

# Getting Started with Amathuba Guide

## for UCT Students

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# Overview

This is a guide compiled by the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) to help UCT students get started on the new digital learning platform, Amathuba.

Amathuba is where your courses will share the online components of your course. This may include sending announcements about upcoming course events, sharing readings, videos and audio clips to support your learning, or running online assignments, quizzes, or discussions. Each of your courses will use Amathuba in different ways depending on their teaching needs.

## How to use this document

This guide includes topics selected for you as you begin to explore Amathuba. These include how to login, how to navigate Amathuba and find your course sites, and how to find the different learning tools on your course sites.

Each topic contains:

1. A brief description based on its functionality.
2. Simple steps and screenshots to show you what to do and where to go as you explore Amathuba.
3. Where applicable/available, supporting links in the form of videos and pdfs for further guidance.

In addition, we have included a [glossary](#) at the end that covers basic terms to help you get familiar with Amathuba terminology.

# Accessing Amathuba

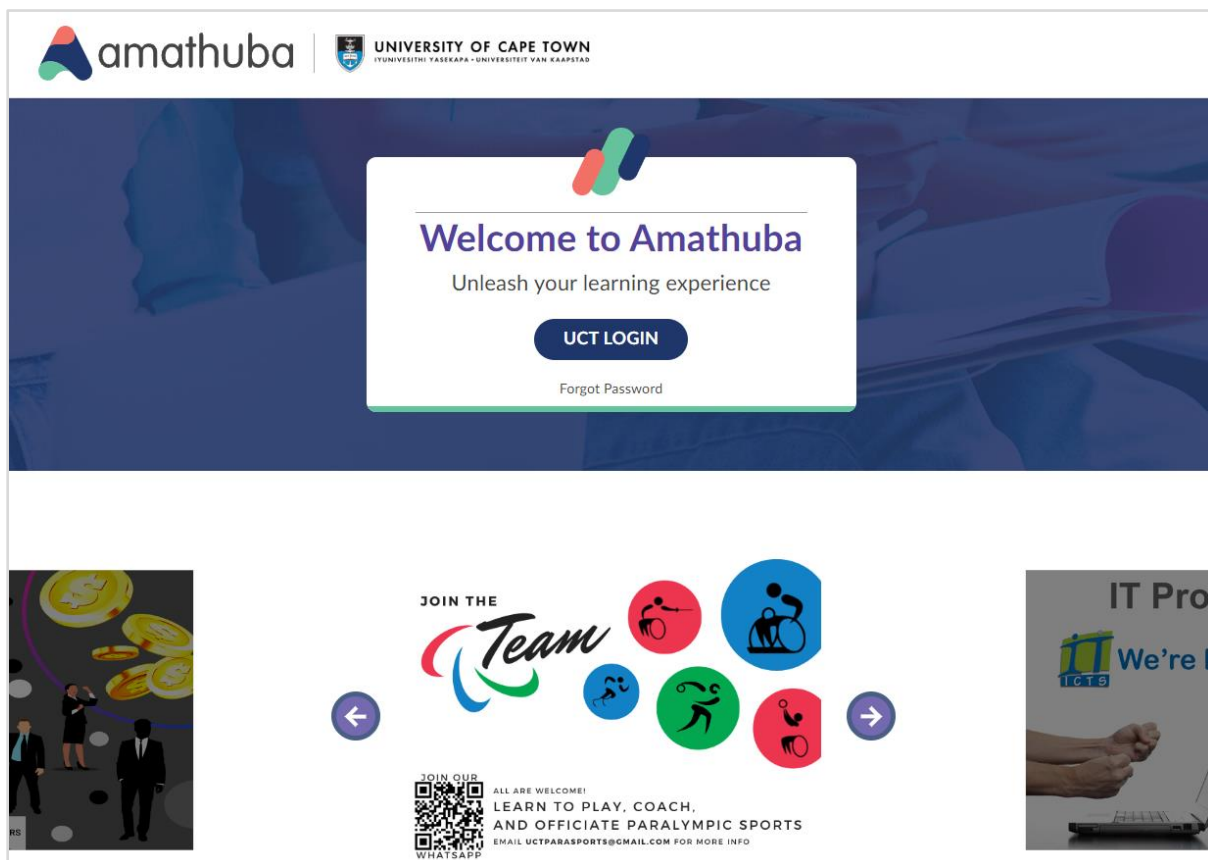
## Logging in

This is the webpage to access the digital learning platform. Please note that you need to use your UCT network username and password to login, and you may be asked for the UCT [multi-factor authentication](#).

