



COLLEGE OF  
ACCOUNTING

INSPIRING LEADERS. IGNITING OPPORTUNITY

# APC Professional Programme



# Table of contents

---

## 4 Welcome

from the Head of the College of Accounting

## 5 Welcome

from the UCT APC Professional Programme team

## 7 Results matter

No matter which way you look at it, our candidates perform better

## 8 Case studies

Take a look at our catalogue of past case studies

## 11 Candidate testimonials

Don't just take our word for it - take theirs

## 15 Programme information

Important information

## 16 Programme calendar

Here's how we'll get there together

# Welcome

from the Head of the College of Accounting

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## Dear Candidates

I write to you as the Head of the College of Accounting at UCT. I am delighted to welcome you to the UCT APC Programme for 2020.

Our team is committed to the success of our candidates. I believe that with the support offered by our programme, you will be well placed for the SAICA APC exam in November 2020.

Our vision is to be a centre of excellence in professional accounting education and since we introduced our APC Programme we have sustained excellence as reflected in our pass rates and in the quality of the content of our programme.

This year's exam marks the first of the new decade. Also in 2020, Tokyo will host the Summer Olympic Games. These are always a spectacle for the world to come together and celebrate excellence in sport and the endurance and success of athletes at the pinnacle of their careers.

Much like the athletes competing in the Olympic Games, you will need to excel, you will need to endure and you will need to finish the race. Therefore, as you walk the APC path, it is worth drawing inspiration from and living the three concepts that support the 2020 Olympic Games – *“Striving for your personal best”, “Accepting one another”* and *“Passing on a legacy for the future”*.

I wish you all the best for the year ahead.

**Prof Goolam Modack**  
**Head, College of Accounting**

# Welcome

from the UCT APC Professional Programme team

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## Dear Candidates

Congratulations on all you have already achieved on your journey towards qualifying as a CA(SA).

The Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) is significantly different from any assessment you have written, and requires a completely new way of thinking. We recognise that with change comes uncertainty, and together with excitement at the prospect of writing your final examination and obtaining your CA(SA) designation, you are probably feeling a measure of nervousness as you approach this year.

Our programme focuses on systematically equipping you with the skills you need both to effectively prepare for and write the SAICA APC, and to distinguish yourself as a newly-qualified CA(SA). We recognise that you are a busy trainee with competing claims on your time, and we have designed both the content and format of this programme to empower you to determine how and when you will engage most effectively with the content, and to provide you with personalised attention when you need it.

Our programme has a proud track record of success in the SAICA APC. In every year since 2014, the pass rate of candidates from our programme has exceeded the national average in the SAICA APC. We look forward to working with another class of motivated candidates this year. When combined with the investment of your time and effort, we believe our programme will set you up well for success in November 2020 and beyond.

**The UCT APC Professional Programme team**

“

As trainees, our lives can get quite busy but the programme seemed to have been designed keeping this in mind.

”

“

I enjoyed the weekly updates which were sent to us, not only about the course but also about what's happening in the world.

”

“

Extremely well-structured programme!

”

“

Great team and extremely accommodating. I had challenges, but they assisted me exceptionally well!

”

“

The UCT APC Professional Programme is a very beneficial programme and prepares a candidate for the assessments which lie ahead.

”

“

The personal feedback from the UCT marking team has exceeded my overall expectation. I think this is the most invaluable resource of the course!

”

“

I feel that my professional competence has developed substantially from what I have learnt in the Programme.

”

“

I love the fact that we get feedback throughout. By the time you start with the exams, you already know your weaknesses and you are able to work on them in preparation for the exam.

