



Central University of
Technology, Free State

WELCOME TO
THE GRADUATE
SCHOOL



Graduate School e-Newsletter (7th Edition) *July 2022*

Dear Colleagues and Postgraduate Students

Welcome to the 7th edition of the Graduate School's e-newsletter.

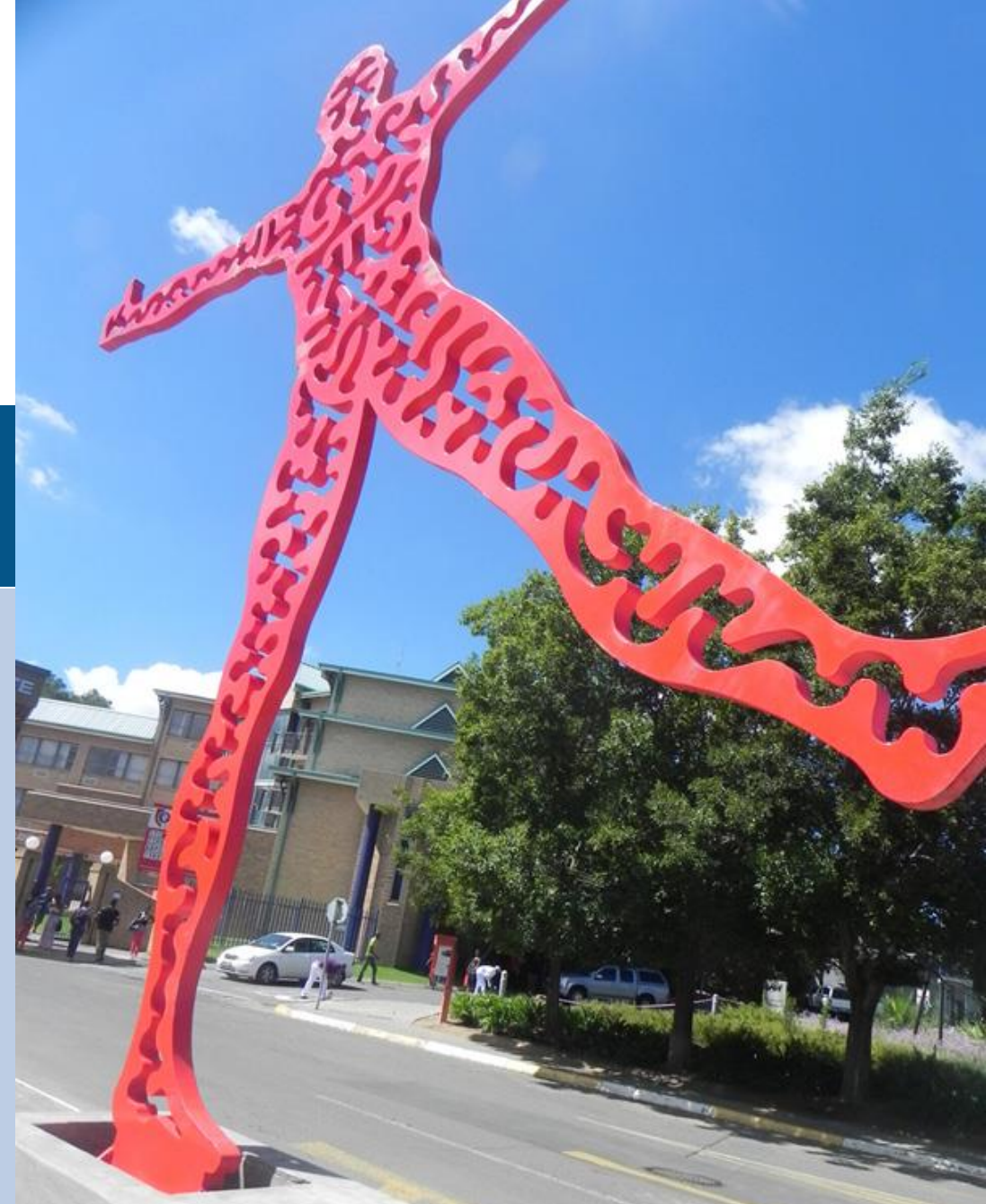
In this edition, we bring you updates on numerous training events that we have hosted so far in 2022. With the 2nd semester underway, we draw your attention to several relevant workshops taking place in the coming months. We hope that this will encourage you to attend, and in doing so, improve your existing research skills.

