



Central University of
Technology, Free State

15 December 2020

WELCOME
TO THE
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Graduate School e-Newsletter (5th Edition)

Dear Colleagues and Postgraduate Students

You will agree with me that this year was the most unusual and demanding year for us. The year had taken such a drastic turning point and demanded a degree of versatility that would certainly keep us on our toes. We are now entering a season of recovery, after months of virtual meetings, webinars, and workshops.



I've been reading the following post recently and would like to share it with you:

Sheryl Sandberg, in her book *Option B* (2017), she discusses the tremendous impact of loss and grief in her life and the lives of others, and how we can prepare ourselves to be resilient in tragedy, embrace opportunities for growth and flourish in the face of unforeseen hardship. Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook COO and mother of two, found her husband collapsing on the gym floor. He died. Sheryl was destroyed. She cried in front of a friend two weeks later, while she was preparing for a family activity: "I want my husband, I want Dave!" Her friend replied: "I'm sorry Sheryl, but Option A is not available. But I promise you, I will help you make the most of Option B."

Sandberg argues that sooner or later, we will all lose an Option A in our lives and must learn to make the most of an Option B. She strongly suggests that in the end, we learn more from failure, tragedy and crisis than we ever do from success. She argues that success often blinds us to the limitations in our mindsets and our behaviour, while facing tragedy and failure forces us to examine our lives, our relationships, our value and our world more deeply; compelling us to figure out brave, courageous ways of moving forward in these turbulent times. She quotes Rabbi Israel ben Eliezer, also known as the Baal Shem Tov: "Let me fall if I must fall. The one I become will catch me."

For me, what we had to endure this year, resonates with this story. Therefore, I would like to commend the entire postgraduate community for coping, embracing *Option B* and pushing through the rapid evolving changes the past year. We developed tremendously and it has been incredible how we have upskilled ourselves with online training and collaborations.

In this Edition, I would like to share with you a few remarkable virtual events hosted by the Graduate School in 2020. My wish is that this will encourage you to return to our CUT 'home' in 2021, inspired and ready to continue your postgraduate journey knowing that we are here to serve you.

Let this holiday be a time for reflection and for special family moments. I look forward to seeing all of you in the new year.

Best Wishes

Eleanor Nel
Research Officer: Graduate School



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Critical Reading and Academic Writing Programme

The online Critical Reading and Academic Writing Programme was offered to Masters' and Doctoral students to effectively improve their academic writing abilities. The Graduate School aims to create an enabling environment in which postgraduate students in all disciplines can improve their writing skills to become more successful writers. The programme ran from February to June 2020 with a series of seven compulsory sessions focused on student's writing needs and expectations. A second cohort of Masters' and Doctoral students signed up for a similar programme in the second part of 2020. The Graduate School is proud to announce that the same online programme was offered to part-time Masters' and Doctoral students during October to November 2020 at 6pm to 7:30pm. The attendance at these sessions on a Monday for Masters' students ranged from 30 to 45 participants per session and Tuesday's from 10 to 15 Doctoral participants. The facilitator for the Master's Programme is Dr Mardi Delport. Dr Brenton Fredericks facilitates the Doctoral Programme. Both facilitators are lecturers in the Department of Communication Sciences at the Central University of Technology.

Here are some of the feedback from participants during the Reflective sessions ...

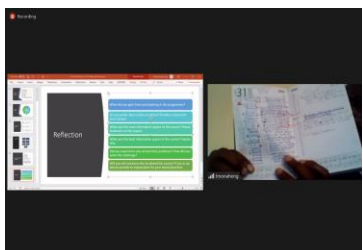
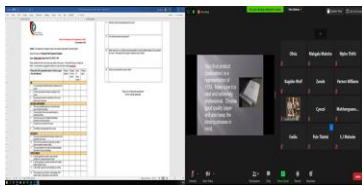
I am more motivated to finish my Master's study. I missed only one session of which you topped up by sending the presentation (Masters' student).

These sessions have been extremely helpful. The most beneficial topic for me was last weeks' language editing. I wish I could have been taught all this while doing my Honours Degree (Master's student).