**Tip:** You can save this webpage as a bookmark for easy access.

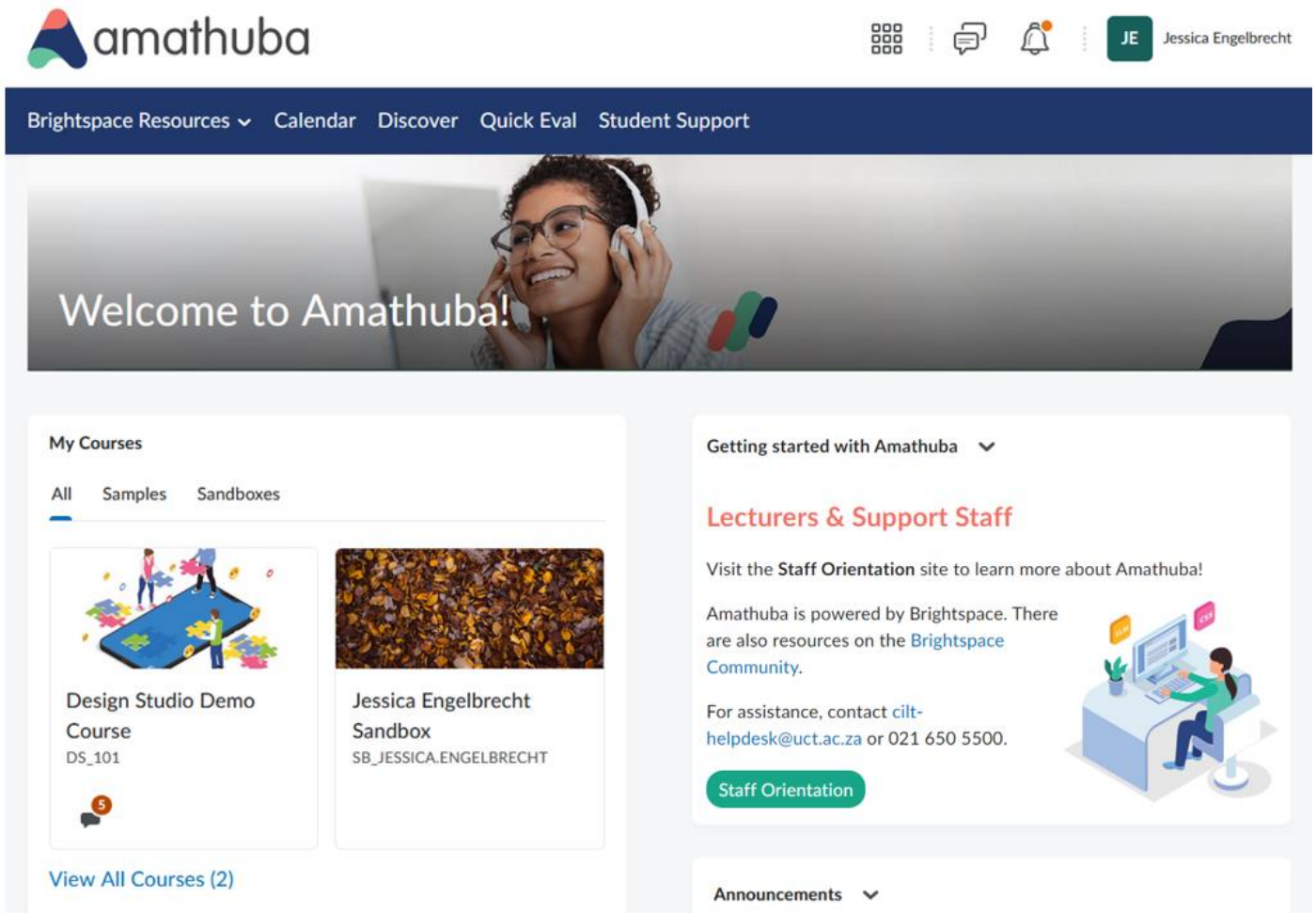
### Steps

1. Type [amathuba.uct.ac.za](http://amathuba.uct.ac.za) into your Internet browser address bar and press 'Enter'.
2. Click the **UCT Login** button.



3. If you are not already signed into the UCT network, follow the steps to sign in using the Single Sign-On service (using your normal UCT studentnumber@wf.uct.ac.za and password).

- You can save your login details so you will not need to login again (on this device). Please note that on public devices (such as computer labs) you will need to login each time you access Amathuba.
- Once signed in, you should see your account homepage:



The screenshot shows the Amathuba user interface. At the top left is the Amathuba logo. To the right are navigation icons for a grid, chat, notifications, and a user profile for Jessica Engelbrecht. Below the navigation is a dark blue header with links: Brightspace Resources, Calendar, Discover, Quick Eval, and Student Support. The main content area features a large banner with a woman wearing headphones and the text "Welcome to Amathuba!". Below the banner are two main sections: "My Courses" and "Getting started with Amathuba".

