

# WITS TODAY

Understanding yesterday  
Shaping today  
Building tomorrow

www.wits.ac.za

## GLOBAL IMPACT

The University of the Witwatersrand (aka Wits) is a leading higher education institution in Africa, committed to research and academic excellence, social justice and the advancement of the public good.

- Wits is ranked in the top 1% in the world out of about 25 000 universities.
- The Faculty of Humanities is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Africa.

One of the  
**top two**

universities in Africa and amongst the world's top 250 universities in major global rankings

In the top  
**100**

globally in clinical medicine, public health, and mining engineering

**201 - 300**  
globally  
Academic Ranking  
of World  
Universities

**194<sup>th</sup>**  
globally  
TIMES HIGHER  
EDUCATION

**254<sup>th</sup>**  
globally  
Centre for  
World  
University  
Rankings

**11<sup>th</sup>**  
globally  
THE BRICS &  
EMERGING  
ECONOMIES

**4 NOBEL  
LAUREATES**  
Sir Aaron Klug  
Nadine Gordimer  
Nelson Mandela  
Sydney Brenner

**200<sup>th</sup>**  
globally  
US NEWS

## TALENTED PEOPLE



Wits develops the high level scarce skills required to transform society, the economy and our collective futures. By 2025, postgraduate students will make up 45% of Wits' student body.

Witsies are fearless in their pursuit of new knowledge and innovation, are critical thinkers, problem-solvers, pioneers of science, and agents of change. They are valued for their independence and ingenuity; their fight against injustice; their pioneering work in advancing the humanities and the sciences; and their strength in advancing economic development.

- Wits was ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in the world for Alumni Employability based on the number of CEOs the University produced.
- Wits was ranked 54<sup>th</sup> in the world in the Times Higher Education Alma Mater Index 2017 based on the number of Fortune Global 500 CEOs produced.
- Wits produces almost 10 000 quality graduates every year, who are highly employable - of those employed, a staggering 93% found employment within six months of graduating.

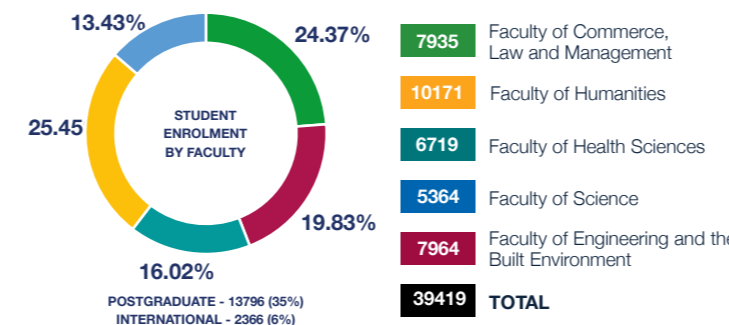
### Did you know?

Dr Tamlyn Naidu from Wits won the 2019 Young Persons' World Lecture Competition.

Nokwazi Mphuthi, a PhD candidate in the School of Physics, won the US award for the Best Emerging Research Journal Article.

Home to over  
**38 000**  
students

**65/35**  
split between  
Wits undergraduates  
and postgraduates



## RESEARCH IMPACT

Wits produces research with impact including discovery research that changes disciplinary thinking; translational or applied research that influences policy and practice; and innovative research that can be taken to the market to generate economic activity.

**96** of our research is published in  
internationally  
competitive journals

**52**  
Research  
Entities

**30**  
SA RESEARCH  
CHAIRS

**20**  
Donor & Sponsor  
Funded CHAIRS

**50%**  
INCREASE IN RESEARCH OUTPUT  
OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS

Wits scholars excel globally in areas of research that directly affect humans and the future of our planet, including climate change, energy, technology and health. From exploring our beginnings to documenting our history; from making everyone healthier to solving inequality; from driving global change to reimagining mining; from advancing technology to exploring what it means to be human in a digital world – Wits scholars are changing the world and building the next generation of scholars.

**6**  
DST/NRF  
Centres of  
Excellence  
\*Highest of all SA  
universities

**OVER 400**  
\*NRF-rated  
researchers  
\* National Research  
Foundation

**29**  
A-rated  
researchers  
Recognised by peers  
as leaders in their  
field globally

- Wits has five highly cited researchers (the world's most influential researchers according to the Web of Science Group), the highest in Africa. In 2019, fewer than 0.1% of the world's researchers across 21 research fields have earned this exclusive distinction.

### Did you know?

Green chemists from Wits are developing cost efficient and effective techniques to extract and produce sunscreen from cashew nut shells.

Wits scientists from the Global Change Institute found that aside from the obvious benefits of saving people and the planet, tackling climate change makes good investment sense.

Four students developed a library-style app for students to learn more about human genetics.

The African Centre for Migration and Society is Africa's leading scholarly institution for research and teaching on human mobility dedicated to shaping global discourse on human mobility and social transformation.

A Wits alumnus, Neo Hutiri, created Pelebox, one of TIME 100's top inventions for 2019.

