

Stellenbosch University (SU) aims to establish itself as a leading research-intensive university on the African continent by pursuing excellence and remaining at the forefront of its chosen focal areas, by gaining national and international standing on the basis of its research outputs, by being relevant to the needs of the community, and by being enterprising, innovative and self-renewing. SU is currently one of the top research-focused universities in South Africa as is illustrated by the following achievements:

- According to the Department of Higher Education and Training's official report regarding the 2015 publications (assessed in 2016), the weighted research output per full-time SU staff member (both publications and postgraduate students) was 2.92, and its publication output per capita 1,32. This makes SU one of the most research-productive institutions nationwide.
- SU is further cementing its reputation as a world-class institution by regularly appearing on a number of global rankings, placing it in the top 2% of the world's universities. In Africa, it is consistently ranked in the top four.
- In the latest edition of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2017), SU was ranked in the 401-500th category in the world. Another reputable ranking system, QS World University Rankings ranked the university at number 361 in the world and second in South Africa (2017/2018 ranking). The Leiden University ranked Stellenbosch 468th out of the top 500 universities worldwide on its CWTS Leiden Ranking list of 2016. This list also ranked the university third in South Africa and 4<sup>th</sup> in Africa. SUNScholar, SU's open access repository, was ranked number one in Africa in the July 2016 edition of *The Ranking Web of World Repositories*.
- Altogether 882 research contracts were processed in 2016, equating to a total monetary value of R1.72 billion. This amount includes incoming and outgoing contracts processed.
- SU researchers are involved in more than 80 EU-related grant projects. In 2015, for example, SU submitted more than 36 new proposals for European Union (EU) funding – a very competitive funding programme which requires strong international research partnerships. By the end of the year, nine newly approved EU grants involving SU researchers had been awarded, representing a monetary value of ca EUR 1 890 000.
- SU has one of the highest number of National Research Foundation (NRF) rated scientists in the country (peer-evaluation system, based on the quality of research outputs for an 8-year period), totalling 430 end of 2016, including 12 A-rated researchers who are regarded as world leaders in their respective fields of research.
- The university has 41 Research Chairs of which 24 are SARChI chairs (South African Research Chairs Initiative) of the NRF, funded by the Department of Science and Technology. SU has one of the highest number of NRF-rated scientists in the country – 430 in 2017. More than 300 postdoctoral research fellows were hosted at SU in 2016.
- In 2016, SU set two new records by awarding 8 339 qualifications in total, including 278 doctoral degrees, which count as research outputs. Approximately 47% of our PhDs went to candidates from the previously disadvantaged black, coloured and Indian population groups, an 8% increase since 2015. And 31,6% of our doctoral degrees were awarded to candidates from African countries other than South Africa.

This confirms SU's valuable contribution to the development of human capital as a national and continental asset.

- SU has well-established, far-reaching, multi-layered networks of international partners, with more than 150 bilateral institutional arrangements in 45 countries across six continents. Turning to Africa, in 2016, SU had 350 active projects with 782 partners (institutions and individuals) in 43 countries.