

Is uct.ac.za safe? TrustSniffer's moderate-trust assessment: 70/100

uct.ac.za

Verdict

70

OUT OF 100

MODERATE TRUST

uct.ac.za is moderately trusted.

Most signals looked ordinary, and some evidence was missing. Read the checks below before you pay or hand over personal details.

Safe for Read-Only

Assessed 2026-08-17 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

What this site appears to be

Official University of Cape Town homepage: informational content covering admissions, fees, research, news, events, student/staff resources and campus services. Links direct to numerous internal resources and a small number of external services (e.g., Outlook). No obvious phishing or financial investment solicitations present.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	Not available No registration record was returned	NOTED
Web archive	Never archived No public history of this site	WATCH
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by HARICA OV TLS RSA	NOTED

The page as captured

<https://uct.ac.za/>



What uct.ac.za served when TrustSniffer captured it on 2026-08-17. The page may look different now.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Safe for Read-Only.
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.
- The operator behind the site could not be independently connected to a real-world brand or person.

Full analysis

Overview

The website is the official University of Cape Town homepage, presenting admissions and applications, academic programmes, research, institutional news, events, campus services, student and staff resources, official merchandise, and donation-related support flows; its apparent purpose is informational and institutional rather than commercial or financial.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No phishing, malware, blacklist, malicious-content, or brand-impersonation contradiction was observed. The homepage is content-rich, institutionally structured, and links predominantly to internal University of Cape Town resources, with no login form, sensitive form, wallet interaction, or financial-investment solicitation detected. A low-weight automated brand-similarity signal associated the page with "t.me" through a hyphen-variant comparison, but this is not corroborated by the page content, which consistently identifies the University of Cape Town and presents an academic purpose. The overall evidence therefore supports apparent legitimacy while not independently proving the real-world operator identity.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage identifies itself as “Home | University of Cape Town” and contains extensive academic, governance, student-service, and institutional content.
- The homepage contains no sensitive forms, no password-external forms, no hidden forms, and no wallet or cryptocurrency activity.
- External reputation checks recorded 0 malicious detections, 0 suspicious detections, and no Google Safe Browsing malicious finding for the domain.
- The domain has a global traffic rank of 12368 and is within the top 1 million domains.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The site presents a clear academic-institutional identity and includes About, governance, legislation, finance, management, risk-management, and institutional-planning material. No financial-services license or license number is claimed, which is consistent with the site's stated informational university function; this should not be treated as evidence of fraud. Independent identity verification remains incomplete, and the assessment records limited ownership and governance transparency despite the substantial institutional material available on the site. The absence of a matched broker-reputation profile is a neutral-to-positive contextual signal, not a regulatory determination.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage links to University of Cape Town sections covering About Us, governance, Council, Senate, legislation, management, finance, and risk management.
- The site's transport encryption uses a valid HARICA OV TLS RSA certificate, with OV validation, subject organization “University of Cape Town,” valid to 2027-02-07 09:54 UTC.
- The site is served through AS36982, identified as “University of Cape Town - University of Cape Town, ZA.”
- External reputation coverage was complete for the evaluated checks, with no malicious or suspicious detections recorded.

What to Verify Next

Before sensitive submissions, tuition payments, donations, or other high-value transactions, confirm that the destination is reached through an independently obtained University of Cape Town channel or institutional directory rather than a forwarded message. Confirm payment instructions and any account or application workflow through an independently sourced university contact route, and verify that any external service reached from the homepage is expected for the relevant institutional process.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage provides internal links for applications, fees and funding, staff directories, student services, and institutional resources that can be cross-checked through independently sourced university information.
- The homepage has no sensitive form or login form, reducing the observed direct credential-collection surface on the assessed page.
- The site links to a limited external service, identified in the page structure as Outlook, making destination confirmation appropriate when following external links.

Summary Verdict

The website has a **moderate-trust posture** and is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate university information service. No scam or impersonation contradiction was observed, but independent verification of the real-world operator remains incomplete, so the evidence supports routine informational use more strongly than unqualified approval for sensitive or high-value activity.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site resolves directly to University of Cape Town infrastructure in South Africa, with no CDN or WAF detected and likely origin addresses visible. This provides clear institutional hosting context, although direct hosting is a mitigating contextual signal rather than proof of legitimacy.

EVIDENCE

- Infrastructure resolution identified 2 unique IP addresses, with 0 edge IP addresses and 2 likely origin IP addresses.
- No CDN vendor or WAF provider was detected.
- The hosting registry is AFRINIC and the hosting country is ZA.

Closing Assessment

Routine informational browsing is proportionate to the available evidence; independent confirmation of destination and payment or credential workflows should precede any sensitive or high-value action.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-17 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Identity verification

Status	UNVERIFIED
Identity score	55/100
Identity verification confidence	60%

- Identity verified on page

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of uct.ac.za.

- The request stayed on uct.ac.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- It is hosted on University of Cape Town, from a server in ZA. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Not available
Hosting	University of Cape Town - University of Cape Town, ZA
Country	ZA
Server IP	137.158.159.192
Name servers	Not available
SSL issuer	HARICA OV TLS RSA
SSL expiry	2027-02-07
Domain age	Not available (no registration date was returned)
Domain expiry	Not available
Archive first seen	Not available
Archive snapshots	0
Reputation	VirusTotal: 0 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about uct.ac.za at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/uct.ac.za> · assessed 2026-08-17