



Central University of
Technology, Free State

28 May 2021

WELCOME
TO THE
GRADUATE
SCHOOL

Graduate School e-Newsletter (5th Edition)

Dear Colleagues and Postgraduate Students

Welcome to the Research Development and Postgraduate Studies Graduate School. We are excited about 2021 and look forward to a pleasant and successful academic year.



We scheduled special development activities for the year. Please refer to page 7 for a summary of upcoming workshops and activities you should be aware of. Please mark these dates in your calendar. We hope that this year you will make it a priority to attend as many events as possible. Let us work together to make 2021 the best year ever. We hope that you are as excited as we are to start this wonderful journey.

Eleanor Nel

Research Officer: Graduate School

To be a postgraduate scholar is a wonderful opportunity! The Masters' and Doctoral studies give an opportunity to close a knowledge gap, find solutions for a research problem and apply the research results to business, industry, and social society. This is a unique opportunity to use your knowledge to advance society. Through your research, you can become a leader in your own right! Welcome to the University! Scholarly work is experiencing an existing time! Global networks, 4 IR opportunities, multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary research, are but a few developments influencing scholarly work. The COVID-19 pandemic has added to challenges to do research but also creates new opportunities to create the "university without walls."

May you use all opportunities available to close the gap in the knowledge basis through your research!

Prof Laetus OK Lategan

Senior Director: Research Development and Postgraduate Studies

The University welcomes our Postgraduate Students! For universities around the world, postgraduate studies are the backbone of advancing universities' profiles. Postgraduate studies are the springboard into society. It is for this reason that the kind of research universities are engaged in, questions the relevance of universities. Relevance is the lifeline for all organisations, including universities. Through your research, you will assist us to stay relevant to society. Another challenge to universities, is the question of the quality of research. Quality, as you will know, is informed by are we doing things right and are we doing the right thing? Linked to postgraduate studies, the question is what difference will your research make towards society? Here too, will you assist us to show that our research is not only relevant but intends to make a meaningful impact on the knowledge basis and society!

May I wish you well with your studies!

Prof Alfred Ngowi

DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagement



www.cut.ac.za

GRADUATE SCHOOL WEBINAR ON ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC WRITING



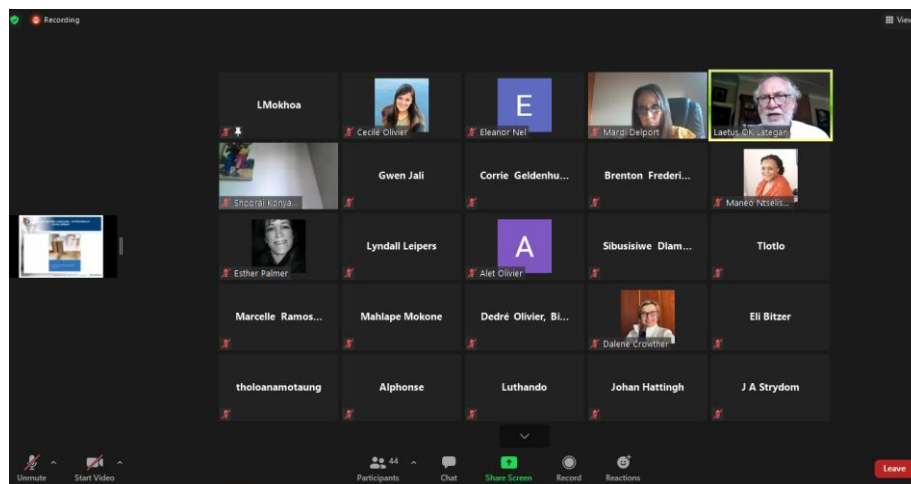
The Graduate School hosted its first virtual Academic Writing webinar for this year on 25 February 2021. The webinar focused on *The Value Chain for Academic and Scientific Writing*. The Graduate School compiled a manual based on the workshop notes and webinars offered by the Graduate School during 2020. During the webinar the facilitators of the Graduate School's programmes shared the highlights of Academic and Scientific Writing. The webinar was designed to introduce our publication value chain to the audience to determine if there are any gaps in our publication value chain, at the same time, to gather the views of academics and postgraduate students to inform the finalisation of the draft manual.

Prof Laetus OK Lategan, Senior Director of Research Development and Postgraduate Studies firstly provided insight into, among other components, writing for different purposes, different types of academic and scientific writing, the audience, the content, integrity of the process, and the role of self-assessment. Prof Lategan also focused on the basic structure of academic or science writing.