Enjoy the reading!

Warmest,

Eleanor Nel

Research Officer: Graduate School



Thinking Beyond



Central University of
Technology, Free State

BEING PART OF THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The RD & PGS section, commonly known as the “Research Office” has six core functions in the Research, Innovation, and Engagement Portfolio in support of the academic project.

The KPAs from RD & PGS Plan, 2021– 2025, can be grouped into three distinct functions:



Research Administration

on behalf of RIE, Faculties, and University (external).



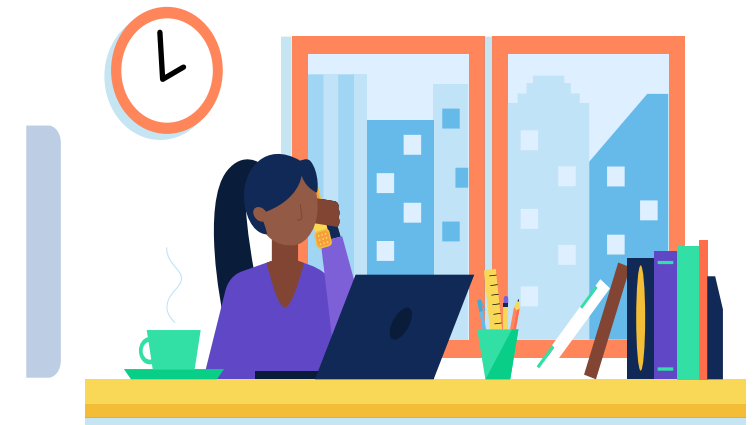
Research Development

a) to improve (i) quality and (ii) quantity of research performance and outputs resulting in (iii) policy formulation, (b) monitoring and evaluation of capacity development, summative reporting on behalf of RIE, Faculties, and University (external).



Postgraduate Studies Development

(i) capacity development support to supervisors and students, (ii) support structure and entity development, (iii) policy formulation, (iv) monitoring and evaluation of capacity development, (v) quality assurance of postgraduate studies and (vi) summative reporting on behalf of RIE, Faculties and University (external).





ANNUAL PROGRAMME FOCUS AREAS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL



STRATEGIC GOAL

To develop a strong culture of
research and innovation



01

Identify

Monitoring and evaluation of PGS
activities and business processes.



02

Improve

Quality improvement of
postgraduate studies.



03

Innovation

Develop online support systems for
RD & PGS.



04

Management

Grow research competencies of
instruction and research staff.

POSTGRADUATE WELCOMING WEBINAR



The Research Development and Postgraduate Studies: Graduate School hosted a virtual welcoming webinar for postgraduate students on Thursday, 17 March 2022. The webinar was based on the theme:

A world without research: Are we on the right track?



Invitation

The Research Development and Postgraduate Studies: Graduate School invites you to attend a virtual welcoming webinar for postgraduate students.

Presentations will cover a variety of topics including: The value of research: impact and relevancy | Is your research a potential breakthrough? | Are we on the right track? | The role of LIS in enabling research | It's complicated! | Introduction of Honors Mentoring Programme | RD & PGS: What we offer in 2022

Target audience: Honors-, Masters-, Doctoral students and postgraduate community.

Presentations covered a variety of topics including the value of research: impact and relevancy, is your research a potential breakthrough, are we on the right track, and the role of LIS in enabling research, it's complicated, but there is a road to simplicity. The webinar also focused on the way forward pertaining to what the Research Office will offer in their 2022 programme. Sixty-nine (69) postgraduate students and staff attended the webinar.



SEMINAR ON DOCTORAL VIVAS

The aim of this seminar was to learn more about the approach to the doctoral oral examination, debate our institutional practices, and map a way forward in the introduction of the VIVA as part of the doctoral examination at CUT. The target audience was faculty deans, assistant deans, doctoral supervisors, and doctoral students with fifty-nine (59) participants in attendance. Prof Samson Mashele did the welcoming and introduction.

Prof Eli Bitzer presented the background on the development and the (international) use of doctoral oral examinations, the potential advantages and disadvantages of the viva, the purposes and uses of doctoral vivas, and the roles and responsibilities related to doctoral vivas.