”

## APC November 2018

UCT's APC Professional Programme has been the top performing programme since the inception of the SAICA APC, exceeding the national pass rate every year

### First Time writers



**86%** Pass rate  
(UCT)



**71%** Pass rate  
(National average)



**5 out of 12**

UCT students on Honours Roll

### Previous years pass rates



2014



2015



2016



2017

# Case studies

Take a look at our catalogue of past case studies

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## Eleccom

**Industry:** Power Supplier

**Business Phase:** tbc



## Miraco Motors

**Industry:** Car manufacturer

**Business Phase:** Declining profitability



## Flexashop Ltd

**Industry:** Online Retailer

**Business Phase:** tbc



## Healthcore Limited

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals

**Business Phase:** Cash cow



## Mountaineer (Pty) Ltd

**Industry:** Clothing Retailer

**Business Phase:** tbc



## Fast Track Solutions (Pty) Ltd

**Industry:** Logistics

**Business Phase:** Start-up



## Headman International Ltd

**Industry:** Household goods

**Business Phase:** Business distress



Earthworx LTD

## Earthworx Ltd

**Industry:** Mining machinery

**Business Phase:** Business distress





Entrepreneurassist

### EntrepreneurAssist

Industry: Non-profit

Business Phase: Expanding



FORWARD FOOD  
DEVELOPMENT LTD.

### Forward Food Development (FFD) Limited

Industry: Research and Development

Business Phase: Start-up



USHUKELA  
LTD

### Ushukela Ltd

Industry: Farming

Business Phase: Declining profitability



### Freedom bank

Industry: Banking

Business Phase: Cash cow



BUILDCRETE LTD

### Buildcrete Ltd

Industry: Building & Construction

Business Phase: Business distress



### Value Ltd

Industry: Retail

Business Phase: Cash cow



TELENET

### TeleNet Ltd

Industry: Telecommunications

Business Phase: Cash cow



### Voyager Inn

Industry: Hospitality

Business Phase: Expanding



### Letsete Properties Ltd

Industry: Real estate

Business Phase: Expanding



### Star Ltd

Industry: Education

Business Phase: Cash cow

# APC Professional Programme

## Lecture 1

### Foundation Phase



Introduction to the UCT Case Study Method



Weekly assignments based on last year's SAICA case study



Individual feedback from UCT team

### Group Case Study



Pre-released information



Research triggers



On the day and tasks



Submit group assignment online



Group feedback from UCT team

## Lecture 2

### June assessment



Pre-released information



Research triggers



On the day and tasks



Write in venues



Individual feedback from UCT team

### Mastering Professional Competence



Focus on challenging tasks



Weekly assignments



Mentor meetings

### Recognising Professional Competence



Pre-released information



Research triggers



On the day and tasks



Submit own assignment online



Mark sample responses

## Lecture 3

### Final and supplementary programme assessments



Pre-released information



Research triggers



On the day and tasks



Write in venues



Individual feedback from UCT team

## Lecture 4

### SAICA APC

# Candidate testimonials

Don't just take our word for it - take theirs

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## 2018 COHORT



### Ursula Carter

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Cape Town

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** PwC

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** UNISA

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I chose the UCT board course as I was familiar with UCT's structure after completing the ITC board course with UCT. I liked the idea of having a mentor to guide me and provide support throughout the course whether it was required or not.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** I enjoyed the motivational emails we received as well as the detailed feedback and best practice examples. This enabled me to identify areas of improvement and plan my preparation accordingly with the limited time available.



### Sthabile Mbonambi

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Kwa-Zulu Natal

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** I am currently at Deloitte, Cape Town.

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** Rhodes University

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I chose the UCT APC programme because of its offering of continuous development. What I liked about the value proposition of this programme, as given in the presentation, is that it enabled me to see my progress on a weekly basis. I was allowed to develop certain skills (transactional writing, identifying triggers etc.) prior to approaching the scenario. This not only equipped me with the ability to prepare for my exams independently, but it also improved my confidence in answering questions.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** The UCT APC programme strikes an amazing balance of allowing me to be independent in approaching the scenarios on my own but also gives me adequate support in providing continuous feedback. I enjoy that I am allowed to learn and grow on my own but still get guidance.