I prefer face to face sessions for many reasons. 1. Face to face sessions will ensure a more intensive experience, 2. Questions can be asked and explained on the spot. Also, one of the disadvantages of online sessions is connectivity problems. However, online sessions are convenient in the sense of gaining all the experience in the comfort of your own home. Thank you, for the whole course, I learnt a lot (Doctoral student).

It was a very good journey; I benefited a lot. To the facilitator and the coordinator - thank you so much. For us part-time students it's difficult to get this information since we are far from the university. Therefore, thanks for this initiative (Doctoral student).

The sessions have been very helpful. The golden thread astounds me most. One would request for another workshop to focus on transcription, data analysis and model/framework development. Thanks so, so much (Doctoral student).



Postgraduate Supervision

The webinars on *Postgraduate Supervision* formed part of a three-part series: Webinar 1, on 22 July 2020, focused on *Some key aspects related to promoting/supervising senior degree research*. The second webinar, on 29 July 2020 related to *New modes and models of supervising*. Webinar 3, on 5 August 2020 focused on *'The doctorate by publication*.

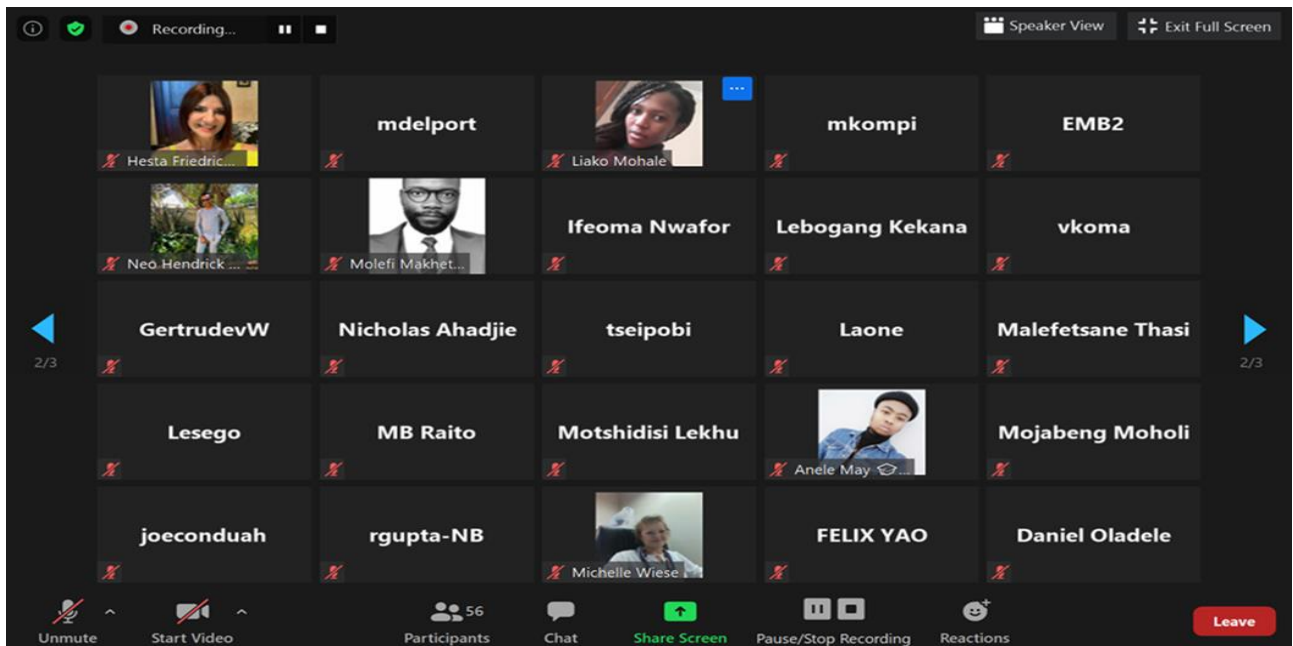
Ten proposed generic Senior Degree Graduate Attributes (SDGAs) for CUT were identified for 2021:

- develop research expertise and critical knowledge;
- interpret scholarly debates and literature;
- identify and effectively apply research methodology;
- apply knowledge to solve identified problems;
- carry out ethically responsible research;
- make independent research judgements;
- appropriately produce and defend scholarly work;
- effect change for the better through research;
- effectively manage or co-manage a research project;
- operate relatively independently and take responsibility for own work.



