

Wits University is an urban university situated in Johannesburg and continues to be the undisputed premier academic address in Africa. Wits has established itself in the industrial and commercial heart of South Africa while sustaining globally competitive standards of excellence in learning, teaching and research.

DISTINCTLY WITS

- To date Wits has produced 89 Rhodes Scholars. Only a limited number of these coveted scholarships are awarded to outstanding students worldwide.
- Wits has produced four Nobel Prize laureates - Nelson Mandela (Peace), Aaron Klug (Chemistry), Sydney Brenner (Medicine) and Nadine Gordimer (Literature).
- Five Witsies have been awarded prestigious National Orders by President Thabo Mbeki for their continuing contribution to science, art and medicine in the country.
- Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph, Professor of Composition and Theory was the first woman in South Africa to obtain a Doctorate in Music Composition. She produced the new composite version of the South African National Anthem and the official version used today. For this, she was awarded the National Order of Ikhamanga.
- More than 20 Wits alumni have been knighted in the United Kingdom.
- Wits' Law School, one of the country's premier institutions, produced two of South Africa's post-1994 Chief Justices of the Constitutional Court.
- At the 78th Academy Awards held in Los Angeles in 2006, Wits alumnus Gavin Hood and five other alumni walked away with an Oscar for *Tsotsi*. Locally, more than 25 Witsies won awards at the 2006 South African National Television and Film Awards while several other Witsies were honoured at the Naledi Theatre Awards in 2005/6.
- Wits has a separate Palaeontology Institute called the Institute for Human Evolution, dedicated to palaeontological research. The University has one of the largest and most diverse groups of geoscientists in Africa.
- Wits is also home to one of the largest fossil collections in the southern hemisphere. New species of animals are constantly being discovered due to our groundbreaking research efforts, making Wits a target for visits by international researchers in this field.
- The Origins Centre, a world-class international tourist site at Wits, includes exhibitions on the Khoisan and Rock Art and tells the unique story of humankind's creativity.
- A Wits astronomer, Prof. David Block, his student Robert Groess and a team of international researchers solved a 200 million-year-old space riddle that received international attention. They discovered that the Andromeda Spiral Galaxy collided head-on with its companion galaxy Messier 32 and their findings were published in the prestigious journal *Nature*.
- In 2006, a Wits student, Robert Gess, discovered a 360 million-year-old lamprey, the oldest in the world, from the Witteberg Group rocks near Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape.
- Two Wits researchers made international news in 2006 when they solved an 80-year-old murder mystery in that the Taung child was killed by a large bird of prey.

WITS AT A GLANCE

- The University is structured into five Faculties which comprise 37 Schools.
- The University library system comprises two main libraries and 14 divisional libraries. Students have access to 740 000 book volumes, 25 000 journal titles and a host of new electronic resources.
- Wits comprises seven major 'clusters' spread over 400 hectares in Braamfontein and Parktown: East & West Campus, Sturrock Park, the Education Campus, the Management Campus, the Health Science Campus and the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre.
- The University has 20 residences which accommodate 22% of the student population. Seven residences are on the main campus while the rest are off campus.
- Wits has two commercial companies, Wits Enterprise and the Wits Health Consortium, offering a vast array of tailor-made solutions for the public and private sectors.
- Wits is the proud home of three new Centres of Excellence (CoE) - the Department of Science and Technology (DST)/National Research Foundation (NRF) CoE for Biomedical TB Research, the DST/NRF, CoE in Strong Materials and the Department of Trade and Industry National Aerospace Centre of Excellence.
- Wits has over 34 research entities, ten of which are Medical Research Council units. It is also home to four NRF Chairs in Geosciences, Electrical and Information Engineering, History and Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Wits has 14 'A-rated' scientists (based on a stringent evaluation of an individual scientist's research record over five years). These scientists are international leaders in their disciplines.
- The Wits Business School was ranked 53rd in the UK-based Financial Times Survey for Executive Education Courses in 2006.
- The Wits MBA programme was voted the best in South Africa for six consecutive years in the Financial Mail annual survey. It was also rated as the top Business School for three consecutive years (2004 – 2006) in the Sunday Times Top Brands Survey.
- Wits is ranked as one of the top 100 universities in the world in seven defined fields of research according to the 2006 ISI international rankings.

ACCREDITATION

- The Wits Business School is fully accredited by the South African Council for Higher Education and received the prestigious International Accreditation by the Association of MBAs (AMBA) in 2005.
- Our undergraduate engineering degrees are recognised by the Engineering Council of South Africa. In terms of the Washington Accord signed in June 2000, of which South Africa is a signatory, official recognition of our degree programmes has been approved by the professional

engineering accrediting bodies in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Ireland and Hong Kong.

- Our professionally qualifying architecture degrees are accredited by the South African Council of Architects, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Commonwealth Association of Architects.
- Wits' professionally qualifying degree in quantity surveying is accredited by the South African Council for the Quantity Surveying Profession and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK, while the construction management degree is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Building.
- The Wits Actuarial Science Programme (leading to BSc or BEconSc followed by a BScHons) provides exemption from 12 of the examinations required for qualification as a professional actuary with the Edinburgh Faculty of Actuaries or the London Institute of Actuaries.