**My Courses**

All Samples Sandboxes

Design Studio Demo Course  
DS\_101

Jessica Engelbrecht Sandbox  
SB\_JESSICA.ENGELBRECHT

View All Courses (2)

**Getting started with Amathuba**

**Lecturers & Support Staff**

Visit the **Staff Orientation** site to learn more about Amathuba!

Amathuba is powered by Brightspace. There are also resources on the [Brightspace Community](#).

For assistance, contact [cilt-helpdesk@uct.ac.za](mailto:cilt-helpdesk@uct.ac.za) or 021 650 5500.

[Staff Orientation](#)

**Announcements**

## Suggested activity

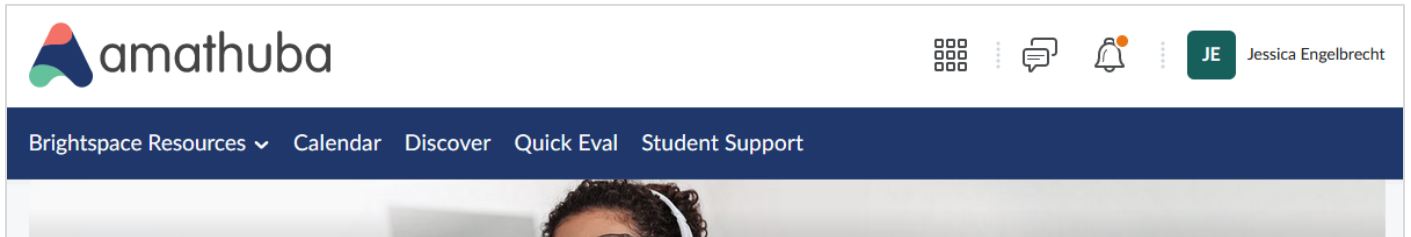
- Login to Amathuba, as indicated in the steps above.
- Bookmark the login page (<https://amathuba.uct.ac.za>).

## Navigating your UCT Amathuba landing page

Once successfully logged in to your UCT Amathuba account, you can use the top right **minibar** to make changes to your account (such as updating your profile information), navigate to courses that you are part of, access your calendar, read announcements and notifications, etc. The minibar will always be present no matter where you are in the platform.