Research ethics and integrity challenges in academic and scientific writing

The Graduate School hosted a **series** of three webinars on some key concerns relevant to research ethics and integrity in academic and scientific writing, including plagiarism and the use of Turnitin. On 19 August 2020 Webinar 1 were presented on the theme: *Research ethics and integrity challenges in academic and scientific writing*. Webinar 2, on 26 August 2020 addressed *the application of writing strategies and skills to avoid inadvertent plagiarism in academic texts*. Webinar 3 focused on *the nuances of plagiarism and teaching through metaphors how to avoid plagiarism*.



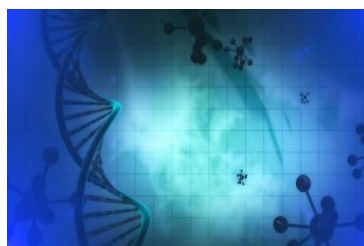
The audience was engaged with insightful metaphors for avoiding plagiarism such as **cheating**, **cloning**, **2nd hand clothes** and **your gang or support team**.

Cheating (intentional plagiarism)



2nd Hand clothing (how much 'common knowledge' can be reused)

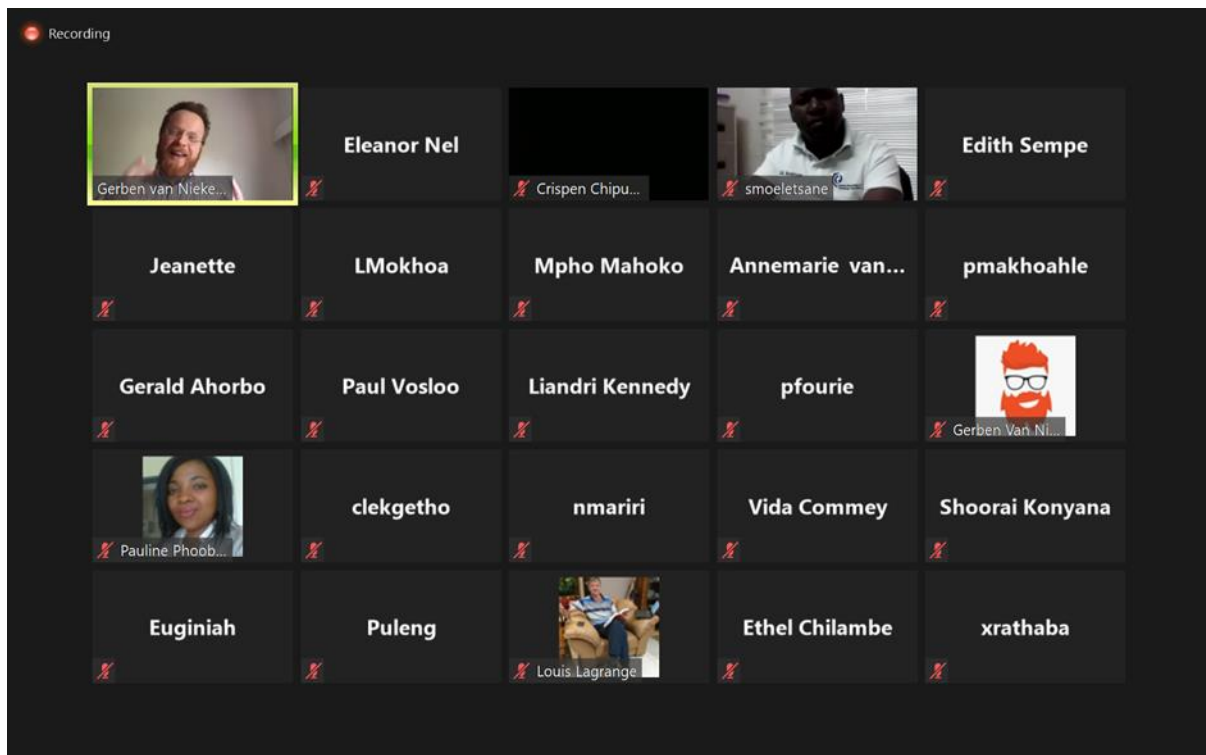
Cloning (verbatim use of a source text)



Your gang or support team
(the need to incorporate research and the call on authority)

Science Communication and Public Speaking

During this webinar, staff and postgraduate students were introduced to useful tips and tools that will assist them to engage confidently with public audiences. The emphasis was on the basic skills, and the tools and tactics required for successful public engagement - focusing on how to present science to a non-expert audience in a formal setting.