BUILDING SOCIETY

- The Wits Centre for Exercise Science and Sports Medicine is a partner in a R5,7 million training and support project to help South Africa become a leader in the global soccer arena, ahead of the 2010 World Cup.
- Wits' Marang Centre, a first for South Africa, is an outstanding institute that aims to improve the quality of mathematics and science education on the continent.
- The Yebo Gogga Yebo AmaBlomo exhibition - a five day interactive exhibition of insects, plants and animals open to the public - has successfully been hosted for more than five years by the School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences.
- The Graduate School of Public and Development Management is the largest postgraduate school of public management in southern Africa. During its 10-year history it has provided high level capacity building through a range of postgraduate degrees and short courses, to more than 9 000 people.
- Wits has launched a palaeontological outreach programme in the Eastern Cape village of Nieu Bethesda in association with the Albany Museum and the Department of Science and Technology. It has also played an instrumental role in having the fossil-rich Makapan Valley in Limpopo declared a World Heritage site.
- The Wits School of Geosciences is home to the first pan-African geophysics initiative, *AfricaArray*, that aims to address the problem of limited human capacity in Africa in the field of geophysics and to determine the tectonic make-up of the African continent and its underlying mantle.
- Wits offers a range of community services to the community. The Wits Disability Unit is a model centre for higher education institutions that caters for disabled students. The Wits Centre for Deaf Studies offers support and education to caregivers and families of the Deaf. The new Emthonjeni Community Centre offers services such as speech and hearing therapy, counselling and psychotherapy to the public and acts as a practical training ground for students in this area.

INNOVATION

- In 2006, Wits students designed a software system to solve virtually all mathematics problems, built a theft-proof, pyramid shaped coffin that allows the deceased to be buried in a squatting position and developed a fuel that burns more cleanly and produces fewer greenhouse gases, while using up agricultural by-products.
- The City of Joburg and 20 leading IT companies in SA have partnered with Wits to create a world-class software development hub – the Joburg Centre for Software Engineering. The IBM LINUX Centre of Competence was opened within the JCSE in 2006.
- The new Wits University Convergence Laboratory in the School of Electrical and Information Engineering brings together under one roof voice, data, video, multimedia and entertainment via 'a next generation' telecommunications network. In 2006, these students developed software systems to aid the visually-impaired, devices to allow video streaming from the T-shirts of soccer players to mobile phones and developed virtual music gloves.
- In 2007, a team of students from the School were awarded a silver medal at the annual SIMagine awards at the World 3GSM International Software conference in Barcelona. David Vannucci, Teddy Mwakabaga and Rolan Christian won for their innovative mobile phone game, Mobaraba™, an adaptation of the local Morabaraba game played on the continent.
- The Wits School of Arts created the first South African 3D animation political satire - The Bushpig Project - for both television series and mobisodes in 2006.
- The Wits Centre of Material and Process Synthesis has undertaken a sizable new initiative in China to produce fuel from coal.

AWARDS

- Two Wits professors, Prof. Thomas Bothwell and Prof. David Glasser claimed the prestigious Academy of Science of South Africa gold medal for two consecutive years for their outstanding contribution to science.
- Prof. Valerie Mizrahi, a Wits based tuberculosis researcher is one of only two Africans ever awarded the title of International Research Scholar by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She won the Woman of the Year Award (Science and Technology) in 2006 and obtained a Gold Medal from the SA Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2007.
- After winning national acclaim for the presentation of her research on a platinum-bearing reef, a Wits Geosciences student, Libby Harris took top honours in the first World Young Person's Lecture Competition.
- The Wits University/MRC/NICD's Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit has been awarded a US\$1,9 million grant to support a project to develop a pneumonia vaccine.
- Wits University has won three of the four prestigious Harry Oppenheimer research awards made to date, worth up to US\$125 000 each.,
- Achille Mbembe, Research Professor of History and Development at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research won the 2006 Bill Venter/Altron Literary Award for his book, *On the Postcolony*. The Award in 2007 was given to Prof. Norman Owen-Smith for his book, *Adaptive Herbivore Ecology*.

- Prof. Jill Adler is the only educationist in the country to have been awarded an A-rating by the National Research Foundation.
- Prof. Jane Taylor of the School of Dramatic Art has been named the winner of the 2006 Olive Schreiner award, a literary award presented by the English Academy of Southern Africa for her book entitled *Wild Dogs*.

ARTS & CULTURE

- The University boasts 14 museums and two art galleries housing a variety of rare and valuable artworks.
- Wits Art Galleries are the custodians of important heritage collections of South African and classical African art. The internationally renowned collections are currently available to researchers and students by appointment. A major new project is underway to develop world-class premises and a permanent home to ensure all South Africans have easy access to the works.
- The Wits Theatre has staged more than 2 000 different productions over its 23-year history.
- Wits University is home to more than 97 sports clubs and societies.