Ms Eleanor Nel, coordinator of the Graduate School Programme for Research Education, explained why academics are not publishing. She highlighted factors such as a lack of motivation to write, lack of academic and scientific writing skills, and insufficient knowledge of writing for publication processes. Ms Nel then presented an overview of the Academic and Scientific Writing Programme offered by the Graduate School to academics and postgraduate students.

Dr Mardi Delpoit and Dr Brenton Fredericks, Lecturers in the Department of Communication Sciences at the Central University of Technology, presented on the academic writing journey and the importance of critical reading and self-critical writing, respectively. Dr Delpoit highlighted the characteristics of a good scientific text, challenges in writing a dissertation, how to build an argument, formulating the problem statement, and setting research questions.

Dr Fredericks outlined the skills of critical reading and self-critical writing. He stated that: *'the skill of self-critical writing lies in convincing your readers to accept your claims. You can achieve their acceptance through the effective communication of adequate reasons and evidence for these claims'*.



Ms Corrie Geldenhuys, an Accredited Language Editor, presented the *Boost your academic writing* component. She focused on the purpose of text editing, practical hints when preparing a text, general hints when preparing a document, and referencing and online style guides. Dr Alet Olivier, Academic Writing and Plagiarism Consultant, talked about avoiding plagiarism in academic and scientific writing. She highlighted the value of integrity in research, the various ways of plagiarism, and how writers should develop their writing rather than opting for an avoidance strategy. Ms Cecilie Olivier, Editorial Assistant for the Journal for New Generation Sciences (JNGS), informed the audience on similarity reports and how similarity is described within the Turnitin tool. She shared some of the lessons she learned from her experience in working at the JNGS.

Prof Eli Bitzer from the Centre for Higher and Adult Education at Stellenbosch University presented on the PhD by publication and some scientific writing implications. Prof Bitzer highlighted why students follow the doctorate by publication route, institutional guidelines and policies related to the publication format, students' and supervisors' awareness of the demands of a PhD publication, support systems that need to be in place, and the issue of reviewer feedback and examination of the PhD publication. Lastly, Prof Lategan presented the editors' perspective which included components such as technical review, IP matters, the review process, review reports, editorial policy, research and integrity matters and the requirements of DHET policy.

Forty-nine academics and postgraduate students attended the webinar and were very pleased with the insightful presentations. The Graduate School's programmes are structured to provide insights, tools, and strategies to promote the ongoing development of staff and postgraduate students at the Central University of Technology.

CRITICAL READING AND ACADEMIC WRITING PROGRAMME

The Graduate School presents a series of Critical Reading and Academic Writing sessions particularly aimed at both full-time and part-time Masters' and Doctoral students. The objective of the programme is to enable postgraduate students to effectively improve their academic writing skills. Practical sessions are included to support them in understanding and practically applying the theory. At the end of the programme a Language Practitioner advises them on how to edit their writing.

If you enroll for the programme, then the attendance of all seven (7) sessions is compulsory. This year, a confirmation letter for full attendance will be issued at the end of the programme. A 2nd offering of the same programme will be offered in July 2021. Join this short programme and improve your academic writing skills.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, it says "Zoom Meeting" and "You are viewing Brenton Fredericks' screen". The meeting title is "Concluding statement". The slide content is as follows:

Concluding statement

▶ *Academic Writing is an art form that requires practice. I have learnt that you never quite get it right the first time. The adage: practice makes perfect is tantamount to mastering this art form. I should also add that the rewards are great once success has been attained!!!!*