Thank you very much for the presentation. I am going to share with my students how to manage their background too. Thank you (Participant).

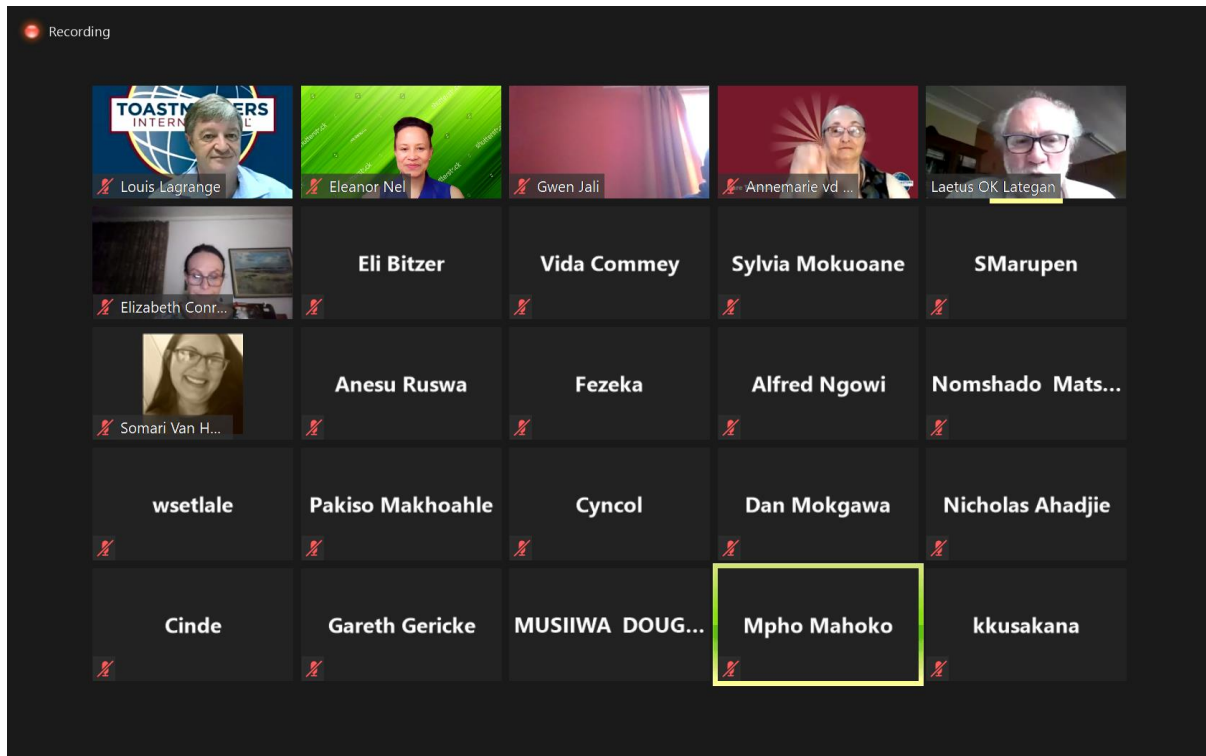
CANVA.COM just solved most of my problems (Participant).

Institutional Three Minute Thesis® Competition

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland (UQ), whereby masters' and doctoral students are given three minutes to present their research and its significance. The 3MT® Competition challenges students to consolidate their ideas and research discoveries to be presented concisely to a non-specialist audience.

Well done to the eight participants who performed their presentations online at the 3MT® Competition at the Central University of Technology, Free State on 30 October 2020.





