

National Postdoctoral Fellowship Research Forum

Strategies for Enhancing PostDoctoral Research Support at South African Research Institutions
3-5 July 2024

*Draft Programme

**(Subject to change)*

Day 1

Wednesday, 3 July 2024

ZK Matthews Great Hall
2nd Floor Winnie Madikizela Mandela Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

Morning Plenary Session

Programme Manager: Mr Harry Bopape, Director: Research Support

09:00 Formal Opening

Welcome: Prof Puleng LenkaBula, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Unisa
In Context: Prof Thenjiwe Meyiwa, VP: Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation, Unisa

09:55 Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme in South Africa

Mr Bheki Hadebe, Director: High-End Skills, National Department of Science and Innovation

Session Chair: Dr Palesa Mthapo, Director: Research Support and Management, Nelson Mandela University

10:40 Refreshments

11:00 SARS Ruling and Stipend Standardisation

Mr Barry Knoetze, Tax Consultant, ENS

Session chair: Ms Izel Rossouw. Head: Postdoctoral Office, University of Stellenbosch

12:10 National Postdoctoral Framework Guideline Launch

Dr Palesa Mthapo, Director: Research Support and Management, Nelson Mandela University
Dr François van Schalkwyk, Academic Researcher: Stellenbosch University

13:20 Lunch

Afternoon Plenary Session

13:50 Improving Funding Support

Ms Shanna Nienaber, Programme Manager: Water RDI Roadmap, Water Research Commission (WRC)
Dr Sello Manoto, Postdoctoral Funding Programme, National Research Foundation (NRF)
NIHSS/OMT (Francois)

Session chair: Prof Sarah-Jane Johnston, Head of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Science, Engineering and Technology, Unisa

14:55 Refreshments

15:15 Visas and Immigration

Mr Phindiwe Mbhele, Director, Corporate Accounts, Department of Home Affairs

Session chair: Ms Mandy Jampies, Senior Officer: Postdoctoral Fellow Co-ordinator, Research Development, University of the Free State

16:30 Day's Round-up and Closure

17:00 Icebreaker

Day 2

Thursday, 4 July 2024

ZK Matthews Great Hall
2nd Floor Winnie Madikizela Mandela Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus

Morning Plenary Session

Programme Manager: Mr Harry Bopape, Director: Research Support

09:00 **Industry Partnerships and Career Development Opportunities**

Prof René Pellissier, Programme Co-ordinator, CHEC Higher Education Leadership Academy, Stellenbosch
Dr Farai Mlambo, Senior Lecturer (Digital Business), Wits Business School
Prof Moses Batisere, South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) (TBC) Palesa
Dr Palesa Mothapo, Director: Research Support and Management, Nelson Mandela University

Session chair: Ms Welma van Heerden, Postdoctoral and Research Fellows Administrator, Nelson Mandela University

10:00 Refreshments

10:25 **Internationalisation, Collaborations and MoUs**

Panel:
Prof René Pellissier, SARUA SFA Lead: Knowledge Co-production
Ms Lindiwe Gama, Africa Bilateral Cooperation (TBC).
Ms Huba Boshoff, Director: Nuffic, Southern Africa (TBC)
Ms Loice Alusala, Science and Innovation Network Officer, British Council

Session Chair: Dr Palesa Mothapo, Director: Research Support and Management, Nelson Mandela University

11:30 **HR System for Postdocs**

Mr Alban van Roy, Postdoc & ECAD Administration, University of the Witwatersrand
Ms Misiwe Moloi, Postdoctoral Fellowships, University of Pretoria
Ms Onalerona Matlawe, Postdoctoral Fellowships, University of Pretoria
Dr Maanda Ndhlovu, Head of Graduate Studies and Research, Graduate School of Business Leadership, Unisa

Session Chair: Francois

Parallel sessions

Postdoc Challenges (Senate Hall)

Dr Lazarus Chapungu, Postdoc Fellow, College of Economic and Management Sciences, Unisa
Dr Jonas Thinane, Postdoc Fellow, College of Human Sciences, Unisa
Dr Lethula Mofokeng, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pretoria
Dr Alois Baleni, National Coordinator: NRF Steering Student Epistemic Access and Success Project, University of Johannesburg
Dr John Hlatshwayo, Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Human Sciences, Unisa

Session chair and Scribe: Dr Arine Kuyler, Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Education, Unisa

Administrator Challenges (Mphebatho)

Ms Izel Rossouw, Head: Postdoctoral Office, University of Stellenbosch
Ms Welma van Heerden, Postdoctoral and Research Fellows Administrator, Nelson Mandela University
Ms Dudu Mbatha, PDRF Coordinator: University of Johannesburg
Mr Lucas Shai, Directorate Research and Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology

Session Chair and scribe: Ms Mandy Jampies, Senior Officer: Postdoctoral Fellow Co-ordinator, Research Development, University of the Free State

12:25 Lunch

Afternoon Plenary Session

13:30 **Postdocs and Administrators Feedback from Earlier Sessions**

Postdoc and Administrator Success Stories

Feedback session.

