

the week in the news

The cost of education

In 2015 #FeesMustFall called for no university fee increases in 2016. After nationwide student protests, government agreed to a moratorium on fee increases. But what are students paying at SA's higher education institutions?

After government agreed to a moratorium on fee increases in 2015, students should pay the same this year as they did last year. The moratorium will lead to a R2.3bn shortfall in university funding this year, which will be covered by universities and support from Treasury. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) will see a R4.58bn shortfall, which will be covered by loans and other assistance from Treasury. Yet, despite the 0% increase in 2016, fees remain high. Here is a round-up of first-year fees, compiled by Africa Check.

SA'S MOST EXPENSIVE DEGREE

R64 500

The first year of the University of Cape Town's (UCT's) Bachelor of Medicine (MBBCh) is the most expensive of the fees obtained by Africa Check to date. At R64 500, it costs R23 000 more than the first year of the medicine degree offered by the University of the Free State.

MOST EXPENSIVE UNIVERSITY

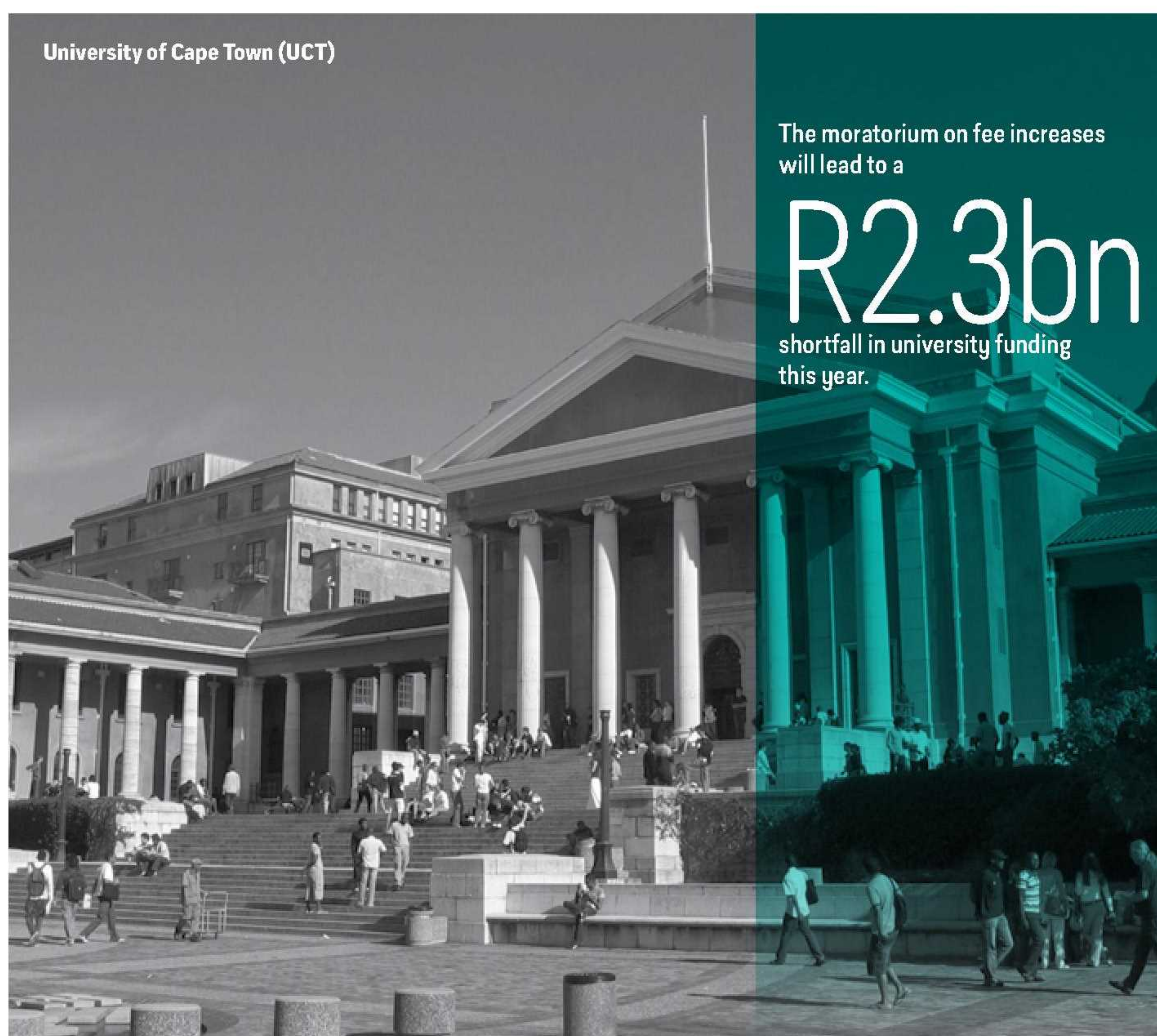
R60 000

For the first year, the three most expensive degrees are all at UCT: medicine is first, followed by two degrees that specialise in actuarial science, one a BBusSc and the other a BCom. These all cost more than R60 000 per year. UCT also came out the most expensive when compared with the other universities on the cost of a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Science.

EXPENSIVE DEGREES

31

The number of degrees that were estimated to cost R50 000 or more for the first year of study. Of these, 20 were at UCT, nine were at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University), one was at the University of Johannesburg (in the science faculty) and the last was Stellenbosch University's medicine degree.



Estimated tuition fees for the first year of a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree

University of Cape Town	R46 000
University of KwaZulu-Natal	R45 860
Wits University	R33 640
Stellenbosch University	R32 534
University of Pretoria	R30 560
University of Johannesburg	R29 170
North-West University	R28 140
Rhodes University	R27 000
University of the Free State	R26 015
University of Venda	R24 780
Unisa	R13 600

Estimated tuition fees for the first year of a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree

University of Cape Town	R50 000
Wits University	R41 080
Stellenbosch University	R40 746
Rhodes University	R38 700
North-West University	R36 400
University of KwaZulu-Natal	R30 940
University of Johannesburg	R30 600
University of Pretoria	R29 550
University of the Free State	R29 100
University of Venda	R27 390
Unisa	R12 800

Estimated tuition fees for the first year of a Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree

University of Cape Town	R50 000
Wits University	R42 010
Rhodes University	R40 700
University of KwaZulu-Natal	R39 170
North-West University	R38 600
Stellenbosch University	R32 164
University of Pretoria	R30 160
University of the Free State	R30 115
University of Venda	R28 570
Unisa	R14 507

Research by Laura Grant. Africa Check is a non-partisan organisation which promotes accuracy in public debate and the media. For more information, see the organisation's Twitter account @AfricaCheck or its website www.africacheck.org.

editorial@finweek.co.za