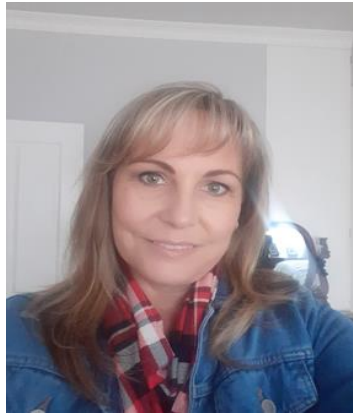
Masters' participants	
Sylvia Precious Mokuoane	Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences
Cyncol Akani Sibiya	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Gareth Gericke	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Doctoral participants	
Vida Commey	Faculty of Management Sciences
Parks Makhoahle	Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences
Nomshado Matselane	Faculty of Humanities
Lehlohonolo Monaheng	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology
Jeanne Coetzer	Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Gareth Gericke won the 1st prize in the master's category with his presentation entitled: *Communication Protocol for Decentralised Manufacturing Units* and Cyncol Akani Sibiya was the runner-up in the 2nd position with his presentation entitled: *Design and Cost Optimised Hybrid Renewable Energy System for Impressed Current Cathodic Protection*.

The audience supported the candidates by casting a vote for their favourite presentation.

<p>Gareth Gericke was voted for as the audience's favourite presentation in the People's Choice Masters' category.</p>		<p>Parks Makhoahle was voted for as the audience's favourite presentation in the People's Choice Doctoral category.</p>
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Three Minute Thesis® Competition Doctoral Winner



Congratulations to Jeanne Coetzer, from the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (FEBIT), for winning the 1st place Doctoral prize with her presentation entitled: *Utilising Collaborative Decision-Making in Smart Manufacturing towards Optimisation of Processes.*

Annual Doctoral Summer School webinar

This online event was hosted for doctoral students and staff with the theme: *Looking back to going forward*. The webinar aligned with lessons learned from the preparation for the Council on Higher Education's national review of the doctoral standards project. We looked back at the university's Vision 2020, where we are now and, where we are going as outlined in Vision 2030. Participants had a fresh view on the available institutional support structures and now know how to use them. At the end of the webinar, participants had a clear understanding of the current status and explored what we need to do next.

Zoom Meeting

You are viewing Jeanne Nel's screen

View Options

1. Welcoming - **Prof Alfred Ngowi**
2. 2020 Overview - **Prof Laetus OK Lategan**
3. Steps in the Doctoral Journey - **Ms Eleanor Nel**
4. Doctoral support - **Ms Bianca Mkhize**
5. Doctoral journey - **Dr Thandi Gumede**
6. Project Management - **Dr Rangith Kuriakose**
7. Science communication - **Ms Jeanne Coetzer**
8. Graduate attributes - **Prof Eli Bitzer**
9. 2021 Programme - **Ms Eleanor Nel**
10. Facilities and infrastructure - **Prof Laetus OK Lategan**
11. Closing

