don't swim against the current's pull.
- Avoid swimming near rocks, piers, jetties and breakwaters.
- Stay clear of coastal dune cliffs as they can collapse suddenly.

Safety on the UCT Campus

On the UCT campus, Campus Protection Services (CPS) operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. CPS has a 24-hour hotline 650-2222/3 (use the last four digits only if calling from a UCT extension). CPS operates from six service centres:

Burnage House - adjacent to Leo Marquard Hall, in Burnage Road, just off Main Road, Rosebank
Upper Campus - Robert Leslie Social Sciences Building, University Avenue
Middle Campus - Kramer Building
Medical Campus - Barnard Fuller Building
Forest Hills Residence - Main Road, Mowbray
Hiddingh Campus - Orange Street, Cape Town

Shuttle Services

The Jammie Shuttle provides convenient and safe bus transport between UCT campuses and residences during term time. Jammie Shuttle provides a constant service during the day (Monday through Friday 07:30-18:00), but also operates a night service (Monday through Thursday 18:30-01:00, Friday 18:30-22:00). Pick-up points include:

Leo Marquard / Tugwell
Forest Hills / Varietas Residence
Liesbeeck Gardens
Clarinus

Medical School
Hiddingh Hall

The Jammie Shuttle Offices are located at Lower Campus near Leo Marquard Residence. For more information, contact Jammie Shuttle at (0)21 685 7135 or www.uct.ac.za/students/services/transport/jammie/.

Safe Escort Service

In the event that the Jammie Shuttle does not function (after 01:00), CPS offers assistance to students by escorting them on foot or giving them a lift from campus to their residences. However, please understand that CPS's core function on campus is not transportation of patrons; some patience is required because of delays when their officers may be attending to other problems.

Tips for Protecting Yourself on the UCT campus

- Remember you are safer when walking in a group, especially at night.
- Practice using the "Blue Safe Walk," the preferred pedestrian route, when walking in University property - you have the advantage of being close to the emergency phones and the area is monitored by surveillance cameras.
- Avoid walking in dark and deserted areas and stay away from "short cuts"

Visit www.uct.ac.za/students/health/campussafety/ for further information about safety on the UCT campus.

HEALTH

The Center for Disease Control recommends several inoculations for travelers to South Africa. For more complete and detailed information go to the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/travel/safrica.htm. Also, check with your health care provider about recommended vaccinations. See your doctor at least 4 to 6 weeks before your trip to allow time for the required series.

South Africa has a modern, excellent health system, and you will find facilities and services comparable to what is available to you at home. UCT maintains an on-campus health service for registered students called Student Health Services and UW-Madison students are eligible for their services. When using the Student Health Services you must present your UCT student registration card on each visit and bring details of your private health insurance (CISI Insurance Card).

Consultations are by appointment only except in medical emergencies. These may be with a medical practitioner or a nurse practitioner. Consultations with medical practitioners are charged at medical aid rates. Consultations with nurse practitioners are free of charge. For unpredictable conditions/acutely ill students, there is a walk-in period daily. Contact the Student Health Service directly for their hours and the times designated as the walk-in period:

Student Wellness Service
28 Rhodes Avenue
Mowbray
650 1017/1020
689 7561 fax

It is also possible to fill prescriptions (written by South African doctors) on-campus in the Students' Union Building or in one of the nearby pharmacies. It is recommended, however, that if at all possible you bring a semester's supply of any prescription medicines you regularly take as ingredients in medications sometimes vary from one country to another. (Remember to keep them in their original containers.) IAPO asks that you declare any known illnesses/allergies, in confidence, to the staff here so that they have access to special needs information, should an emergency arise.

HIV/AIDS: As in much of sub-Saharan Africa, the incidence of AIDS and HIV is very high in South Africa. Recent estimates are that perhaps 25% of men and women are HIV-positive, and in some urban areas the rate of infection is likely to be even higher. Moreover, it is men and women in their 20's who are most likely to be infected. The two most common ways in which HIV is passed in Africa are through heterosexual sex and exposure to contaminated blood supplies. Although the latter is less likely to be a concern in South Africa, where medical facilities in most urban areas are good, transmission through heterosexual sex remains a risk. Remember too that women are especially easily infected and that there is no cure for AIDS. We recommend that you practice safe sex at all times. You may wish to bring a supply of condoms with you from home, and to replenish this supply with local purchases.

COMMUNICATION

Phone: When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always "1") followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial "011", the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card. Students may want to consider purchasing a cell phone in Cape Town for communication purposes.

Email: UCT provides students with a UCT email account and computer facilities. Campus computer labs are open 9:00 to 21:00; however there may be a wait for a computer. Students must have an access card in order to use the labs. There are additional fees for printing. IAPO has four computers for email, and they are accessible from 8:30 to 16:30, Monday through Friday.

