



# FACULTY OF HUMANITIES



## SWAHILI COMMUNICATION

### What is Kiswahili?

Kiswahili is one of the most widely spoken languages in Africa, with over 350 million speakers across the continent. It is an official language in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, and it serves as a lingua franca in several countries across the East African Community (EAC), including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia, and South Sudan. Kiswahili has political significance and is also used by the African Union (AU) as an **official language** and Southern African Development Community (SADC) as a **working language**.

### Why Study Kiswahili at UCT?

- UCT offers comprehensive programs specialising in Kiswahili literature and linguistics.
- The Kiswahili program is offered in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), ensuring a high-quality and enriching learning experience.
- Students can access scholarships, such as the University of Dar es Salaam's M.A. Kiswahili program, to further their studies.

### Career Opportunities with Kiswahili Studies

- Language Teaching
- Translation & Interpretation
- Editing & Transcription
- Business & Trade
- International Development & NGOs
- Gain an edge in navigating African markets, cross-border transactions, and development projects in Kiswahili-speaking regions.

### Course Overview

UCT offers a structured Kiswahili program designed to take students from zero knowledge to advanced communication skills. Starting in 2025, students can enrol in first-year and second-year Swahili courses as part of their elective options.

- First-Year Courses (Beginner level, no prior knowledge required)
- Second-Year Courses (Requires completion of first-year courses or equivalent)

These courses are part of a VC Special Funding Project and will be available for online registration via the Blank Shopping Cart.

### Course Details

#### First-Year Swahili Courses (No Prior Knowledge Required)

These courses introduce students to the basics of Kiswahili:

- Swahili Communication IA (SLL1017F) – Learn Kiswahili from scratch.
- Swahili Communication IB (SLL1117S) – Requires completion of SLL1017F or an equivalent course upon assessment by the course convenor.

Students are encouraged to enrol in first-year courses to ensure a smooth transition to second-year Swahili courses.

#### Second-Year Swahili Courses (Continuation from First Year)

To enrol in 2nd-year Swahili courses, students must complete the 1st-year courses or an equivalent course from another university (subject to assessment by the course convenor).

- Swahili Communication IIA (SLL2017F) – Requires completion of SLL1017F and SLL1117F or equivalent.
- Swahili Communication IIB (SLL2117S) – Continuation of IIA

## What students say about Kiswahili Studies...

"What I really enjoy about Kiswahili Studies is how practical and engaging it is. We don't just memorise vocabulary, but we actually learn how to use it in real situations—like ordering food at a restaurant or shopping at a market. It's not just about speaking the language, but understanding the culture behind it too. I've learned so much about Swahili family life, traditions, and even the social norms like the importance of unity. Plus, it's opened up so many career opportunities for me. Whether it's teaching, translation, or working with NGOs, knowing Kiswahili gives me a real edge. Overall, it's been a rewarding experience that goes beyond just language skills—it's about connecting with a whole new culture."

### CORE BENEFITS OF KISWAHILI STUDIES:

- **Communication:** Connect with over 350 million Kiswahili speakers across East Africa and beyond.
- **Cultural Understanding:** Gain insights into the rich traditions and social norms of Swahili-speaking communities.
- **Career Opportunities:** Opens doors in fields like translation, interpretation, teaching, and international development.
- **Business Advantage:** Enhance opportunities in trade, NGO work, and cross-border transactions.
- **Practical Skills:** Use Kiswahili for everyday activities like shopping, dining, and traveling in Kiswahili-speaking regions.

## What will you learn in the Kiswahili course?

This is what you will learn in a Kiswahili course: you will gain a solid foundation in basic Kiswahili vocabulary and phrases, enabling you to confidently engage in simple conversations on everyday topics with Kiswahili speakers. You will learn how to greet and respond appropriately in different social settings, introduce yourself and others, and describe daily activities in the present, past, and future tenses. The course will immerse you in practical situations, such as shopping at local markets, bargaining effectively, discussing Swahili foods, and ordering meals at restaurants with ease. Beyond language skills, you will explore the rich cultural heritage of Swahili-speaking communities, delving into family life, social norms, and traditions. This cultural immersion will allow you to connect more meaningfully with Kiswahili speakers, fostering a deeper understanding of their way of life. By the end of the course, you will not only be able to communicate effectively but also navigate and appreciate the vibrant Swahili culture with confidence and respect.



Scan the QR code to learn about special funding for Kiswahili courses at UCT and scholarships offered by the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)

*"Learning Kiswahili opens doors to cultural understanding, career advancement, and powerful connections across Africa"*

## For further information

Visit our website: [www.humanities.uct.ac.za/school-languages-literatures/african-languages-literatures](http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/school-languages-literatures/african-languages-literatures)

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