Wits doctors perform the  
world's first intentional  
HIV+ liver transplant from  
mom to save child's life



In 2017, a multidisciplinary team of doctors, academics and researchers from the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre performed the world's first intentional liver transplant from a mother living with HIV to her critically ill HIV negative child, who had end-stage liver disease. The success of this world-first surgery offers new hope to South Africans and presents the potential of a new pool of living donors, which could ultimately result in many more lives being saved in South Africa and beyond.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING IMPACT

Wits is known for its academic excellence and its ability to adapt to the challenges of the 21st Century. The integration of technology, curriculum development, blended learning, online programmes and augmented teaching options are integrated in teaching efforts.

- Wits' world-class infrastructure and new technologies include unlimited, fast Wi-Fi connections, smart classrooms, future libraries and knowledge hubs, simulation laboratories and e-zones.
- Wits' new digital suite includes full online programmes and e-degrees, short courses and 13 free Massive Open Online Courses that have registered over 83 000 learners from around the globe.



- The high-tech eFundanathi (Learn with Us) eZone has revolutionised teaching and learning. The eZone, a student-centred adaptive learning environment, transforms traditional didactic teaching and learning methods so that students become tech savvy and are able to apply their learning directly.

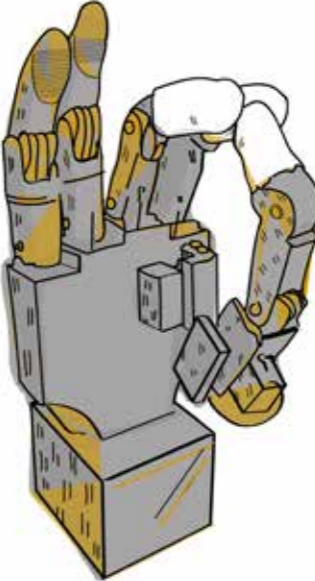
- Wits trains the highest number of medical specialists and sub-specialists in South Africa.

- Of all the new actuaries welcomed by the Actuarial Society of South Africa in 2019, the most were from Wits. The Wits cohort was also the most demographically diverse in South Africa.



## FUTURE IMPACT

Wits is training scholars to deal with next frontier science, the future economy and its impact on people and society. Whilst researchers, academics and scholars are focusing on mechanisation, block chain technologies, artificial intelligence, new mining technologies, quantum computing, machine learning and deep science with industry partners, Witsies are mindful of the impact of these new technologies on humanity, on how we express ourselves, on the future of our work, on morals, ethics and values, and the world as we know it today.



- Wits is the first African partner on the IBM Q network and is leading quantum computing in Africa through hosting a centre for quantum computing education, research, development and implementation.
- Wits' new digital offerings enable access to higher education.

Info: [www.wits.ac.za/future](http://www.wits.ac.za/future)

### Did you know that Wits students have connected a human brain to the internet in real time?

They also researched how brainwaves can be used to control a robotic prosthetic hand and produced 3D printed prosthetic hands at a low cost to make them accessible to all.



## SOCIAL IMPACT



Wits is a responsive institution that is locally embedded, nationally responsive and globally competitive. We strive to create impact through inspiring young leaders.

- The Wits Disability Rights Unit is a model centre that creates an accessible and welcoming environment for all students with disabilities to ensure a rewarding student experience.
- The Wits Rural Facility in Bushbuckridge, Limpopo, celebrated 30 years of interdisciplinary research, student training and community engagement in 2019, which coincided with the official launch of the Wits Rural Knowledge Hub.
- The Targeting Talent Programme academically and psychologically enriches learners (grades 10-12) from both well-resourced and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds in South Africa to ensure that they are prepared for admission into South African universities.

**48%** of undergraduates are from township or rural locations

**Almost 50%** of Wits graduates are first-generation university students and 56% are black women

## SPORTS AND CULTURAL IMPACT



- Wits students can choose to join a variety of clubs and societies at Wits.
- Wits serves as the base for the Bidvest Wits Football Club aka 'The Clever Boys', which competes in the Premier Soccer League. It is also home to the Wits Soccer Club, the largest in South Africa.
- Seven Wits students have been selected for the South African 2020 Olympic Squad.
- The Wits Rugby team won the Pirates Grand Challenge League in 2019, for the first time since 1967.

Info: [www.wits.ac.za/sport](http://www.wits.ac.za/sport)

# 11 libraries 17 residences

8 Museums



2 Art Galleries



**Wits. For Good.**

- The Wits campus has a wealth of cultural sites to visit including the Planetarium, the Origins Centre, the Bleloch Geological Museum, the Life Sciences Museum and the James Kitching Gallery in the Palaeosciences Centre.
- Wits' fossil vault and underground chamber hold some of the world's priceless faunal, floral and hominid palaeo treasures.
- The Adler Museum of Medicine, the Brebner Museum, the Hunterian Museum of Anatomy and the Museum of Obstetrics and Gynaecology are based in Parktown.
- New, experimental work is always explored at the Wits Theatre complex, side by side with the best professional talent on the continent. The Fassler Gallery and the Anthropology Museum provide unique educational experiences.
- The Wits Art Museum houses over 9 000 works of classical African art.



[www.wits.ac.za/givingtowits](http://www.wits.ac.za/givingtowits)