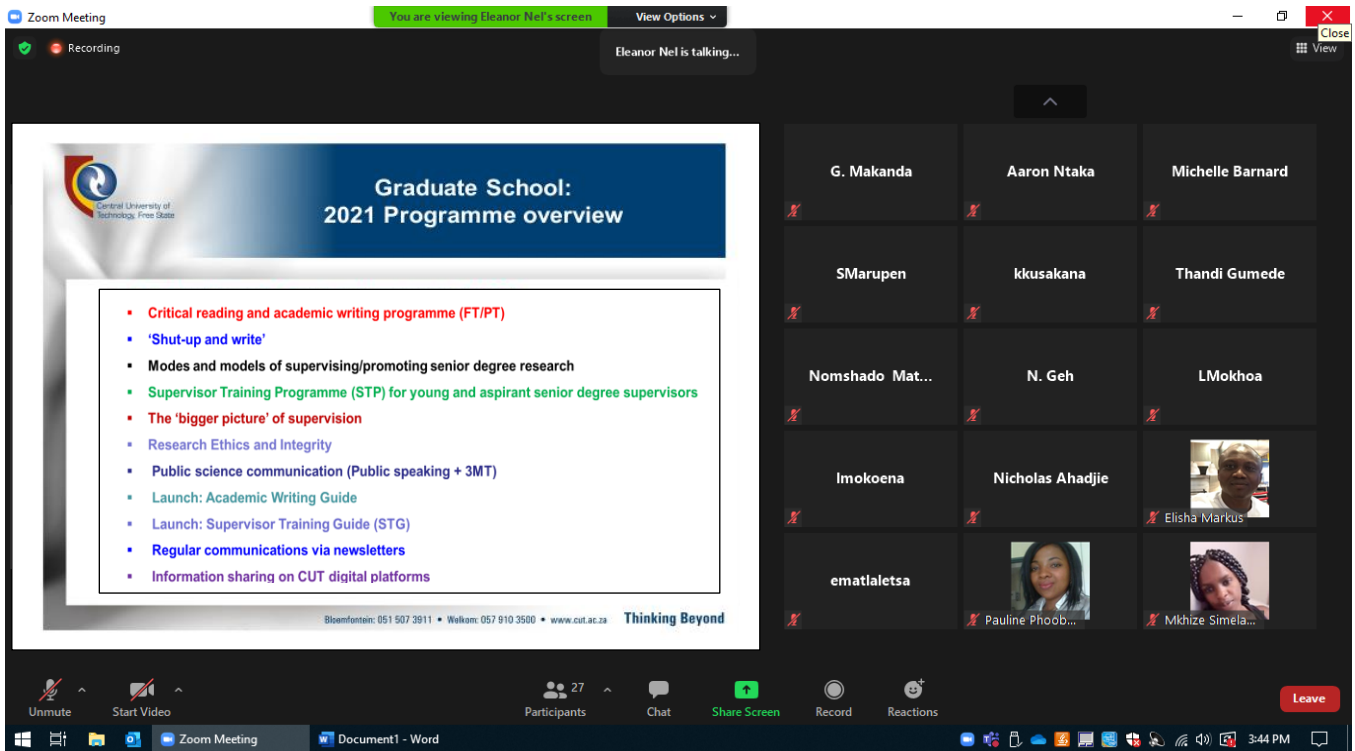
Participants:

- Laetus OK Lategan
- Cecile Olivier
- Alfred Ngowi
- sr.clementina...
- Brenton Frederi...
- Ifeoma Nwafor
- Muthoni Mas...
- Mkhize Simela
- R B Kuriakose
- Jeanne Markram
- G. Makanda
- Edith Sempe
- Aaron Ntaka
- Eleanor Nel
- Michelle Barnard
- Eli Bitzer
- SMarupen
- kkusakana
- Elisha Markus
- Thandi Gumede

Zoom Meeting controls: Mute, Start Video, Participants, Chat, Share Screen, Record, Reactions, Leave


System tray: Windows, Taskbar, Inboxes - olivier@cuta..., Zoom Meeting, 2:21 PM

Prof Lategan, Senior Director: Research Development and Postgraduate Studies highlighted the most significant activities of the Graduate School in 2020. As part of the Central University of Technology’s Vision 2030, participants got a glimpse of the Graduate School’s proposed 2021 programme.



Life after my Masters’ degree: Ms Bianca Mkhize





5th Annual International Conference on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) in Higher Education

"Promoting new pedagogies and teaching practices in higher education"

Online Conference 8 - 9 October 2020

- **Doctoral study**
 - Proposal and due dates
- **New job**
- **Academic Writing Programme**
 - Dr Fredericks (The Golden Threat)
 - Ms Eleanor Nel, Programme coordinator

Ms Bianca Mkhize, a Doctoral student in the Faculty of Management Sciences, shared her story with the audience. Here is what she has to say about the Critical Reading and Academic Writing Programme offered at the Graduate School.

