

UJenius Club

Top Achieving Students



2023
Pocket Guide

The Future
Reimagined

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1. WHAT IS THE UJENIUS CLUB?

The UJenius Club is a Vice-Chancellor's initiative to acknowledge outstanding academic performance by undergraduate students, and to offer members additional opportunities for intellectual and professional development. The UJenius Club focuses on:

1. Acknowledging and promoting academic excellence as a core component of the UJ student identity.
2. Bringing together students from a diverse range of disciplines to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration.
3. Promoting the UJ values.
4. Creating a social space where UJenius Club members, from different Faculties and Campuses, are able to interact with each other; to build partnerships and friendships.
5. Creating opportunities for closer contact with members of the broader UJ community.
6. Providing UJenius members with privileged connections and benefits, given their academic performance.

1.1 How are you selected to be in the Club?

After first year registration, Orange Carpet members will become UJenius club members, which hosts all of UJ's top achieving students.

To join or to keep UJenius Club membership, students need to have achieved a year average of 75% in the preceding year, on a full course load, and with no module below 70%. Also, 2nd, 3rd and final year students are nominated for membership into the UJenius Club by their respective faculties.

Furthermore, in order to qualify for UJenius membership, 100% registration and completion of all subjects required as compulsory for the specific qualification and study period registered for as per UJ prospectus.

Therefore, the students must have passed all the required modules on a particular year level for that specific academic programme in the previous year, i.e.:

- In order to qualify for membership in the 2nd year of study, the students must have passed all the 1st year modules for the specific academic programme that the student is registered for.

- In order to qualify for membership in the 3rd year of study, the students must have passed all the 2nd year modules for the specific academic programme that the student is registered for.
- In order to qualify for membership in the 4th year of study (in the case of 4-year undergraduate degrees), the students must have passed all the 3rd year modules for the specific academic programme that the student is registered for.

This also includes extended programmes, BTechs and PGCEs but not Honours, Other PG below M, Masters, PhD or Occasional Programmes in each of the following Faculties at UJ:

- College of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture
- Faculty of Education
- Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Science

Each year there are approximately 500 - 600 senior members in the club. Membership for the club is reviewed on an annual basis.

1.2 What part of UJ does UJenius fall under?

UJenius is a partnership between the division of Academic Development and Support (ADS), the seven Faculties and CBE. The overall coordinator is Professor Alban Burke, Director of the Centre for Psychological Services and Career Development (PsyCaD) and works alongside colleagues from the broader ADS division.

1.3 When did UJenius begin?

The initiative was first approved by Senate in 2010 and was piloted as the 'Top Achievers' Club' in 2011. In 2012, a high-profile welcome event served as the launch for the name change of the club, where 'UJenius' was selected as the new club name. Since 2012, alongside annual UJenius events, the UJenius club has developed new partnerships with a number of broader UJ structures to provide club members with privileged benefits and special events.

1.4 What does it mean to be part of the Club?

In 2023 the UJenius Club is hoping to continue to develop a special relationship with top performers; seeking to contribute to their further academic and professional development, while offering benefits and opportunities for members to find ways to connect with other UJ stakeholders. This means that UJenius members will be able to access benefits that have come as a result of a number of old and new partnerships between the UJenius Club and other UJ stakeholders. Over and above these benefits, UJenius members will also receive rewards for their academic achievements, which may include:

- A certificate outlining the achievement of the UJenius Club member, which can be used when seeking employment.
- Opportunities to listen to, and network with, high quality guest speakers and leaders in a variety of fields.
- Invitations to prestigious social functions and opportunities where UJenius members are prioritized for selection.
- Invitations to various workshops focused on self-development as well as preparation for the world of work.

1.5 Does UJenius Club offer any bursaries?

The UJenius Club does not currently offer its own bursaries. However, most UJenius students (because of their incredible academic achievements), meet the criteria for UJ's Academic Merit Bursaries. The UJenius Merit Bursary covers tuition fees proportionately based on academic performance.

These bursaries are usually allocated to a student's account by end of August.

The following process will be implemented by Student Finance as soon as the selection of UJenius Club members for 2022 is finalized:

- A list of all the senior students who are eligible to join the UJenius Club will be sent to Student Finance.
- The Bursary Office will verify the eligibility, code the students for reporting and identification purposes and unblock eligible students for registration.
- The following criteria will be used when assessing the students' eligibility:
 - 100% full bursary for students who obtain 85% and above (full load and no subject below 70%).
 - 75% bursary for students who achieve between 80% and 85% (full load and no subject below 70%).

- 50% bursary for students who achieve between 75% and 80% (full load and no subject below 70%).
- Bursaries for all senior students will be allocated on or before the 31st of August 2023.

Please Note:

- If students cancel their studies at the end of the first semester, the second half of the bursary (in respect of the second semester) will not be paid out.
- If students cancel their studies before writing the June examinations, the bursary will be cancelled for the relevant semester: in other words, the whole UJ bursary will be cancelled.
- Students who possess other internal and external funding that exceeds the university's maximum value will not be eligible for a merit bursary. This amount will be determined by Student Finance on an annual basis.
- In the event that the other bursary does not cover the full cost of study for the academic year, a "top-up" merit bursary will be awarded to qualifying students up to the maximum value as determined by the University.

Refund Inquiries:

Please note that students may be required to provide the necessary proof for payments made when applying for a refund.

The only instance where the letter will be required is when the credit balance is due to the funds received from the external sponsor on top of the UJenius bursary, and this motivation letter is required from the external sponsor and not from UJenius office.