Internet cafes are available in locations near where you will live. These internet connections are commonly quicker than the ones on campus and can be convenient for "after hours" email use. Pre-pay plans can be purchased at these cafes for a relatively

low rate. Some past participants of the program recommend bringing a laptop. Students are able to register their laptops and use them in computer labs on campus.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

International Academic Programs (IAP) at UW-Madison:

www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

University of Cape Town IAPO

<http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/intlapplicants/semester/overview/>

General Orientation Information:

www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/index.html

(includes topics such as culture shock, international travel, etc.)

U.S. State Department:

travel.state.gov

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:

<http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/>

Center for Disease Control:

www.cdc.gov/travel/

Current Exchange Rates:

www.x-rates.com

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:

<http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/>

Student Testimonials

The testimonials below are from past participants; they reflect various students' experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

PACKING

I brought two large suitcases that I checked and a backpack and tote that I carried-on. Rolling clothes will allow you to fit more in, but be very conscious of the weight because airlines may charge a lot if you are over the limit.

I had plenty of stuff (probably more than I needed), however, had I needed something, I'm sure I would have had relatively no trouble finding it somewhere around Cape Town.

Make sure to bring warm clothes for the winter (June-August) if you'll be there then.

Have shoes that are waterproof and warm, for hiking, etc.

If you plan to travel to the eastern coast, around the Kruger Park and up into Mozambique, you will most likely need anti-malaria medication, which you should get from your doctor in the States before you leave.

Pack a couple changes of clothes in your carry on bag in case your suitcases get lost.

You can get almost anything you need in Cape Town, so don't pack too much stuff.

It was colder than I thought it would be and I was glad that I brought a sweatshirt and jacket.

ARRIVAL

I booked my flight through STA here in Madison. My flight was fairly expensive (at about \$2,000) and had I changed my return ticket, it would have cost me another \$200. Plus, going through KLM, there are not that many flights going in and out per week so they fill up fast.

You should make sure that your ticket has a flexible return date, or a minimal fee for changing the date. Many students ended up changing their dates to travel longer after the program ended.

My flights were convenient, though not easily changeable. I think South African Airways allows more freedom with your ticket.

Getting to your housing from the airport is all arranged ahead of time through the IAPO office of UCT and there is a bus waiting for you when you get there (very welcoming and convenient).

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

Money was not much of a problem for me. I used my Visa check card to access my checking and savings accounts and had a credit card for unexpected expenses that might have come up. ATMs are all over and take most major card brands and I used both cash and my check card to make most of my purchases. I was able to keep track of my account balances through online banking, which I recommend. I thought the cost estimates were fairly accurate and I spent pretty much what I expected. However, I would have probably budgeted more for traveling than I did.

Traveler's checks work well; you can cash them at numerous banks around the city. Also, I withdrew money from my checking account from home at ATMs, but watch out for the fee. Dealing with money wasn't a major problem in South Africa, but if deciding to travel to adjacent countries plan ahead for crowded banks or no ATMs.

Have 2 credit cards if possible just in case something happens to one of them. Don't bring them both with you at the same time though. If you do, don't have them both in the same bag.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The courses were fine, but I still feel that the professors and quality of education is better in Madison.

As an English major, a lot of the literature that I read was really interesting that dealt with African issues in general or South Africa specifically.

In order to meet South Africans I would encourage taking at least one course that isn't focused on international themes, as those courses seem to be mainly for international students.

UCT is a very cool and beautiful campus with a lot going on, though organization is not always there.

The classes I took had similar work-loads to that at the UW, but sometimes I felt as though professors and instructors were not always clear about assignments and for what exactly they were looking.

I felt I had lots of time to explore Cape Town and spend time with friends.

Try to pick classes that won't have a huge lecture or ones that you think you will be with native South Africans (usually 300-level courses), and be able to talk with them. I had a tutorial (discussion) where I was the only American in the class, and it was a really refreshing experience. I will also never forget taking a Xhosa language class at UCT--I learned so much about the culture and was then able to speak a bit with people I would meet.

The grading at UCT is much different than at UW Madison, as in general the material is less demanding but the grading much more difficult.

Teachers come from around the globe so I was able to meet many professionals from many backgrounds.

I averaged about 3 papers a week in my 4 classes while at UCT. I selected the academic level to be about the same not because it actually required the level of intelligence as UW-Madison, but because I had to do so much research myself. The actual amount of information I learned during lecture was minimal, but was during all the projects and papers I was assigned.

LIVING ABROAD

Sign up for clubs at UCT. You can get into 3 for free. Mountain and ski club members can rent tents for free* Surf club offers lessons and rentals (2hrs every thurs and fri for 100R). Sign up in advance.

You MUST branch out from the comfort of the residence and American/European friends you make, no matter what! Get to know the locals, make friends with them and try hard to learn about the South African culture from their perspective. That is what you're there for. Most of the people you will meet are going to be SO friendly and open, so you must be the same in order to get the best experience.

Don't spend too much time on schoolwork, the Cape Town region is just AMAZING to explore and become familiar with. Travel around as much as you can, meet as many people as you can and challenge yourself every day, and you will never regret a thing.

You will notice the disparities between racial/ethnic backgrounds as soon as you arrive in Cape Town and most arise out of apartheid. The poverty and inequality is pretty obvious and difficult to deal with. It's hard to prepare yourself for the disparities, but know that you will be faced with them.