Participants and role players debated whether doctorate vivas should be mandatory at CUT. The acting Senior Director: RD & PGS: Ms Edith Sempe presented a suggested framework which was followed by input from stakeholders on the draft operational plans and timelines for incorporating doctoral vivas (oral examinations) into the CUT doctoral examination regime.

The faculty deans strongly supported the concept, and more discussions will be held to map the way forward.



Seminar on Doctoral Oral Examination

VIVA VOCÉ

Invitation

The doctoral oral examination or 'viva vocé' ('viva' for short) as it is also called, is widely used internationally and by some research universities in South Africa. One of its main purposes is to authenticate the research.

There are specific roles and responsibilities that accompany doctoral vivas, which need to be clear and adhered to by all parties involved. Learn more about the how, what, when, where and why at the seminar.

Target audience: Faculty deans, Assistant deans, doctoral supervisors and students, selected representatives

Facilitator: Prof. Eli Bitzer, Professor Emeritus and Research Associate from Stellenbosch University.

DATE

30 MARCH 2022

TIME

14:00 - 16:30

VIRTUAL

ZOOM

HONORS MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Research Office implemented a mentoring programme for honors students with the aim to assist them with the transition phase from honors to Masters' studies. The programme is based on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework which incorporates the knowledge, behaviours, and attributes acknowledged by the higher education sector, as critical for researchers to develop holistically.

The theme for Session 1 on 6 May 2022 was ***Personal effectiveness and self-management***. Thirty-five (35) honors students and five(5) staff members attended the webinar.

Agenda

- Benefits of Positive Thinking
- Benefits of Emotional Intelligence
- Self Awareness
- Science and Power of the Human Brain
- Techniques to Cultivate Positive Thinking Patterns
- Eliminating Obstacles To Positive Thinking
- Programming the Unconscious Mind
- Train your Mind to Train your Body
- Team Effectiveness



Date	Topic	Presenter	Brief description
17 March	Welcoming/orientation	Various presenters	Introduction and overview
SESSION 1 Friday, 6 May (14:30 – 16:30) (2 hours)	Personal effectiveness and self-management	Dr Vasan Reddy	Self-management Time-management Self-esteem Responsiveness to opportunities
SESSION 2 TBC (14:00 – 16:00) (2 hours)	Knowledge and intellectual abilities	Dr Bekithemba Dube	Subject knowledge Problem solving Inquiring mind Innovation
SESSION 3 Friday, 8 July (14:00 – 16:00) (2 hours)	Engagement, influence, and impact	Mr Shawn Naidoo	Communication methods Influence and Leadership Understanding team dynamics Public speaking
SESSION 4 Friday, 12 August (14:00 – 16:00) (2 hours)	Research governance and organisation	Prof Oupa Makola	Project management and delivery Appropriate practice Ethics Academic identity
SESSION 5 Friday, 9 September (14:00 – 16:00) (2 hours)	Critical reading and academic writing	Dr Brenton Fredericks	Specifically for participants who continue with Master's study in 2023



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SUPERVISION WEBINAR SERIES



SUPERVISORS: WEBINAR SERIES FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The RD & PGS: Graduate School is organising a **series** of four (4) developmental opportunities for thirty (30) newcomer research supervisors to address the bigger picture of supervision, supervision practices, assessment, and other important tasks of supervisors. The facilitator is Prof Eli Bitzer from the Centre for Higher and Adult Education at Stellenbosch University.

The webinars will be presented via the Zoom platform on Wednesdays from 14:00 – 16:00.

Webinar 1: The 'bigger picture of supervision' - 4 May 2022

Webinar 2: Supervisor skills - 18 May 2022

Webinar 3: Evaluating and examining senior degree work –8 June 2022

Webinar 4: 'Other' important supervisory tasks, including project management – 6 July 2022

Attendees at the supervision webinars debate on important matters such as:

