

Nelson Mandela University
Postgraduate Orientation Programme
18-20 March 2024

Programme Director: Ms Jadine Januarie



Ocean Sciences Campus, B-Block Conference Hall, Summerstrand, Gqeberha

George Campus, Conference Room, Admin Building, Ground Floor, George

Welcome to Your Next Chapter: A Journey of Academic Excellence

Dear Postgraduate Students

We are delighted to warmly welcome you to the 2024 Postgraduate Orientation Programme at Nelson Mandela University. As you embark on this exciting chapter of your academic journey, we are committed to providing you with a comprehensive and enriching orientation experience.

As a postgraduate student at Mandela University, you have access to a diverse array of institutional support services and expertise. Below is a summary of specialised support services available to postgraduates, including links to video presentations with additional information:

- [The Office of Research Development](#): plays a vital role in the academic community by supporting emerging researchers, facilitating postgraduate student funding, and offering enriching research development programmes. Through the [Unit for Statistical Consultation \(USC\)](#) it offers training and consultation for statistical needs of researchers. It also manages ethics processes at the institution.
- [Information and Communication Technology \(ICT\) Services](#): provide computing and networking services, ensuring efficient technical support. Link to video: [ICT.mp4](#)
- [Library and Information Services \(LIS\)](#): provide a diverse range of methods for accessing and retrieving information. Explore the multitude of resources available to enhance your academic journey. Link to video: [Library 2.mp4](#), [Library.mp4](#)
- [Learning Development, LT Collab](#): is your go-to resource for professional writing assistance, offering support for crafting reports, assignments, and more. Additionally, we provide a curated list of qualified editors who offer their services at a fee. Link to video: [Academic Writing Resources.mp4](#), [Academic Literacies.mp4](#)
- [Emthonjeni Student Wellness](#): comprises a dedicated team of professional psychologists committed to providing confidential and free mental health services to students. Your well-being is important to us, and we encourage you to access these valuable resources. Link to video: [Emthonjeni Student Wellness.mp4](#), [Emthonjeni Student Wellness 2.mp4](#)
- [Universal Accessibility and Disability Services \(UADS\)](#): is dedicated to providing efficient support services for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to connect with UADS for personalised support. Link to video: [UADS.mp4](#)
- [The Transformation Office](#): is dedicated to promoting institutional transformation and cultivating an affirming, transformative institutional culture. Its mission is to create an inclusive environment that upholds the principles of human dignity, equality, fairness, non-racism, non-sexism, and redress. Link to video: [GBV.mp4](#)

The upcoming three-day programme is the first orientation session for postgraduate students this year. Click [here](#) to register by **Wednesday, 13 March 2024** to ensure your spot in this valuable orientation programme.

We look forward to supporting your academic and personal growth. Together, let's make the most of this enriching postgraduate experience!

Best wishes

The Office of Research Development

Advancing Sustainability Science at Mandela through a Futures Literacy Laboratory

Mr Jason Owen and Dr Chloé Guerbois

In its role as a global laboratory of ideas, UNESCO has championed Futures Literacy since 2012: the competency that allows people to better understand the role of the future in what they see and do. In our complex world, the global challenges we face require more inclusive and agile approaches to policy design and decision-making. Rooted in the discipline of anticipation, Futures Literacy can improve our capacity to shape policies and systems that withstand shocks and create long-term resilience. The Futures Literacy Laboratory to be presented during postgraduate orientation is themed “**The Future of Research**” and is part of the university’s efforts to position itself as a global hub for sustainability science. Postgraduate students will be able to explore different ways of using the future, imagining probable, preferred as well as strange and unexpected futures.

The Futures Literacy Laboratory (FLL) is a learning by doing collective intelligence process that involves getting participants to describe and imagine different kinds of futures in the context of a particular topic, in this case “The Future of Research”. The Laboratory is meant to be highly contextualised to suit the conditions in which it is used. The goal is to get participants to think about thinking about the future – and to disrupt the tacit assumptions that they usually use for this task. This process enhances participants’ personal and organisational futures literacy or capacity to “use the future” as well as reveals the anticipatory systems and processes that shape why and how people imagine in their specific context, including language, ways-of-knowing (epistemologies), and all the richness and diversity of distinct histories.

The [Future Africa Futures Literacy Incubator](#) is a new centre dedicated to building African capabilities to “use the future” more effectively. Here, futures literacy is seen as a capability that allows human beings to understand why and how they imagine the future and to design processes that match reasons for using the future to appropriate methods. The Incubator endeavours to be a resource centre for Africa, providing training, tools and expertise to design and run futures literacy initiatives across the continent.

Day 1 (Monday, 18 March 2024)		
Time	Session	Description
08h30-09h00	Registration	
09h00-09h10	Opening and Welcome Remarks <i>Prof Azwinndini Muronga</i> <i>Executive Dean: Faculty of Science and Acting DVC: Research, Innovation and Internationalisation</i> <i>Dr Kaluke Mawila</i> <i>Campus Principle: George Campus</i>	

Day 1 (Monday, 18 March 2024)