The term "colored" for describing people is not at all racist or seen negatively as in the States. Here there are four groups: Blacks, coloreds, Indians, and whites. (Classifications put forth during apartheid). Note that racial tensions today are not just between blacks and whites, but coloreds and blacks, Indians and blacks, Indians and coloreds etc...

I absolutely loved living in Cape Town and would do it again in heartbeat. It's a beautiful city and has so much to offer: from gorgeous landscapes and awesome beaches to enlightening culture(s) and interesting people. I can't imagine going there and not finding at least one thing to fall in love with.

For a store like Walmart/ Sams Club, google **Makro** (search for cape town locations). They sell tents and a bunch of other things that are not always easy to find elsewhere. (Plus the things are really cheap in bulk).

HOUSING

I thought the housing for international students was great. Most of the foreign students were placed in flats, houses, or apartments with other foreign students (anywhere from 2 to about 20 per residence). The housing was more than adequate and all (or almost all) had domestic workers that came in and cleaned on a weekly basis.

I lived in a house with other international students. It was really fun but it made it more difficult to meet locals.

There are three main areas of town where you could be placed for your housing. Rondebosch is a nicer area with many families and children. Observatory is the area filled with bars and restaurants and reminded me a bit of State Street. The quality of housing isn't quite as high. Mowbray is in between and is pretty residential.

TRANSPORTATION

Domestic travel in South Africa is pretty easy. There are several very affordable bus lines that go to and from all the major cities, as well as "back-packer" type travel companies such as the Baz Bus. There are several domestic airlines and most are pretty affordable, as well.

To get to UCT via minibus, get off at the PicknPay (grocery store) in Rondebosch and walk up to campus across the street. *Jammie busses will take you directly to campus for free... take these. They also go to different places in the city (such as Cavendish mall from campus). From Observatory to upper campus, take the Rochester, Clarinus, or University campus North Jammie busses. The walk from Observatory to upper campus is about 40 mins.

When minibuses are trying to get people to get in their taxi, they'll call out where they're headed and whistle and point at you. If you don't want to go, shake your head *no* to make them shut up or leave you be. Signs are also in front of most minibuses saying where it is headed. If you do want the ride, hop in and prepare to be crowded most of the time. Don't get out your money right away to pay the person collecting money and making sure the bus gets filled up. He'll reach back when he's ready for your money, or give it to other passengers if they are collecting the money to pass up towards the front. You will always get change if needed (don't bring big bills though (not over 50R... 10's and 20s are best).

TRAVEL

During orientation week all the international students were taken on tours of both the Cape of Good Hope and Robben Island (where Nelson Mandela was held as a prisoner). These were both essential trips and I loved them both.

Great things to see/do in Cape Town include hiking Table Mountain or taking the Cable Car up it, going to the Green Point Stadium market on Sundays for all your souvenirs, visiting Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, spending time at the beach at Camps Bay, walking the Waterfront, clubbing in downtown Cape Town, and volunteering or at least visiting one of the townships.

There's no need to carry your passport around. It's valuable on the black market and a pain to replace so just leave it at home in a safe spot. When traveling far from Cape Town (or to other countries obviously bring it). In Mozambique have it on you most of the time since the police there in general are pretty corrupt and may look for ways to give you a fine. *if you do have any troubles in Mozambique with the police and they're requesting a big fine (likely to be far more than what it should be after they hear your American accent), tell them to take you to the Embassy. It is your right to be taken there, and will likely be too big of a hassle for the officer so they'll likely scratch the fine.

Finally, when renting a car, never ever leave anything (even if it's worth like 10R) in view. Put it all in the trunk, dash, under seats etc. or bring it with you.

2 Way Travel is an independent organization that serves the foreign student market at UCT. The organization provides students with a one stop travel service while also organizing fun events that open up the city to the visitor. A popular overland camping trip to Botswana and Victoria Falls is offered each semester. Check out upcoming opportunities at: www.2waytravel.com

SAFETY

Females are more likely to be victims of mugging and shouldn't be outside at night alone. That being said, I knew several guys who were mugged and it is really recommended that no one be outside at night alone.

One thing I really wish they would have emphasized more is to NOT walk around alone or at night until you are familiar with safety precautions and the culture in Cape Town.

People need to be smart, they need to realize that they already most likely stand out in the culture, so best not to draw even more attention with an I-pod hanging around your neck or fancy jewelry while walking down the street.

If you're going to ride a minibus, always have your purse zipped. Also recommended if you're a girl and alone or if you have a lot of valuables with you, or if you haven't ridden many minibuses, that you don't get in a minibus that doesn't have at least a few people, and don't ride them at night.

COMMUNICATION

It is important to get a cell phone during the first few days (pay-as-you-go works well).

Buy a cheap phone so if it gets stolen you haven't lost a lot of money. Don't take your Blackberry with you as it places you as a target for robbery.

You have access to printers and free wireless internet at the UCT library. You also get an email account and access to their library system, which is great.