### Vernon Hanslo

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Born and raised in Cape Town

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** BDO, Cape Town

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** University of Western Cape

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I chose the programme because of the course material and guidance that UCT provided when I first passed ITC. As the University helped me before, I chose to go back.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** I enjoyed working with the other trainees from the various firms, it helped broaden my perspective in preparation for the tasks and the tests. The course notes also proved valuable as it provided me with the opportunity for quick and easy revision.



### Naeela Moosajee

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** I am from Cape Town

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** Deloitte, Cape Town

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** University of Cape Town

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I chose the UCT programme as I completed my studies at UCT. I also liked the fact that there was continuous learning in the form of assignments.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** I enjoyed the course because the staff were friendly and motivating, the website was user-friendly and the content was up-to-date with the latest standards and technical aspects being made available to us. Thank you UCT APC Team.



### Phumlani Mbambo

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Richards Bay

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** Deloitte

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** UNISA.

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** Well from what I have now experienced with UCT, the rumours have proven to be true. Over and above the quality of the course content, UCT does indeed keep you on your toes, which is exactly what I was looking for. I knew there would be pressure from all different aspects of my life including work. I needed a programme that would keep me busy almost all the time and constantly give back good feedback so I could be well prepared for the APC exam written in November.

**WHAT DID YOU ENJOY ABOUT THE UCT PROGRAMME?** I have learnt so much from the UCT APC programme and going into the SAICA APC with so much confidence.

## 2019 COHORT



### Vuyolwetu Mabena

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Pretoria

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** Investec

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** UCT

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I am UCT Alumni and had a better sense of the method of teaching and the staff (which I was more than comfortable with).

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** I was told that the UCT course would require quite a bit of engagement and work from my side which will better prepare me for the APC. The more positive pass rates from previous APC exams over time (for UCT APC candidates). Particularly in light of last year's overall poorer pass rate for the APC.



### Kegan Shunmugam

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** I am from Johannesburg, South Africa

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?**

I am with EY – Johannesburg Office

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** I studied at the University of the Witwatersrand

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I did the ITC preparation course with UCT as well and found that I enjoyed the style and methods used and therefore decided to stick with UCT for the APC.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** The programme content was delivered in a very concise manner (which is important especially with balancing the APC with daily work life) and helped to prepare me well for the Board Course exams and the subsequent final APC exam. I thought the programme was well-structured and insightful. One of the highlights would have to be the personalised feedback received with the weekly assignments and with the actual exams written – This helps one focus on one's weak points and makes it easy to improve on.



### Adrienne Damant

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** I am from Johannesburg

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?**

I am with Deloitte Johannesburg

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** I studied at UCT

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** UCT APC Professional Programme's pass rate in the 2018 APC exam was around 80% compared to the overall pass rate of 64%. I picked UCT because, based on the pass rates, I felt like I would be picking the programme that would give me the best chance at passing the final APC exam in November.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** I liked the fact that the course was completed case study based (like the final APC exam) - you really got to practise exactly how you would write in November. In addition to this, the markers of the tasks take their time and provide constructive, detailed feedback so you know where you did well as well as areas to improve on.



### **Ramano Thilakalal**

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** I'm currently staying in Cape Town, but was born in Durban

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** I am completing my articles at PricewaterhouseCoopers Cape Town.

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** I completed my studies at the University of Stellenbosch

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I have heard great things about this programmes from past APC candidates. The presentation that was given also really helped as it was thorough and provided a full picture of what the programme had to offer.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** The set up of the course as a whole really fit into my work schedule and made me become more responsible in taking ownership of my studies and help me achieve a healthy work/studying lifestyle. Although there are quite a number of assignments they are set out over a realistic period allowing students to complete the tasks without feeling pressured. The feedback provided was really good and comprehensive. When looking at my answers again I could see where I faltered and what I could improve on, the fact that their feedback was so comprehensive and promptly given pushed me to make my best attempt at doing the assignments. As said above the course is not strenuous and really adapted to my schedule and empowered me to feel confident about the SAICA APC exam. Constant communication by the UCT team was helpful.