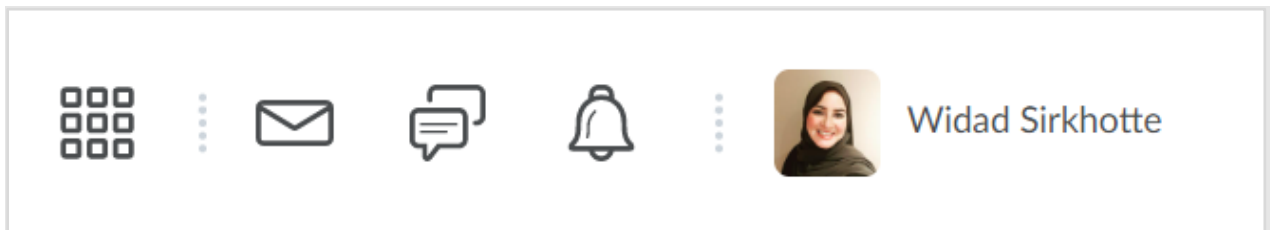
## Steps

1. Once you have logged in, you will be taken to your account landing page, which includes a home navigation bar ('navbar').



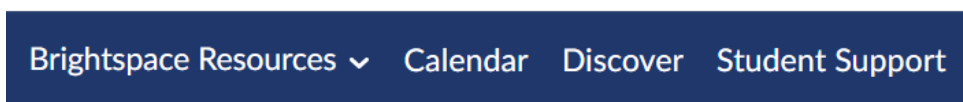
The **navbar** has two different navigation bars, one on the top-right and one below that. In the top-right **minibar**, you can:

- Navigate to courses that you are part of through the course selector or 'waffle' icon.
- Read messages.
- See notifications.
- Update your profile, such as adding a photograph or personal information.
- View your course as a student.
- Update your account settings (font, video, language, time, etc.).
- Logout of Amathuba.



In the home **navbar** (the dark blue bar), you can:

- Access Amathuba resources.
- Search for content using the **Discover** button (this will show courses that allow you to self-enroll).
  - There may not be courses available there yet.
- Access your Calendar to see upcoming due dates for assignments or course activities.
- Access the Student Support services page.



\*Note that this navbar will change once you enter a course.

## Supporting links


Video: [Logging in and Welcome to Amathuba](#)


## Suggested activity

1. Update your **Profile** by clicking on your name on the top-right corner of Amathuba. A window will appear where you can upload a photograph of yourself, add your tagline and personal interests. Remember to click on the **Save and Close** button when done.

### Edit My User Profile

Widad Sirkhotte



[Change Picture](#) 

#### Awards Showcase

[View My Awards](#)

#### Personal Info

Tagline

Interests/Hobbies

[Save and Close](#) [Save](#) [Close](#)

2. View **Account Settings** to choose your preferences. Once selected, click the **Save and Close** button.

**Tip:** These preferences can be revised at a later stage.

### Account Settings

[Account Settings](#) | [Discussions](#) | [Email](#)

#### Pronouns

When enabled, your pronouns appear in your profile card.

Allow others to see my pronouns

Use what my organization has on record: **None**

Use different pronouns:

Common pronouns include She/Her, He/Him, They/Them

#### Font Settings

Font Size

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

#### Reading Content

Some tools automatically mark content as read as you scroll it into view. If you use an assistive technology such as a screen reader then you may wish to disable this feature by checking the box below.

Do not automatically mark items as read as the page scrolls

[Save and Close](#) | [Save](#) | [Cancel](#)

# Courses in Amathuba

The courses you are enrolled in will be available in two places:

1. On your Amathuba Homepage, under the 'My courses' box on the left.
2. On the **Course Selector** icon on the minibar.



Your courses will each have access to the same teaching tools, although different courses might only use some of the available tools in Amathuba. The tools are available through the **navbar**.



## Introducing the navbar

 amathuba | Thomas King Sandbox



Course Home Content Activities ▾ Course Info ▾ Grades Brightspace Help



The blue **navbar** on the top of your course is grouped by tool.

- The **Content** tool is very important as this is where you access resources and learning materials.
- The **Activities** drop-down contains Assignments, Discussions and Quizzes.
- The **Course Info** drop-down contains Announcements, Calendar, Classlist, Class Progress and Groups.
- The **Grades** tool gives you information on any Grades you have received through the platform.