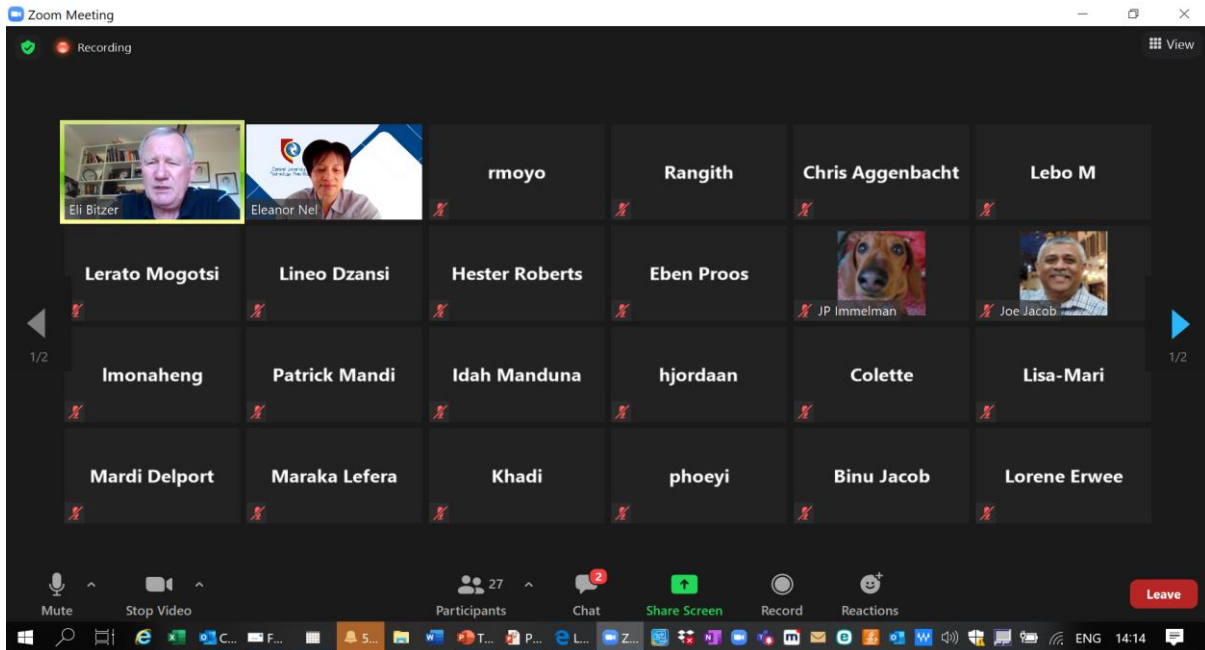
B. Fredericks

The slide is part of a presentation with a table of contents on the left showing slides 26 to 30. The Zoom control bar at the bottom shows 17 participants, chat, share screen, record, and reactions options.

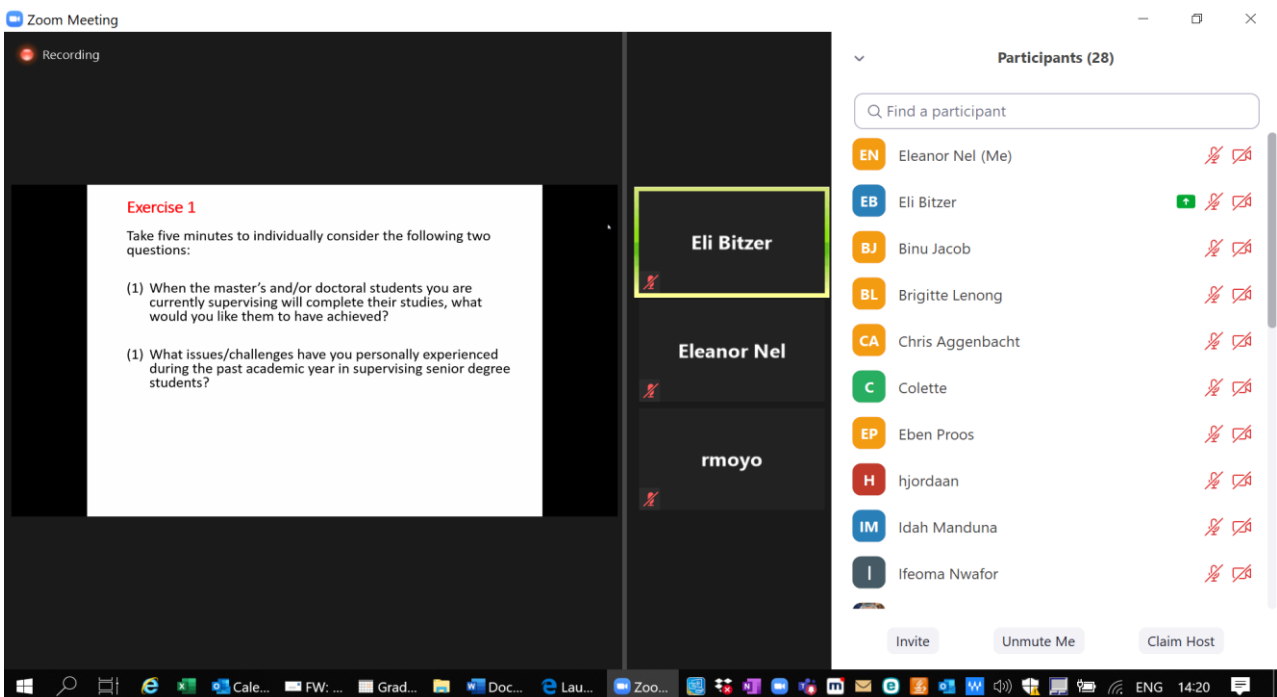
The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting grid with 17 participants. The participants are arranged in a grid, with some names visible: Mandi Delport, Eleanor Nel, M Wintes, Pysalem, Cecile Olivier, Lee - Ashlye Olyn, Molefi Makhetha, tholoanamotung, Nthabiseng Mhloni, Dolly, Lintle Tsiu, Lebogang Kekana, Nthabiseng Makara, and Natasha Tigedi. A chat message from Molefi Makhetha to Everyone says: "Thank you for a very informative presentation". The Zoom control bar at the bottom shows 17 participants, chat, share screen, record, and reactions options.