- *national and international trends that dominate research and practices related to senior degree supervision.*
- *opportunities and challenges in co-supervision.*
- *how can students be assisted with their research proposals?*
- *how can research students be helped to build sound argumentation in a thesis?*
- *how can students' literature reviews and developing a conceptual framework be promoted?*
- *how can students be guided toward sound research methodology decisions?*
- *how can supervisors provide constructive feedback on the work students submit?*
- *why is the examining of senior degree work so important?*
- *how do we account for the differences between master's and doctoral studies in examining?*
- *what do we examine and what criteria are applicable?*
- *how can supervisors assist their students to self-evaluate a study before submission for examination?*
- *how can supervisors ensure that competent and non-biased examiners are nominated and appointed?*
- *what managerial roles and skills are expected of research supervisors?*
- *when and how should supervisors intervene at critical stages of a research study?*
- *what happens to graduates after graduation and do supervisors have any role to play?*
- *how can supervisors assist their students and graduates to disseminate their research to wider audiences/interest groups?*



WRITING RETREAT FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS



The Graduate School hosted an online writing retreat from 1 to 3 June for 25 doctoral students from various disciplines.

The retreat consisted of 3 live sessions each day. Participants worked on their draft articles and submit them to the facilitators for immediate feedback. At the end of the retreat, most participants had completed a draft article or had written up a substantial part of their papers on which the facilitators provided feedback.

All delegates received free online access to the 4th edition of Dr Cassim's *Postgraduate Toolkit*.

EVALUATION OF THE WRITING RETREAT

The retreat was evaluated through an online questionnaire. All participants reported that the retreat achieved its objectives and that the course content and delivery method were relevant to their needs. All participants rated the performance of the facilitators as excellent.

SOME POST- RETREAT FEEDBACK



I have made a remarkable stride in my work. I attended to the comments.

... I have made some progress. Should be able to send what I have done so far by end today or tomorrow

Delegates asked relevant questions such as:



But what if from my published paper I happen to have methodology I used (my own) then now still want to use the same methodology - Am I allowed to copy word by word?

Can a researcher work on the presentations done in colloquium/ conferences and develop it to an article if the presentation is not published?

A FEW TIPS FROM THE RETREAT

An abstract should contain the following sections, written concisely: Introduction to the research problem, leading to the clear articulation of your research question, aims, and objectives; a short description of your research design and methodology; your main research findings; the significance of your research, which makes the reader aware of how your research contributes to expanding body of knowledge in your research area. Important so that, as a reviewer, I know why we need to publish your paper. We could have published a similar paper in the past – what is different about your paper?

Dr Layla Cassim

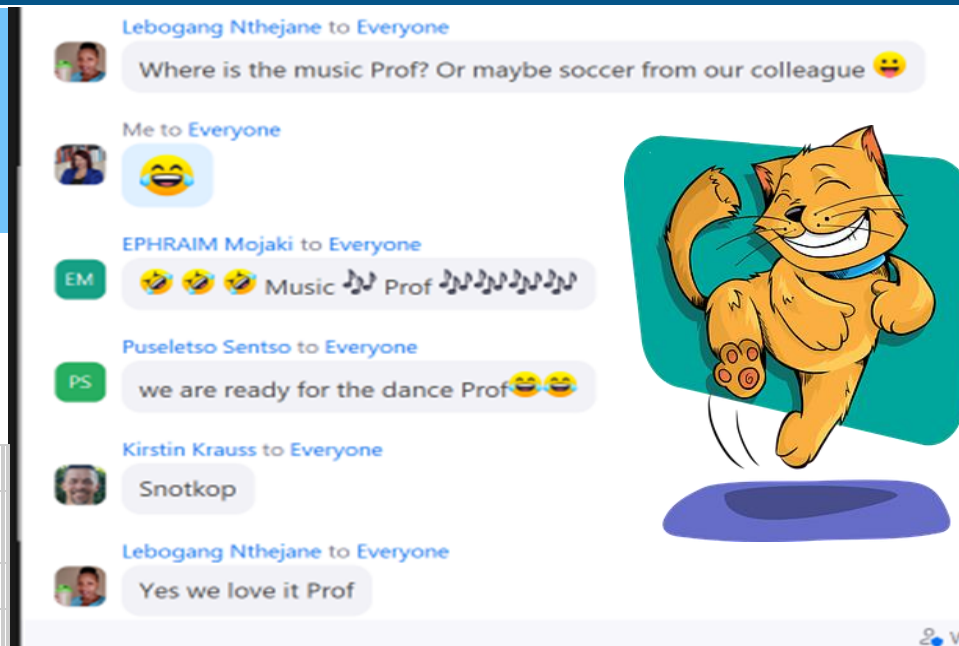
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH: THESIS WRITING SESSION FOR EMERGING SUPERVISORS AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

The RD & PGS: Graduate School presents a series of thesis writing sessions tailored for **emerging supervisors and postgraduate students (Masters and Doctorates)** at any phase of their research. The programme aims to help them effectively improve their academic writing skills, but also to address many 'corners' in the postgraduate research journey. Attendance at each session range from 100 to 120+ participants. These sessions are very interactive and participants are quite satisfied as seen in the feedback below.