All courses have the same navbar, but different courses will use different tools and for different purposes. For instance, some courses might only use the Content tool and the Announcements tool under Course Info, while others may use a range of tools. Always read through the course outline document or consult your lecturer if you are confused about how your course will use Amathuba.

For returning students, if you are switching from Vula to Amathuba, there is a useful [Tool Comparison](#) summary table.

### Content

The Content tab contains the learning materials and resources that you will need to read, watch or listen to as part of your course. It may also contain links to external websites or YouTube videos or contain links to tools or activities that you need to complete. You will likely spend most of your time on Amathuba in the Content tool, so please visit it regularly, at least once a week and whenever prompted to by your lecturer.

### Activities

The Activities tab contains the learning tools that require your input in the form of uploading files, taking quizzes, or posting to forums. These tools are:

1. The **Assignments** tool, which requires you to upload a file or multiple files as part of an assessment. This might include an essay, a project report, or anything else that requires you to upload one or more files. Please read any instructions carefully before uploading an assignment.
2. The **Discussions tool**, which is a space for you to ask questions or respond to questions posted by your lecturers. Discussions are divided into different Forums, under which are Topics which you can post to. Please read all instructions carefully so that you post to the correct topics and follow any prompts given. Please also remember that you are posting to an academic discussion and that your posts should be professional, well-written and appropriate to the discussion.
3. The **Quizzes** tool, where you may be required to take marked or unmarked tests or quizzes, which may allow multiple attempts or just one, and might have time limits to complete. Please make sure you read the instructions carefully before attempting any quizzes, and (especially if they are timed, or for marks) make sure you have adequate power and connectivity to take the quiz without worrying about loadshedding or internet disruptions.

## Course Info

The Course Info tab contains information about the communication and administration of the course. Here you will find the following tools:

1. A list of all previous **Announcements** sent to the course.
2. The course **Calendar**, which will show upcoming due dates.
3. The **Class Progress** tool, that you can use to track your own progress through the course site.
4. The **Groups** tool, where you can see which Groups you have been assigned to, and (depending on the course) sign up for specific groups such as tutorial groups.

## Grades

The Grades tool will contain any Grades you receive that the lecturer wants to share via Amathuba. Here you will be able to see an overview of your Grades if the lecturer decides to share them via this tool. Please note that not all lecturers will choose to use this tool and may share grades via other methods, such as in class or via email.

## Other tools

Aside from the core tools mentioned above, there may be additional tools that you will be required to use. For example, you may be asked to submit survey responses to elect a class representative or take a self-assessment activity. Keep an eye out for any Announcements from your lecturers about any additional activities you may need to complete.

## Keeping up to date

While each course will use Amathuba differently, you should aim to keep up with any changes on the site by visiting your course sites regularly – at least once per week, and whenever prompted to by your lecturer. Reading all Announcements and completing any Discussion, Assignment or Quiz activities on the site will be particularly important. Regular engagement with your courses is vital for your success as a student, so put some time aside each week to stay up-to-date and monitor your own progress.

## Where to access further help

The [Student Resources page](#) on the Centre for Innovation and Learning and Teaching's website has a number of videos and other resources that can help you navigate Amathuba. Please also make sure to go through all the materials and activities on your faculty Orientation site to familiarise yourself with the platform and the various tools in Amathuba.

# Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Course homepage</b>	The homepage of your course.
<b>Navbar</b>	Primary menu to navigate in the digital learning platform.
<b>Minibar</b>	A top navigation bar which gives you options to navigate to courses you are part of, read notifications and make changes to your profile and account.
<b>Content</b>	The tool where you will find the learning materials (readings, images and videos and optionally other activities for your course.
<b>Activities</b>	The location of the different tools that require you to do something on Amathuba, like submitting an Assignment, posting to a Discussion, or taking a Quiz.
<b>Course Info</b>	A dropdown on the navbar that contains information about the course such as previous Announcements, the course Calendar, and which Groups (if any) you are part of.