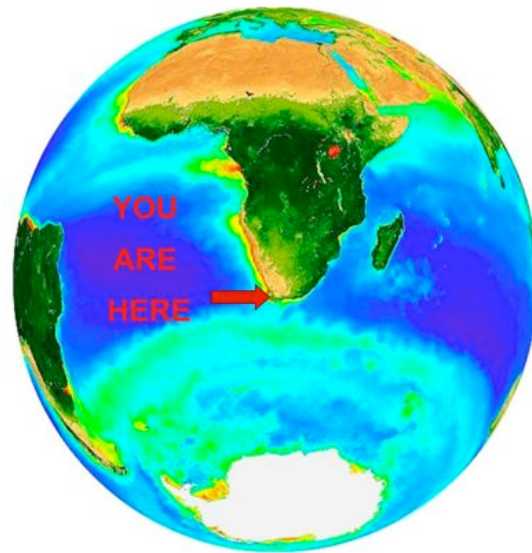


Introducing a NEW masters level course in

Climate Change Science

through the UCT Applied Marine Science Masters Programme



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

The words 'YOU ARE HERE' on the map above point to an area that is famously known as “the fairest cape of all”. This statement has never been truer than it is today and we present a new course that epitomizes this by focusing on three important questions:

- Why is Cape Town so special?
- Why would this be important in terms of Climate Change?
- How do we develop an African perspective on Climate Change?

Interested to know more about these questions? Then read on!

Climate change has become one of the most talked about and researched topics of science in recent times. The most persuasive reason for concern about climate change is the realization that today is a special moment in the history of our extraordinary planet Earth. More than this, it is Southern Africa, surrounded by three remarkably different oceans and graced with astonishing geological, paleontological, botanical, climatic, cultural and biological diversity, that serves as an ideal platform for exploring the Earth. Our new approach to climate change, presented through this course, examines these interlinked systems holistically and, by doing so, we hope to develop an African perspective on climate change.

The course comprises 3 important components:

1. Taught Course

82.5 Credits

(a) Introduction to Earth System Science

(15 credits)

This section covers the physical and biogeochemical processes that make the present an exceptional moment in our eventful history of the only planet known to be habitable; Earth. Includes lectures, computer and laboratory exercises.

(b) Statistical and Mathematical Methods

(15 credits)

This section is a set of lectures that introduces students to statistical, mathematical and computer methods that are currently used in the Earth sciences and many other fields for modelling and verification.

(c) Societal aspects of Global Change

(7.5 credits)

This is a series of weekly seminars organised by the students. Distinguished speakers are invited to discuss and debate various aspects of global changes, including global and regional social and political issues, engineering, economics, and the history and philosophy of science.

(d) Elective modules

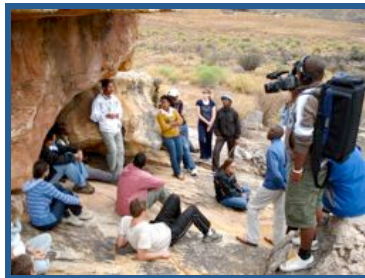
(45 credits)

In this section, the students must complete elective modules from a wide range of options covering a broad spectrum of climate and ocean science.

2. Field Trips / Winter School

7.5 Credits

We travel to some of the most scientifically important locations in the Western Cape with a group of learners from Khayelitsha, our dual aim being to understand the science involved and to teach the learners about our amazing planet.



In July, we host a winter school for 3rd year undergraduates to learn about Climate Science and the students are required to help teach on this course, in this way passing their knowledge on to younger students.

3. Masters dissertation

90 credits

Each student will choose a research topic from a list proposed by scientists at UCT or one of our participating agencies such as SAWS, SANBI, MCM and CSIR. This list will cover standard fields such as atmospheric science and oceanography, but will also include interdisciplinary topics such as the carbon cycle and paleo-climates. Students will be encouraged to form small groups to tackle ambitious projects.



“When I first heard about the Winter School at UCT, I was not interested at all in attending. I believed that I had a good enough general knowledge on the topics advertised.... Gosh, was I wrong!..... perhaps because of all the amazing lecturers we had or perhaps it was because of the fun field trips we went on or perhaps it was for many reasons. Has this course changed the way I look at the world around me? Of course it has.”

View of Former Winter School Student Kate Jefferies

Why should I study Climate Change Science?

Let's start with the obvious – applying your skills to studying the planet we live on is hugely exciting and rewarding in itself. But more than that, 'climate change' is the phrase on everyone's lips so a working knowledge of the science behind it is an essential skill for almost any research post, government or industry career.

How much will it cost?

The likely answer is nothing! For South Africans, we are offering bursaries that will cover tuition fees, and on top of that a grant of up to **R50 000 a year** toward living costs. A similar package will be offered to non-South Africans on a competitive basis.

What do I need to sign up?

Any Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree or equivalent is preferred. We are looking for people who are keen to learn about the amazing planet we live on. Therefore, applicants with non-science honours will be considered but only if they are able to demonstrate good numerical skills.

What are the Important Dates?

Application Deadline for 2010: October 31 (non-South Africans) or November 31st (South African Citizens)

Course Start Date: Late January (TBA)

I want to apply!

You must download an AMS application form from www.zoology.ac.za and send together with:

1. Letter of Application detailing your interest in the course
2. Two Page C.V that includes contact details and two referees.
3. Certified copies of all university level academic transcripts and degree certificates
4. Completed UCT admission form (www.uct.ac.za). All cheques made payable to the University of Cape Town. No Moneygrams will be accepted.

Send applications to: Carl Palmer, Department of Oceanography, UCT, Cape Town, 7701 or e-mail enquires to carl.j.palmer@gmail.com.