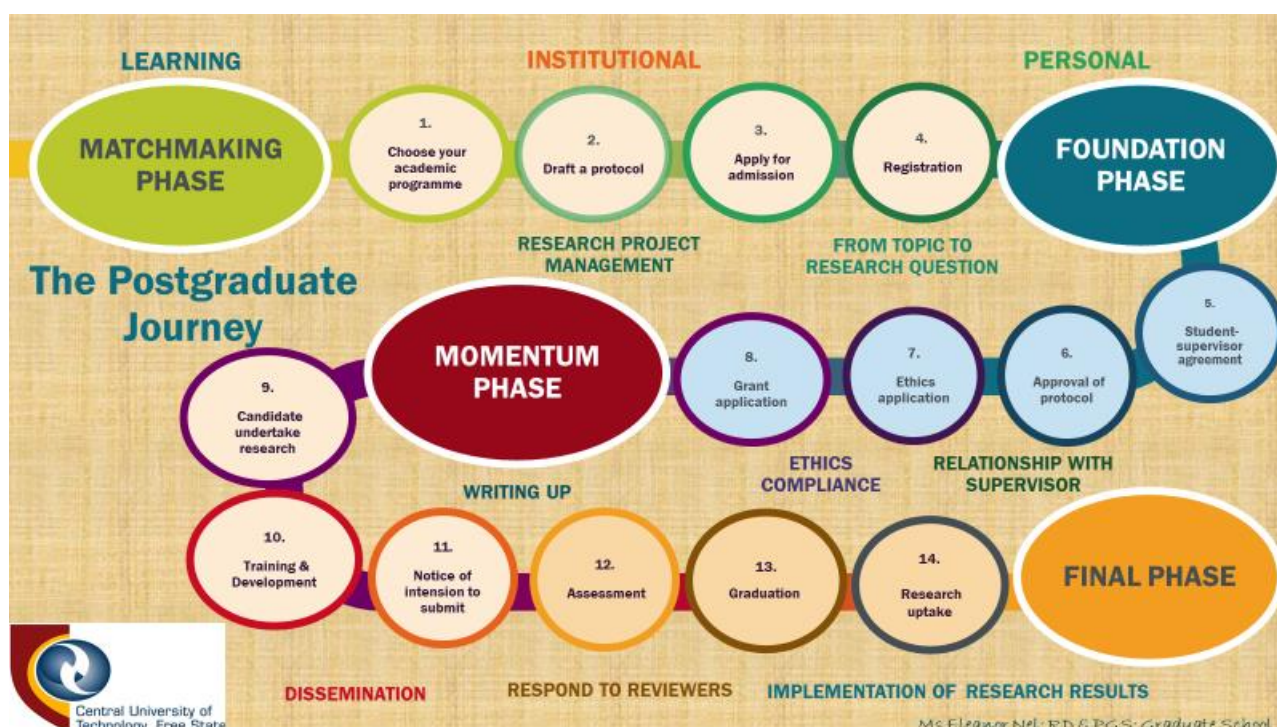
When I first registered for the Doctoral Critical Reading and Academic Writing programme, the first two sessions I wanted to drop out because I had already submitted my proposal and it was approved. I did not understand why I was attending it as I already knew how to write a proper proposal which was approved. For some reason I stayed, and I

am glad I did. Not only did I learn how to properly write a paragraph, but I learnt the “Golden thread” that helped my literature flow. It made sense not just to me and my supervisor but to everyone else who is not in field of study. Above all, one thing that I am most grateful of is the personal assistance of the facilitator who not only helped me during the workshop but made sure that I write an abstract that was accepted for my first conference. After my initial abstract was rejected, I contacted him, and he worked with me through out, even after hours, to make sure that my abstract is of good quality. He did not just end at helping me but also did follow ups with the conference committee to ensure that they did receive my revised abstract. The personal touch and the extra mile that the coordinator and the facilitator walk, is beyond expectation. I will always be grateful, and this is the main reason why I will recommend the Critical Reading and Academic Writing Programme to every postgraduate student I know.

Dr Thandi Gumede, lecturer at the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences, shared her research journey with the audience. Her message to postgraduate students is to *never give up on your dreams. Your dreams are valid. The waiting may seem painful, but the outcome is always worth the wait. Don't be afraid to reach your full potential. Have courage, perseverance, and above all, CONFIDENCE.*



I am currently **supervising 2 Masters' students** and **co-supervising 3 Masters' students.**



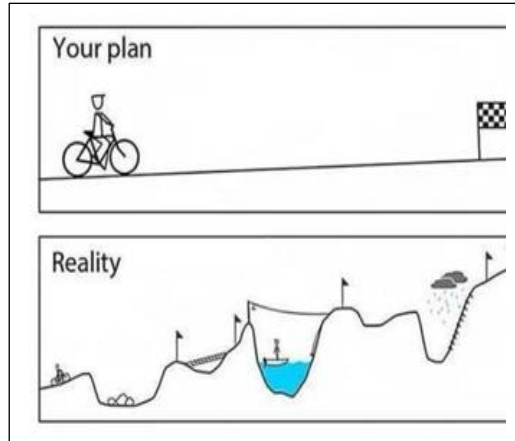
Ms Eleanor Nel, coordinator of the Graduate School Programme in Research Education, developed the Postgraduate Journey for postgraduate students at CUT. She emphasised that the doctorate is more than a thesis, it is an invaluable opportunity to develop yourself professionally and advance your career. She advised doctoral students to use this map to review their progress and how to meet these milestones and prepare for what's next.