GRADUATE SCHOOL WEBINAR SERIES ON POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

The Graduate School is organizing 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.

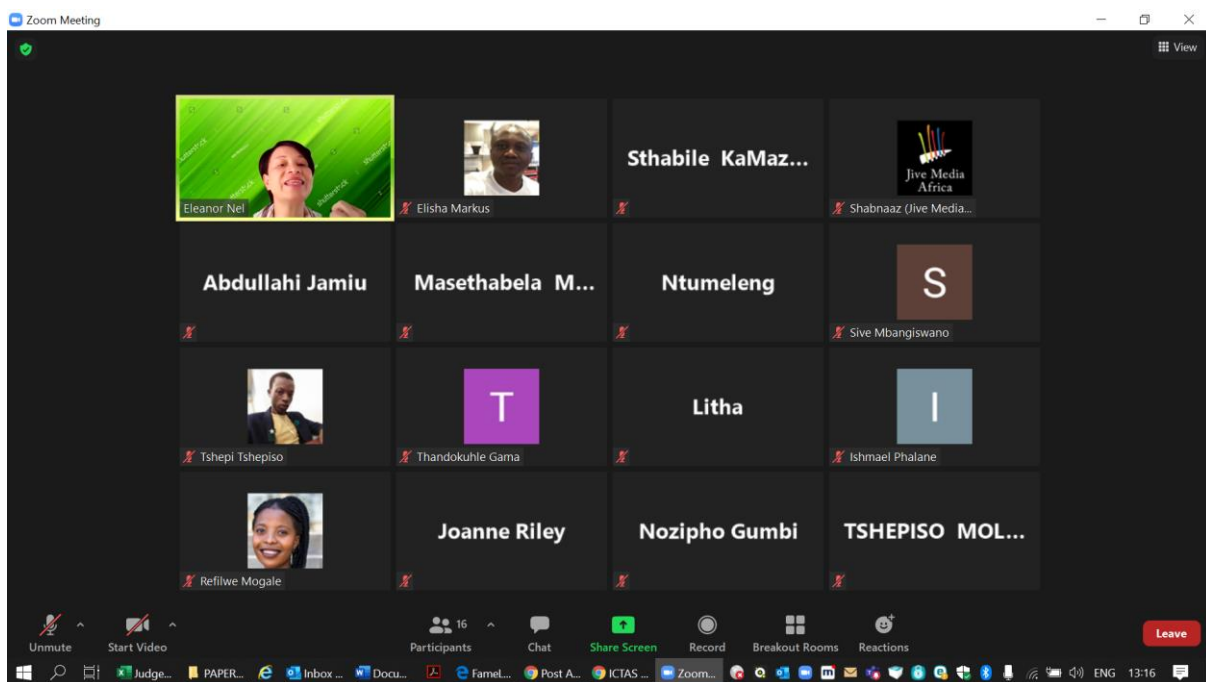


Participants were given practical exercises during and after Webinar 1. Attendance of all four webinars is compulsory as the different webinars form an integrated overview of postgraduate supervision. A confirmation letter for full attendance will be issued to participants at the end of the webinar series.



