



2026 Annual UNISA Research & Innovation Postgraduate Student Showcase

Call for Abstracts

Theme:

**“It is still in our hands to combat poverty and
inequality”**

Closing Date: 18 September 2026

The College of Graduate Studies, in collaboration with the Directorate of Innovation, Technology Transfer, and Commercialisation and UNISA National Student Representative Council (NSRC), invites all 2026 registered Masters and Doctoral UNISA students to submit one abstract (**only 1 page**) per student to be considered for presentation at the Annual UNISA Research & Innovation Postgraduate Student Showcase, scheduled for **24 November 2026** during the UNISA Innovation Festival from **23-26 November 2026**.

OVERVIEW

Africa has been a hub of innovation, with a rich history of indigenous knowledge and creativity. The continent has produced cutting-edge research and innovation, positively impacting communities and driving effective development, economic growth, technological advancement, and entrepreneurship. UNISA has ten catalytic niche areas that will assist postgraduates to align their projects to address the needs of their society.

The 2026 Annual UNISA Research & Innovation Postgraduate Student Showcase aims to highlight solutions from UNISA Master's and Doctoral students across all colleges that address critical needs and challenges faced by our communities. Postgraduate students will present their innovative findings and ideas while networking with peers, reputable academics and industry leaders.

Define tomorrow.

UNISA | 
college of
graduate studies

Table 1: Students are invited to submit abstracts in any of the following disciplines

Discipline	Colleges
Arts and Humanities	CHS
Natural and Physical Sciences	CAES and CSET
Social Sciences	CAS, CEDU, CEMS, CLAW and SBL

ELIGIBILITY

- **Only** the 2026 UNISA postgraduate students registered for the Masters or Doctoral qualification.
- Research and innovations directly aligned with the theme “It is still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality”, offering a distinctive focus on the societal impact of your research.
- Prospective postgraduate student participants have not previously taken part in the Annual UNISA Research & Innovation Postgraduate Student Showcase under their current registered qualification
- UNISA staff studying through UNISA are not allowed to participate.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- All submissions should be in **Arial, 11pt and 1.5-spaced.**)
- Name and surname
- Student number
- The project title should be included in the abstract. (**Note that the title cannot be changed after submitting.**)
- Registered qualification and discipline (as indicated in **Table 1**). **Do not submit encrypted documents that will need passwords.**
- Articulate research objectives, methodology, key findings, and Impact and implications of the project (**Candidates who have not collected data are ineligible**).
Fully and accurately complete the showcase submission form to be found on the link
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/95LqKUYVcP>
- Attached 1: Proof of registration
- Attached 2: ID/Passport copy

KEY DATES

- Closing date for the submission of the participation form: **18 September 2026**
- Training (provided the abstract is accepted): **14 October 2026**
- Mentorship (only for postgraduate students who attended the training): **5 – 6 November 2026**
- Attendance of the 2026 Innovation Festival: **23 – 26 November 2026**
- Presentation date of participants: **24 November 2026**
- Award Ceremony: **27 November 2026**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Originality and alignment with the theme
- Scientific innovation and potential societal impact.
- Rigour in research methodology and results
- Overall quality of the submission

AWARDS

- Best oral presentation: Certificate and monetary award
- First runner-up oral presentation: Certificate and monetary award
- Second runner-up oral presentation: Certificate and monetary award

RECOGNITION

- Best research presentation
- Most innovative solution and societal impact
- Outstanding interdisciplinary approach

HOW TO SUBMIT

1. Visit our official website at <https://www.unisa.ac.za/Showcase>
2. Complete the submission form, ensuring all documents and materials adhere to the stated guidelines.
3. An acknowledgement email will confirm the successful submission.
4. Click the QR code: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/95LqKUYVcP>



For further details, clarifications, or technical assistance, kindly connect with us at: showcase@unisa.ac.za

Unisa's 10 Catalytic Niche Areas



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