Ms Mandy Jampies, Senior Officer: Postdoctoral Fellow Co-ordinator, Research Development, University of the Free State

Dr Arine Kuyler, Postdoc Fellow, College of Education, Unisa

14:20 **Postdoc Societies**

Panel session.

Dr Melanie Celliers, Chair: Postdoctoral Society, Stellenbosch University

Dr Daniel Hart, Chairman, Postdoctoral Support, University of Pretoria

Dr Tshepo Moloj, Inaugural Chair, PDRF Association, University of Johannesburg

Mr Lucas Shai, Directorate Research and Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology

Session chair: Dr François van Schalkwyk, Academic Researcher: Stellenbosch University

15:25 **Refreshments**

15:40 **Postdoc Support**

Medical Aids and University Support

Panel Session.

Prof Marcia Mkansi, Head of Graduate Studies and Research, College of Economic and Management Sciences, Unisa

Dr Maanda Ndhlovu, Graduate School of Business Leadership, Unisa

Ms Mandy Jampies, Postdoctoral Fellow Co-ordinator, University of the Free State

Ms Mpho Maithufi, Postdoctoral and Research Fellow Programmes Officer, University of Pretoria

Mr Alban van Roy, Postdoc & ECAD Administration, University of the Witwatersrand

Mr Lucas Shai, Directorate Research and Innovation, Tshwane University of Technology

Session Chair: Dr Melanie Celliers, University of Stellenbosch

16:40 **Day's Roundup and Closure**

Mr Harry Bopape, Director: Research Support, Unisa

Day 3

Friday, 5 July 2024

Morning Plenary Session

Programme Manager: Mr Harry Bopape, Director: Research Support

09:00 **Postdoc Research and Unisa's Catalytic Niche Areas**

Prof Jessica Murray, College of Graduate Studies, Unisa

10:05 **Enhancing Excellence Through Postdoc Publications and Success Stories**

Panel:

Ms Dudu Mbatha, PDRF Coordinator: University of Johannesburg

Dr François van Schalkwyk, Academic Researcher: Stellenbosch University

Ms Mpe Meintjes, Research Co-ordinator, North-West University (virtual)

Ms Teresa Smit, Co-ordinator Research Output Information, North-West University (virtual)

Prof Les Labuschagne, Executive Director: Research, Innovation and Commercialisation, Unisa

Session chair: Ms Izel Rossouw. Head: Postdoctoral Office, University of Stellenbosch

Parallel session (Senate Hall)

Why Postdoctoral Research Needs a Stronger Focus on Innovation (Senate Hall)

Mr Ayanda Noma, Director: Innovation Technology Transfer and Commercialisation

10:50 **Refreshments**

11:05 **Aligning Postdoc Research with the SDGs and Agenda 63**

Dr Harlan Cloete, Research Fellow, University of the Free State

National Research Foundation, Business Advancement (TBC)

- Dr Sepo Hachigonta, Director: Strategic Partnerships
- Dr Thandi Mgwebi, Group Executive: Business Advancement
- Ms Edith Shikumo, Professional Officer: Professional Development Programme

Parallel session (Senate Hall)

Writing for Publication – Books and Journal Articles

Ms Hetta Pieteron, Commissioning Editor, Unisa Press, Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation, Unisa

Parallel session (Mphebatho)

Self-branding, Skills Audit and Writing Grants

Prof Moeketsi Letseka, Distinguished Professor, College of Graduate Studies, Unisa

11:50 Forging Mentor and Mentee Relationships

Ms Amanda Glaeser, Executive Director, Human Resources, University of the Western Cape

Prof Cloete virtually

Prof Ola Fawole

Prof Patricks Otomo

Session Chair – Dr Melanie Celliers, Chair: Postdoctoral Society, Stellenbosch University

12:50 Next Steps and Forum Closure

Dr François van Schalkwyk, Academic Researcher: Stellenbosch University

Dr Palesa Mothapo, Director: Research Support and Management, Nelson Mandela University

Word of thanks

Mr Harry Bopape, Director: Research Support, Unisa

13:30 Lunch