Dr Rangith B Kuriakose, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology (FEBIT) addressed the audience with his presentation on **Project Management in a Doctoral Journey: Student and Supervisor’s Perspective**. He focused, amongst other aspects, on the following essential components:

- Define the project scope
- Maximize the project impact
- Create project check points
- Expect the unexpected
- Fail early and fail well

Innovator- Creative problem solving and ability to envision needed changes
Broker- Acquiring needed resources, apply for funding
Producer - Gets work done, ensuring focus
Director- Provides direction and clarifies project priorities
Coordinator- Coordinates activities and schedules
Monitor-progress - Monitoring and information collector
Facilitator - Team building, conflict management
Mentor- Developing capacity, listen emphatically and instilling trust



↔ **The roles of the Supervisor**



Graduate Attributes through infrastructure and facilities

Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT

- Conceptualizing and creating new knowledge in renewable energy power systems.
- Applying creative and innovative processes to mitigate serious research challenges concerning food security.
- Intellectual independence and research leadership.
- Understand the theoretical underpinnings of Industry 4.0 and contribute to specialist knowledge in the field.
- Ethical concerns and undergoes rigorous checks.

Faculty of Health and Environmental Science

- Students gain technical and conceptual competence.
- Foster innovative and creative thinking where scientific research findings and questions are used to solve/find solutions for real world health related problems.
- Understanding and demonstration of depth of specialised disciplinary knowledge and skills related to health, environmental and agricultural sciences to produce future thought leaders in these research fields.

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Graduate Attributes through infrastructure and facilities

Faculty of Humanities

- Original contribution achieved through independent study.
- Relevant knowledge and skills.
- Contribution to new knowledge.

Faculty of Management Sciences

- Promoting independent thinking.
- Team collaborative work.

Research Development and Postgraduate Studies Scholarships



As a drive for the University to grow its research outputs via the completion of Master's and Doctoral degree students, the University supports these students through scholarships. There are two annual calls, from January – December and July – June. The purpose of the scholarship is to support students in the successful completion of their studies. The scholarships are meant as basic support for students and have no intention to fully fund the costs associated with research. Supplementation funding is encouraged via Departmental funding, Grant Agency funding and Competitive application funding. Only registered Master's and Doctoral degree students with a Faculty Research and Innovation Committee approved research protocol (LS262a) with a minimum of 60% in the degree or diploma preceding the funding, are eligible for funding and can apply for the grant.

Funding is based on the following types of calls:

- First-time application: this is for new funding applicants.
- Renewals scholarship: This is for the current grant holders, who wish to apply for an extension and this funding is subject to a substantial progress report and conditions of the grant.

The following can be reported for the CUT M & D grants:

- 73 awards were granted for the January to December 2020 cycle.
- 68 awards were granted for the July 2020 to June 2021 cycle.

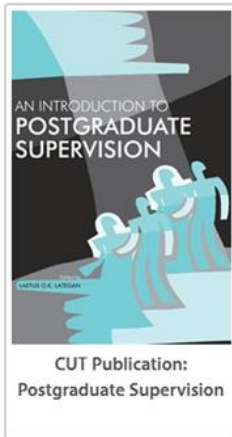


For further enquiries on the CUT M & D grants kindly contact Ms Clementine Lekgetho at clekgetho@cut.ac.za or 051 507 3117.

Institutional resources and support for researchers



CUT Library and Information Services



CUT Publication: Postgraduate Supervision



CUT Publication: 7 Imperatives for Success in Research



CUT Publication: Doing Research



CUT Publication: RE:search ABC



CUT Publication: Modelling as Research Methodology



We aim to improve communication between the Graduate School, researchers, supervisors and postgraduate students to keep you informed about activities and opportunities offered by the Graduate School.

CUT GRADUATE SCHOOL

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