Any overall feedback for the event?

Very informative
Satisfied that I can easily relate to the examples.
Great presentation
Quite interesting and worth the time and money
A very good presentation with specific illustration
Satisfied
Excellent delivery
It was wonderful
Good. Very amiable presenter and knowledgeable.
Useful information and a good presentation by a well-researched presenter. Looking forward to the next session.
Good work
Excellent
Very informative and helpfull.
The workshop was beneficial to my study
Magnificent
Our presenter is doing so well, all the aspects were well done

Amazing
Cannot wait for the qauntitative data analysis discussion
The presentation was great and comprehensive
Very useful information. Presenter is very knowledgeable and offeres valuable information and tips
Informative session and aye opener
Excellent presentations and use of relevant examples during sessions.
It was very formative
Excellent
quite happy about Prof's contribution to my studies
So far the best and it made it easier to continue doing my study.
all is well thank you



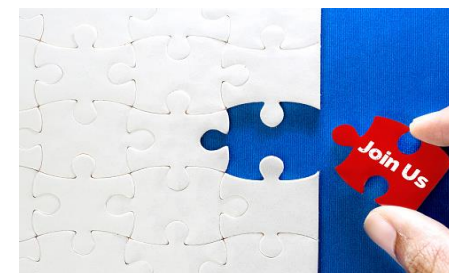
We also have lots of fun during these sessions, and students can confirm their attendance via a link and receive an attendance certificate for attendance at all seven sessions.





WRITING PROGRAMME THEMES IN THE 2ND SEMESTER

A SERIES ON THE NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE REPRODUCTION AND THESIS WRITING



Sessions 1 & 2

Introduction to the basic principles of thesis writing and argumentation

Topics include – basic claims of academic research, types of knowledge contributions, elements of an argument, the value of constructive alignment in thesis argumentation, and building self-assessment criteria for successful theses.

Session 3

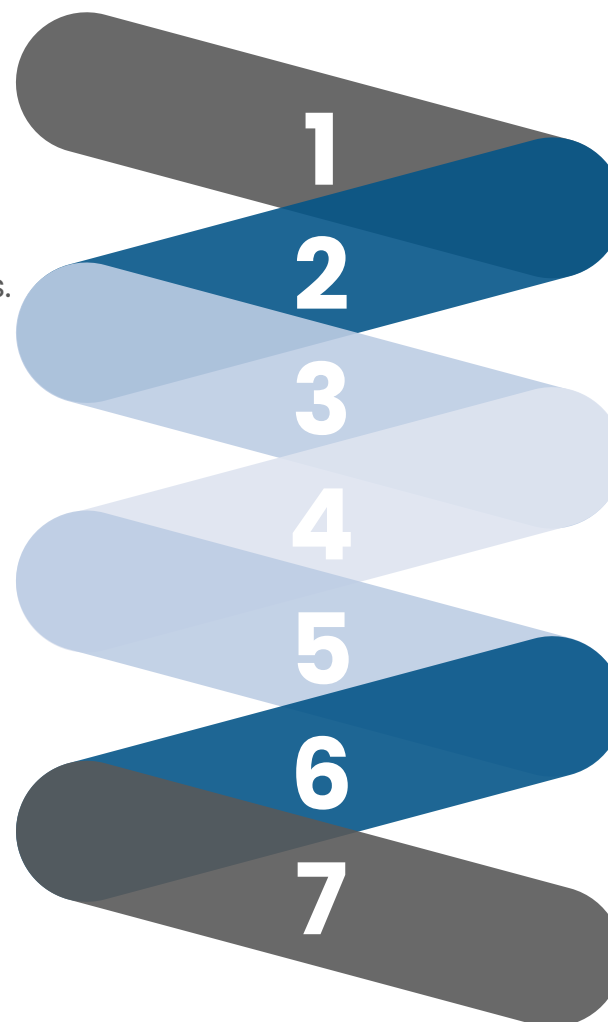
Theory and theorising, particularising, drawing conclusions from data

Topics include Introduction to philosophical assumptions, Introduction to theory and constituents of theory, choosing theory for your study, reading and getting to know the theory, and engaging with theory and theorizing at PhD level.