Please find below the refund process that will be implemented for UJenius club members:

- Students who possess other internal or external funding that covers full tuition fees and all allowances will not be eligible for the refund (as per UJenius guidelines) - UJenius merit bursary is to be reversed.
- Cash paying students are eligible for the full refund provided all necessary documents are submitted.

The refund process takes up to 14 working days. Should students not receive feedback after 14 working days, they may follow up with the refunds office.

1.6 How can I get more information about UJenius?

To find out more about the UJenius Club, students may contact their respective faculties, or you may send an email to the UJenius Team at ujenius@uj.ac.za. For urgent queries you can contact the UJenius Office at B5 (Ba Batho) Building, PsyCaD offices APK - 011 559 3112.

The UJenius Club also uses social media platforms to connect with its club members. If you are a current UJenius Club member, you will be able to join the closed UJenius Facebook Group - this can be done by requesting to join directly via Facebook, or by following a link that is sent out regularly via email. The UJenius Team shares news, updates and important information using this platform.

2. UJENIUS PARTNERS

The UJenius Club has partnered with a number of essential UJ stakeholders, and in this way has maximized the way in which UJenius Club members can receive benefits for their outstanding academic achievements. These upcoming benefits for UJenius Club members are listed under each UJ stakeholder in the rest of this guide.

2.1 Faculties

UJenius members represent all seven Faculties and the CBE at UJ. Each Faculty has a wide variety of activities set aside for their top achievers.

2.2 Alumni Networks

The UJ Alumni Network aims to develop dedicated and committed cohorts of UJ alumni to support UJ in the quest to become a premier African university. The Alumni Network seeks to foster alumni who are supportive, engaged and contributing to the reputation of the University of Johannesburg. As such, the Alumni Network provides a range of opportunities for current and graduated UJ students to stay involved and contribute to the life of the university. Indeed, the involvement of alumni is crucial to the health and strength of UJ, because alumni provide important ties between the past and the present, but also building blocks for the future of UJ. Student membership to the Alumni Network affords current UJ students opportunities to develop leadership skills, network for career development, have fun, reap the benefits of internships, job placements and possible bursary options; as well as opportunities to give back to the community through participation in community service projects. The partnership between UJenius and the Alumni Network means that UJenius Club members benefit in the following ways:

UJenius Club members will become their own affinity group; allowing for continued connection and opportunities to engage with other UJenius Club members.

To find out more about the Alumni Network and other opportunities they offer visit <http://www.uj.ac.za> or contact the office at alumni@uj.ac.za.

2.3 Library and Information Services

The Library is a gateway to a wealth of information! In fact, the Library is a student's best friend because it can help students find all the information and facilities they need to excel academically. The Library offers students across all campuses study spaces, access to electronic resources, Wi-Fi, facilities to photocopy and print, and of course, books. Therefore, it was a perfect match when the UJenius Club decided to partner with the Library for the benefit of students who are already excelling academically. This partnership means that UJenius Club members benefit in the following ways:

UJenius Club members will receive postgraduate loan privileges. Essentially, UJenius students will be allowed to take out 16 items for 30 days, rather than 6 items for 14 days.

To find out more about the Library, and to access additional Library tools, visit the Library webpage at <http://www.uj.ac.za/library> or visit the mobile webpage at <http://library.uj.mobi>.

2.4 PsyCaD

UJ's Centre for Psychological Services and Career Development (PsyCaD) offers various career development services across all four UJ campuses to enrolled students and external clients. These services include career assessments, career counselling and education, access to comprehensive career resource centres, a job portal and various graduate recruitment programmes. Furthermore, PsyCaD Career Services provides students with opportunities to prepare and develop their employability skill-set, whilst linking students to incredible employment opportunities. In light of this, UJenius was very glad to partner with PsyCaD for the long-term benefit of UJenius Club members. This partnership means that:

- UJenius club members have the privileged opportunity to be put into contact with prospective employers; and where interview processes might possibly be facilitated by PsyCaD.
- Members also have the opportunity to attend the career fair and career-related workshops, to ensure that members are well-groomed for employment prospects.

For more information on the activities and services offered by PsyCaD, visit <http://www.uj.ac.za> and follow the links to PsyCaD.

Alternatively, you can find out what is happening with PsyCaD Career Services on Facebook and Twitter at the following links: twitter.com/UJCareerServices (@UJCareerServices) and www.facebook.com/PsyCaDCareerServices.

2.5 Community Engagement

Community Engagement at UJ seeks to offer student talents, energies and time to the broader community, such that UJ contributes meaningfully to society. One of the primary ways UJ is able to perform such important work is through student volunteers. UJenius members are able to individually sign up as a student volunteer in order to work in private, government or non-governmental institutions of their choosing. UJenius members are able to join together for a group project for Mandela day. This will be an opportunity to get together in a fun way while offering something significant to others. For more information on this contact community@uj.ac.za.

2.6 Future Partnerships

UJenius is still in the process of trying to establish other partnerships with the UJ stakeholders so that UJenius Club members receive maximum rewards from their university. The UJenius team will inform you of the developments and what this may mean for you as a top achiever.

3. UPCOMING UJENIUS EVENTS

The UJenius Club has set aside a few dates in the year to host specific UJenius events. These are opportunities for you to mingle with other UJenius students, speakers and guests. All these events hope to contribute to your academic, professional and social development; as well as your overall enjoyment of UJ. All event information will be sent to you via email.