### **Darren MacDonald**

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** I am from Edenvale in the East of Johannesburg

**WHAT FIRM ARE YOU WITH (IF YOU ARE WITH ONE)?** I am signed with Deloitte, Johannesburg office

**WHERE DID YOU STUDY?** I studied at University of the Witwatersrand for under and post graduate studies

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE UCT APC PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMME?** I have heard great reviews from third year trainees based on their experience with the programme in their second year of articles and how it assisted with great preparation for the SAICA exam. The structure of the programme was appealing with the weekly assignments to keep you engaged with the work. I preferred engaging with the work in my own time (and with fellow candidates) and the course allowed me to do this.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME?** The programme is beneficial for keeping you consistently engaged with learning material and different tasks on a weekly basis. The marking process is thorough and provides constructive feedback of where you can improve and where you had been successful. The lectures placed online for each module are insightful and discuss the basics needed for the areas of the 'UCT Study Method'. This provides a foundation of the recommended way to undertake the course.



To improve your writing skills **you need to practice**. You will have ample opportunity to do so during the APC Professional Programme.



# Programme information

Important information to get you started:

## How to register

For more information, visit our website <http://uctboardcourse.co.za/>

If you have any questions, you can contact us on [info@uctboardcourse.co.za](mailto:info@uctboardcourse.co.za) or call us on **021 650 2269**.

If you'd like to register for the APC Professional Programme, you can register online at

<http://uctboardcourse.co.za/register-apc/>

## Important dates:

**Registrations open** : 02 September 2019

**Registrations close:** ~~March 2020~~

**Programme starts:** 30 March 2020

**Payment due:** 30 April 2020

## Payment fees and details

### 1. ONCE-OFF PAYMENT:

R13 100 by 30 April 2020

### 2. PAYMENT PLAN:

R13 900, paid as follows

**First instalment:** R4635 due 30 April 2020 | **Second instalment:** R4635 due 30 June 2020

**Third instalment:** R4630 due 31 August 2020

## Payment methods

Electronic funds transfer (eft)

**Firm payments:** Firms will be invoiced directly.

**Individual payments:** You will receive an invoice with all the necessary details.

# Programme Calendar

Success in the APC depends primarily on the hard work that you put in. Here's how we'll get there together:

ACTIVITY	DATE
Lecture Series One (30 March - 2 April 2020)	
Johannesburg	Monday, 30 March 2020
Cape Town	Tuesday, 31 March 2020
Durban	Wednesday, 1 April 2020
Port Elizabeth & East London	Thursday, 2 April 2020
Foundation phase (06 April - 01 June 2020)	
First individual submission	Tuesday, 14 April 2020
Second individual submission	Monday, 4 May 2020
Group submission	Monday, 1 June 2020
Lecture Series Two (08 June - 11 June 2020)	
Johannesburg	Monday, 8 June 2020
Cape Town	Tuesday, 9 June 2020
Durban	Wednesday, 10 June 2020
Port Elizabeth & East London	Thursday, 11 June 2020
June case study (20 June 2020)	
June case study pre-release	Friday, 12 June 2020
June case study exam	Saturday, 20 June 2020
Mastering Professional Competence phase (20 July - 07 August 2020)	
Recognising Professional Competence (11 - 21 August 2020)	
Lecture Series Three (24 - 27 August 2020)	
Johannesburg	Monday, 24 August 2020
Cape Town	Tuesday, 25 August 2020
Durban	Wednesday, 26 August 2020
Port Elizabeth & East London	Thursday, 27 August 2020
Final assessment (02 September 2020)	
Final assessment case study pre-release	Friday, 28 August 2020
Final assessment exam	Wednesday, 2 September 2020
Supplementary assessment (03 October 2020)	
Supplementary assessment case study pre-release	Friday, 25 September 2020
Supplementary assessment exam	Saturday, 3 October 2020
Lecture Series Four (02 - 05 November 2020)	
Johannesburg	Monday, 2 November 2020
Cape Town	Tuesday, 3 November 2020
Durban	Wednesday, 4 November 2020
Port Elizabeth & East London	Thursday, 5 November 2020