



## PROFESSOR CHRIS BRINK

Professor Chris Brink served as Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University in the United Kingdom for 10 years, from 2007 until his retirement in December 2016. Before that, most of his career was in South African higher education.

He was a National Research Foundation (NRF) A-rated researcher and President of the South African Mathematical Society. In the 1990s, he was Professor and Head of Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at UCT, and served as the University's Coordinator of Strategic Planning. This was followed by the position of Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University (2002-2007).

His academic management service also includes positions at other universities internationally, among them as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Wollongong in Australia, before his stint at Stellenbosch.

As Rector of Stellenbosch University, Prof Brink led a transformation agenda that combined teaching quality, social diversity and promotion of research. He also initiated, together with the city's Mayor, a town-and-gown collaboration called 'Reinventing Stellenbosch', aimed at overcoming the divisions of the apartheid era.

He took this same vision and values to Newcastle, where he championed the vision of an excellent civic university, ensuring that the institution's research and teaching focused on tackling some of the major challenges facing global society.

During his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University twice won the national Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award, as well as the Athena SWAN Silver Award for the advancement of gender equality.

Prof Brink holds an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from one of the University of Johannesburg's legacy institutions, the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), where he also completed a multi-disciplinary DPhil.

He completed Master's degrees in both Philosophy and Mathematics at Rhodes University, followed by a PhD degree at Cambridge. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa. In the UK, he holds the Freedom of the City of Newcastle, as well as an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law from Newcastle University.

He was awarded a CBE for services to higher education in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2018. He currently serves on the University Grants Committee in Hong Kong, where he chairs the implementation group for the 2020 Research Assessment Exercise of the eight public universities in Hong Kong.