Time	Session	Description
09h10-10h00	Strategies for supporting postgraduate students <i>Dr Priscilla Mensah</i> <i>Director: Research Development and Acting Director: Innovation Office</i>	
10h00-10h30	Introduction and Icebreaker (Polak Game)	
10h30-10h50	Refreshment Break	
PHASE 1: REVEAL		
10h50-12h05	Exploring the probable future of research through time travel to 2055	In this session participants work in groups to imagine what the world of research looks like in 2055 (e.g. It's 2055 and I'm in X doing Y)? Appointed rapporteur for each group shares summary in plenary.
12h05-13h05	Exploring the desired future of research through time travel to 2055	This time, participants imagine the desirable future of research in 2055, describing the community or communities they belong to and day in the life activities. Appointed rapporteur for each group shares summary in plenary.
13h05-14h00	Lunch break	
PHASE 2: REFRAME		
14h00-14h30	Presentation on the reframed scenario	
14h30-15h30	Exploring an unfamiliar future of research in 2055, one that is constructed without reference to its probability or desirability	During this session, participants return to 2055 to think about how they get their research needs met under this unfamiliar scenario. They also reflect on what strikes or surprises them, and if anything is exciting or worrying about this scenario.
15h30-15h50	Refreshment Break	

Day 1 (Monday, 18 March 2024)

Time	Session	Description
15h50-16h30	Exploring an unfamiliar future of research in 2055, one that is constructed without reference to its probability or desirability	Appointed rapporteur for each group shares summary in plenary.
<i>PHASE 3: RE-PERCEIVING THE PRESENT</i>		
16h30-17h30	Return to present day for a reflective discussion	
17h30	Cocktail event	

Day 2 (Tuesday, 19 March 2024)

08h30-09h00	Registration
09h00-10h30	<p>Guidelines for proposal development, academic writing, and the literature review <i>Prof David Katerere</i> <i>Research Platform Chair: Pharmaceutical and Biotech Advancement in Africa (PBA2) at Tshwane University of Technology and Chair of PharmaConnect Africa</i></p> <p>The objectives of the workshop are to introduce and provide the participants with knowledge and strategies which will allow them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptualise their research ideas • Understand the basics of proposal writing as the first step in thesis writing • Conduct literature reviews and synthesise the literature • Identify the research questions and formulate proper hypothesis and objectives • Understand and appreciate the differences between qualitative and quantitative research designs and selecting appropriate methods • Gain confidence in academic writing and science communication in general
10h30-11h00	Refreshment break
11h00-13h00	<p>Continuation of Guidelines for proposal development, academic writing, and the literature review <i>Prof David Katerere</i> <i>Research Platform Chair: Pharmaceutical and Biotech Advancement in Africa (PBA2) at Tshwane University of Technology and Chair of PharmaConnect Africa</i></p>
13h00-14h00	Lunch break
14h00-15h00	<p>Continuation of Guidelines for proposal development, academic writing, and the literature review <i>Prof David Katerere</i> <i>Research Platform Chair: Pharmaceutical and Biotech Advancement in Africa (PBA2) at Tshwane University of Technology and Chair of PharmaConnect Africa</i></p>
15h00-15h15	Refreshment break
15h15-16h15	<p>Continuation of Guidelines for proposal development, academic writing, and the literature review <i>Prof David Katerere</i> <i>Research Platform Chair: Pharmaceutical and Biotech Advancement in Africa (PBA2) at Tshwane University of Technology and Chair of PharmaConnect Africa</i></p>
16h15-16h30	Wrap up and evaluation

Day 3 (Wednesday, 20 March 2024)

<p>08h30-09h00</p>	<p>Registration</p> <p><i>Postgraduate students will be categorised into groups focusing on either Qualitative or Quantitative Research Methodologies.</i></p> <p>The objective of the two workshops is to review the role and significance of research designs in both quantitative and qualitative research. The workshops will focus on specific research designs in quantitative and qualitative research and provide an opportunity for participants to develop their research ideas around research design and methods.</p>	
<p>09h00-10h30</p>	<p>Introduction to quantitative research <i>Ms Carmen Stindt</i> <i>Statistical Consultant:</i> <i>Unit for Statistical Consultation</i></p> <p>Venue: Resource Centre, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>	<p>Introduction to qualitative research <i>Prof Kambidima Wotela</i> <i>WITS Graduate School of Governance</i> <i>Faculty of Commerce, Law, and Management</i></p> <p>Venue: B-Block Conference Hall, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>
<p>11h00-13h00</p>	<p>Overview of quantitative research designs <i>Ms Carmen Stindt</i> <i>Statistical Consultant: Unit for Statistical Consultation</i></p> <p>Venue: Resource Centre, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>	<p>Overview of qualitative research designs <i>Prof Kambidima Wotela</i> <i>WITS Graduate School of Governance</i> <i>Faculty of Commerce, Law, and Management</i></p> <p>Venue: B-Block Conference Hall, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>
<p>14h00-15h00</p>	<p>Important considerations in questionnaire design <i>Ms Carmen Stindt</i> <i>Statistical Consultant:</i> <i>Unit for Statistical Consultation</i></p> <p>Venue: Resource Centre, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>	<p>Important considerations in qualitative research <i>Prof Kambidima Wotela</i> <i>WITS Graduate School of Governance</i> <i>Faculty of Commerce, Law, and Management</i></p> <p>Venue: B-Block Conference Hall, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>
<p>15h00-15h15 Refreshment break</p>		
<p>15H15-16h15</p>	<p>Getting started with IBM SPSS Statistics <i>Ms Carmen Stindt</i> <i>Statistical Consultant:</i> <i>Unit for Statistical Consultation</i></p> <p>Venue: Resource Centre, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>	<p>Important considerations for a mixed research strategy <i>Prof Kambidima Wotela</i> <i>WITS Graduate School of Governance</i> <i>Faculty of Commerce, Law, and Management</i></p> <p>Venue: B-Block Conference Hall, Ocean Sciences Campus</p>
<p>16h15-16h30 Wrap up and evaluation</p>		