

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS
of collaboration
and partnerships



CHEC

Cape Higher Education Consortium

Key information on higher education in the Western Cape (2016)

Student enrolments

 **86 192**

Undergraduate students

 **9 009**

Postgraduate below Masters

 **13 331**

Masters students

 **4 664**

Doctoral students

 **9 347**

International students

Permanent staff

 **3 844**

Academic staff (2016)

 **92**

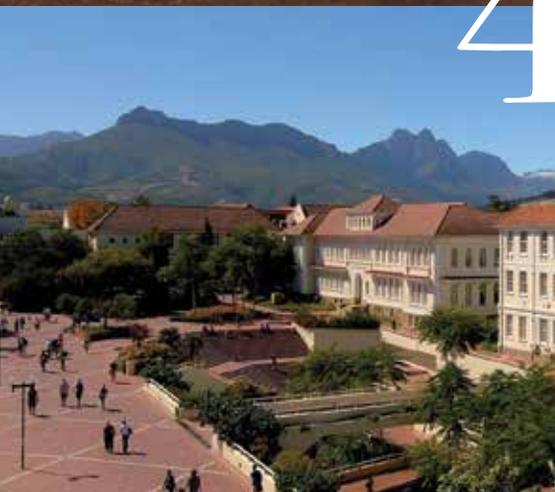
SA Research Chairs (2018)
41% of national total

 **60**

NRF A-rated scientists (2018)
47% of national total



4^x





Promoting innovation through research

Joint regional research efforts promote innovative approaches to conducting research in the four universities. Recent work includes:

1. Excellence in animal research

Plans are underway for the development of a shared Regional Animal Research Facility between UWC and CPUT, and for increased institutional collaboration around issues related to acquiring and sharing specialised equipment and expertise, staff training and reviewing animal ethics policies and procedures.

2. Excellence in water research

The Western Cape Government and the four universities are collaborating to develop the Water Hub Research Facility in Franschhoek into a Centre of Excellence. Each of the four universities currently engages in key areas related to water research and this facility offers a site for:

- Collaborative multi-disciplinary research projects, and communities of practice amongst researchers and postgraduate students;
- Water technology development and demonstration;
- Provision of a wide range of training and skills development programmes;
- Services to support community development.

Teaching and Learning and Management Development

Professional development is a key priority for the universities in the region. CHEC offers three regional staff development programmes, with a focus on the promotion of excellence in teaching and learning:

1. Creating the Leading Edge

Creating the Leading Edge includes a range of short courses on a wide variety of topics for middle and senior management. These courses have also been opened to staff from the TVET Colleges in the Western Cape.

2. Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education in Teaching and Learning

The regionally taught Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education in Teaching and Learning, is the first of its kind in South Africa. Offered since 2014, it aims to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in South African universities as well as to promote a

scholarly and professional approach to development in the field of university teaching.

3. Quality Teaching in Higher Education

Since 2010, CHEC has offered various short courses on teaching and learning to full- and part-time lecturers in the Western Cape. The courses cover topics such as teaching and learning and assessment in higher education, reflection on curriculum transformation, understanding decoloniality and designing learning with technologies. More than 500 participants have completed courses.

Building and sharing institutional resources

CHEC's inter-institutional focus on library resources has been an ongoing theme from the early introduction of the Cape Library Consortium (CALICO) and the establishment of the Publishing Liaison Office (PLO).

1. CALICO

CALICO provided for a networked library automation service for each member of the consortium and common access to the Online Public Access Catalogues (OPACs) of each.

2. PLO

The PLO operates as a copyright clearance centre on behalf of the four universities, as well as providing related services for teaching and learning materials.

3. CSIR-funded Tier 2 Data-Intensive Research Facility

The four libraries are collaborating in the development of Research Data Management services to support data intensive research facilities in fields such as astronomy and bioinformatics

4. High density library facility

In line with international best practice, the libraries have submitted a funding proposal to the DHET for the development of a shared regional high-density library facility –the first of its kind in South Africa.



Graduate employability

The South African higher education sector is paying increased attention to the importance of graduate employability. CHEC has begun exploratory work to create an employability forum which will facilitate collaboration on employability.

1. Graduate Destinations

Two recent research projects that were conducted under the auspices of CHEC are:

- 'Pathways from University to Work: A Graduate Destination Survey of the 2010 Cohort of Graduates from the Western Cape Universities'. A large-scale graduate tracer survey, that presents the first inter-institutional survey of its kind in South African higher education.
- 'From Graduate to Employee: examining the factors that determine the professional success of graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds' (2017). A more qualitative study on the factors that facilitate the successful transition of graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds from university to the world of work.

2. Dual track education – towards a pilot study

In March 2018, CHEC convened an exploratory workshop on dual track education. Delegates included representatives from the Baden Wurttemberg Cooperative State University in Germany, the German Chamber of Commerce, national policy and regulatory bodies, the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town as well as the four universities in the Western Cape.

The meeting mandated CHEC to convene a working group to identify focus areas for pilot projects on dual-track programmes and to provide support for curriculum development.

Partnerships

Much of CHEC's work is conducted in partnership with government, both the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town. In addition, partnerships with business and industry and with the broader post-school sector are being pursued. These partnerships contribute to the development of curricula, the alignment of research agendas so as to improve policy and its implementation, and the preparation of graduates for the world of work.



1. Western Cape Government (WCG)

A Memorandum of Understanding between the WCG and CHEC was signed in October 2006. The partnership is coordinated by the Joint Task Team (JTT) with its work being closely aligned with the priorities identified in the Provincial Strategic Plan. The annual research projects have included studies on the following thematic areas amongst others:

- Health
- Climate change and water
- Education, including e-learning
- Resilience





2. City of Cape Town (CCT)



A Collaboration Protocol was signed by the CCT and CHEC in October 2008. The Standing Committee is responsible for implementing the Protocol through an annual Plan of Action. This includes knowledge generation and sharing projects and seminars. Some of the recent projects have included those on:

- Infrastructure and new technologies
- Youth development
- Healthy communities
- Sustainability

Partnerships

3. Accelerate Cape Town

Since 2015, the Cape Higher Education Consortium has been a member of Accelerate Cape Town, a business leadership organisation in the Cape Town City Region. CHEC intends to strengthen university-industry partnerships in the service of regional development.



4. TVET Colleges – Towards an Integrated Post-School Education System in the Western Cape

Within the framework of the White Paper for Post-School Education and Training (2014), CHEC is committed to the development of a single integrated system of post-school education in the Western Cape. To this end, CHEC will continue to work with the six TVET Colleges in the Western Cape to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration.

Board of Directors

- Professor Vivienne Lawack, UWC (Chairperson)
- Professor Louis Fourie, CPUT
- Professor Nico Koopman, SU
- Professor Loretta Feris, UCT
- Professor Martin Oosthuizen, CEO, CHEC



Cape Peninsula
University of Technology

Co-chairs of the CHEC-Western Cape Government Joint Task Team

- Professor Shaun Pather (CHEC) and Mr Anthony Hazell (WCG)

Co-chairs of the CHEC-City of Cape Town Standing Committee

- Mrs Lois Dippenaar (CHEC) and Mrs Carol Wright (CCT)



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