

Examples of UCT Knowledge Co-op projects

Identify good practice for screening and training of foster mothers for 'cluster foster care'.

UCT department: Social Development

Understand the special needs of sex workers around pregnancy in order to design a support programme.

UCT department: African Gender Institute

Finding out to what extent landowners in the Agulhas Plain support alien clearing programmes in the area.

UCT department: Geography

A programme trains teachers and parents in a way of reading with toddlers. The study assesses the impact on child literacy.

UCT department: Psychology

Students set up websites for community groups and teach computer skills.

UCT department: Information Systems



How to get involved:

Submit your idea for partnering with UCT by email or call us to discuss your ideas. You can also use the submission form on the website – you will find it under the projects tab.

If you have any ideas, please contact us!

barbara.schmid@uct.ac.za

know-op@uct.ac.za

+27 (0)21 - 650 4415



UCT KNOWLEDGE CO-OP

Putting knowledge to work for communities

www.knowledgeco-op.uct.ac.za

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Pictures depict the work of some of the partners the Knowledge Co-Op works with. Photographer: Michael Hammond



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COMMUNITY INFO

The UCT Knowledge Co-op encourages collaborative projects that link community organisations to students from suitable disciplines.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
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We invite community partners to approach us with topics or problems which require support. Students or lecturers may take on projects to give practical support or conduct research which will benefit both the community partners and UCT.



The process

- When community ideas are submitted to the UCT Knowledge Co-op, we search for **suitable partners** in the University and connect staff members and/or students with the community partner.
- Ideas may become **topics for research** by students or staff; others may be suitable for **practical involvement** or service learning.
- The UCT Knowledge Co-op will **help to find a fit** between the needs of both parties and to clarify the aims, time frame, approach to be followed and respective responsibilities.

We can help with:

Research projects

- **Research to inform your programmes.** Examples: what support do women need who use your services? How effective is the service you provide?
- **Collect information on an issue that you want to bring to the attention of the authorities.** Example: students collected evidence on why a footbridge was needed in a community; this helped a local women's group make a presentation to the City.
- **Solve a practical technical problem.** Example: which form of energy to use for pumping water.
- **Learn from the experience of others to solve your challenges.** Example: how to get your soup kitchen container insulated or get parents more involved in your school.

Practical support

- Design a website or a blog for you, or teach your staff **computer skills**.
- Social development masters students are available for three-month **internships**.
- Architecture students can offer **design-related support** (art classes, planning of outdoor spaces).

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Some FAQs

What makes a good topic?

Feel free to submit any suggestions, as long as they serve the common good. The Co-op will help find the angle that is suitable.

Who can apply?

Your organisation must be from the greater Cape Town area. Types of groups include community groups, NGOs or CBOs, local government, SMMEs, trade unions.

How long will a project take?

Research usually takes a year or two, but in some cases you may get a product within a few months.

What cost is involved?

There is no cost for the time of students and lecturers, but we require a contribution toward the costs of the project, depending on the means of your organisation.

We cannot provide funding or help with fundraising.



The NGO *Underdog* teaches at risk youth to train rescued dogs.