Session 4

Writing tips and tactics for emerging scientists

Looks at a variety of practical principles for academic writing; from structuring principles, tactics for developing student writing, how to assess research papers, getting published, to ways to establish yourself as a disciplinary expert in your field.



Session 5

Doing research in cross-cultural contexts: Learning from ethnographies

This workshop helps the scientist – emerging ethnographers in particular – prepare for and succeed within cross-cultural research situations.

Session 6

Doing qualitative interviews: using Hermeneutics and Qualitative data analysis

The workshop will include both principles for doing qualitative research and case studies of how to deal with qualitative data and different ways.

Session 7: Principles for conducting Critical Research

Postgraduate students and emerging supervisors may find this workshop useful to help them negotiate challenging research contexts and to develop their skills in critical reflexivity.



RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES: GRADUATE SCHOOL PROGRAMMES FOR THE 2ND SEMESTER OF 2022 COMING SOON



Central University of
Technology, Free State

CONTACT US!

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051 507 4320

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND STORYTELLING

DATE: 7 September 2022
TIME: 14:00 – 16:30

TARGET AUDIENCE:
ALL POSTGRADUATE
STUDENTS AND STAFF

HONORS MENTORING PROGRAMME

SESSION 2: TBC
SESSION 3: 8 JULY
SESSION 4: 12 AUGUST
SESSION 5: 9 SEPTEMBER
TARGET AUDIENCE:
HONORS STUDENTS

INSTITUTIONAL 3MT COMPETITION

DATE: 20 September
TIME: 14:00 – 16:30

TARGET AUDIENCE:
POSTGRADUATE
STUDENTS AND STAFF

PUBLICATION RETREAT FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

DATE: 25 – 27 JULY 2022
TARGET AUDIENCE:
DOCTORAL STUDENTS

DOCTORAL SUMMER SCHOOL

DATE: 11 November
TIME: 14:00 – 16:30

TARGET AUDIENCE:
POSTGRADUATE
STUDENTS AND STAFF

A SERIES ON THE NATURE OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE REPRODUCTION AND THESIS WRITING (7 COMPULSORY SESSIONS)

THURSDAY'S
18:00 – 20:00



**THE THEMES ON PAGE 10
WILL BE COVERED IN
THIS PROGRAMME**

TARGET AUDIENCE:
EMERGING SUPERVISORS
AND POSTGRADUATE
STUDENTS

SUPERVISION WEBINAR SERIES

TIME: 14:00 – 16:30

WEBINAR 1: 14 September

The bigger picture of
supervision

WEBINAR 2: 28 September

Supervisor skills

WEBINAR 3: 19 October

Evaluating and
examining senior
degree work

WEBINAR 4: 2 November

'Other' important
supervisory tasks,
including project
management

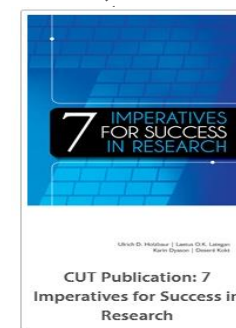
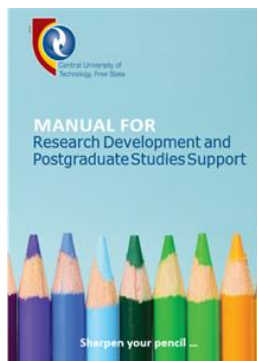
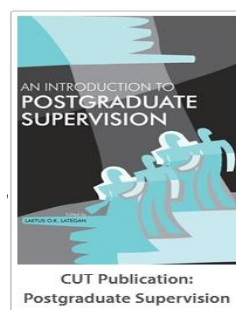
TARGET AUDIENCE:
NOVICE SUPERVISORS



Central University of
Technology, Free State

INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR RESEARCHERS

RD & PGS: GRADUATE SCHOOL



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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