

UCT Graduate School of Business gets AMBA stamp of approval - again

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The UCT GSB has been re-awarded the highly regarded Association of MBAs (AMBA) accreditation for the next five years.

The UCT Graduate School of Business (UCT GSB) has cemented its international reputation as one of the top business schools in the world by again being awarded the eminent AMBA accreditation from the Association of MBAs, which will be effective for a further five years.

“The AMBA accreditation is vital to us as a business school,” says UCT GSB Director Associate Professor Mills Soko. “It is one of the highest standards of achievement in postgraduate business education and only the best business schools around the world are honoured with it.”

Associate Professor Soko adds that accreditations like AMBA are important for the school’s international reputation. Not only do they allow the school to market itself more effectively in a crowded and competitive marketplace, but also to benchmark itself against the finest institutions in the world, continuously improving on its academic offering.

“We are able to highlight our context as an emerging market business school in Africa that is among the best in the world and demonstrate the relevance that we have in shaping the business and thought leaders on the continent and beyond,” he says.

The UCT GSB is one of just three business schools in Africa with triple-crown accreditation, meaning that it is accredited by the three largest and most influential business school accreditation associations. In addition to AMBA, the GSB also has accreditations from The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and EQUIS, the EFMD Quality Improvement System.

Dr Kutlwano Ramaboa, Director of International Relations at the UCT GSB, says accreditations are an endorsement of the quality education that the business school strives to provide while increasing the school’s visibility internationally.

“This means we are able to attract more international students and faculty. The world is increasingly globalised and it is imperative that we expose all students to diverse perspectives and cultures in order to enrich the learning experience by avoiding the assimilation trap and prepare them to operate successfully in any environment.”

She says accreditations also help with attracting and arranging international exchange partnership with good schools in different regions as they are often used as one of several criteria giving a guarantee in the quality of education.

“Our students can select full semester exchanges, shorter summer/winter schools, and one-week immersion options from 45 partner schools with whom we have bilateral exchange agreements, as well as 29 schools from the Global Network of Advanced Management (GNAM – a Yale School of Management Initiative),” Dr Ramaboa says.

In addition to pursuing accreditations, the UCT GSB also works on improving its international profile through membership of international associations and networks, offering students and faculty international opportunities that further enhance the impact of the school. Affiliations such as the Global Business School Network (GBSN), the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME – a United Nations supported initiative), and the Academy of Business in Society (ABIS), afford additional opportunities for UCT GSB faculty and students to collaborate internationally on teaching and research.

“Through research, the school is committed to participating in leading international scholarly conversations,” says Dr Ramaboa.

Ultimately, she adds, the school wants to demonstrate to working professionals, both local and international why this school should be considered when they are building their careers. “It also shows stakeholders that we are committed to delivering the quality of education that we promise.”

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