Presenting Science to the Public and Working with the Media

The FameLab Regional / Institutional Heat and Final took place on 2 to 3 March 2021. FameLab is a programme that aims to develop science communication skills, and more specifically public speaking skills, in young scientists (ages 21-35). While it takes the format of a competition, it is primarily a development initiative. The first phase of the competition involves the running of heats across the country, some of which are open heats, and some are run specifically by science institutions for their students and young researchers. Each heat is preceded by a science communication workshop. From each heat, one or two speakers are selected to go through to the semi-finals. A Masterclass in science communication and public speaking is presented prior to the semi-finals by a trainer brought in from the UK by the British Council. The top ten from the semi-finals compete at the national finals and the winner of FameLab SA will represent South Africa on a global stage at the international finals. The talks are no more than three minutes long. No PowerPoint slides or similar aids are allowed, but small props can be used. Talks are judged on three aspects: content, clarity, and charisma. This year the University of Free State, University of KwaZulu Natal and Institutions from Gauteng participated in the competition. Although this opportunity was offered to students at the Central University of Technology none of them signed up to participate. The Graduate School would therefore like to encourage undergraduate and postgraduate students to grasp such opportunities, because science communication is part of the senior degree graduate attributes (SDGA's) promoted by the university.



A huge THANK YOU to Dr ELISHA DIDAM MARKUS who presented the Central University of Technology as a judge in the competition. Dr Markus is currently a senior lecturer in the department of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering at the Central University of Technology, Free State South Africa. He is registered with the Engineering Council of South Africa, a senior

member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and a member of the South African Institute of Electrical Engineers. His research interests are in assistive mobility devices, robotics, Wireless Sensor Networks, Internet of Things, low-power wide area networks, smart networks, and artificial intelligence. He is also a member of the Smart Networks Collaboration Initiative that aims to develop efficient and secure networks for future smart systems, such as smart cities, smart grid, and smart water grid. He is a recipient of many awards including Vice-chancellor's early career research award, faculty of Engineering early career and mid-career awards, respectively. He is passionate about community engagement and is the chair of the community engagement unit at the faculty of Engineering, Built environment and information Technology. Dr Markus would like to encourage PG students to participate in FameLab. He says: 'It is very exciting - an unpredictable way to expand your scientific and research horizon. It also provides networking opportunities much needed for research'.



YEBO Doctoral Three-Minute (3MT) Pitch Competition

The YEBO! project aims to foster the internationalization of doctoral studies in South Africa by raising awareness among students, academic and administrative staff members at higher education institutions of funding opportunities and by providing professional training and tools, sharing of good practices, and networking.

The Research Office & the Centre for Global Engagement successfully hosted a virtual YEBO! Project 3MT competition on 12 March 2021. Three candidates participated in the pitch.

Candidate 1:

Nthabiseng Nhlapo - *The enhancement OF 3D printed medical implants using nanotechnology.*

Candidate 2:

Ntelekwane Khasapane - *Molecular characterization, antimicrobial resistance, and virulence genotyping of Staphylococcus isolates from subclinical mastitis dairy cows in Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality.*



Candidate 3:

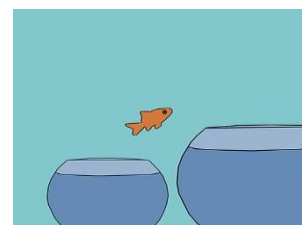
Julius Akaba - *Developing a project management framework for supporting the sustainability of emerging contractors in the Free State.*

The judges were as follows:

- Ms. Sempe: Deputy Director: Research Development and Postgraduate Studies
- Dr. Izabeth Conradie: Manager: CUT Idea Generator
- Ms. Tshepiso Mokoena: UFS Postgraduate School



The judges selected Mr Khasapane as the winner and Mr Akaba as the runner up based on their presentations and the selection criteria. Congratulations to Mr Khasapane for presenting the Central University of Technology, Free State in the final Yebo Conference.



WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, AND TRAINING SESSIONS OFFERED BY THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

GRADUATE SCHOOL WELCOMING WEBINAR

On **Friday, 4 June 2021** the Graduate School will host a virtual welcoming to all Masters' and Doctoral students.

The purpose of our welcoming webinar is to share with you what services and opportunities are available to postgraduate students. The Research Office wants to use this webinar and future webinars to extend your experience as postgraduate students.

Please join us for this webinar – characterized by information sharing, stimulating discussions, the opportunity to become part of a postgraduate community and shaping the format of future webinars!

The webinar will be delivered via the Zoom platform. The presentations are structured in such a way that there will be enough time for interaction. Target audience: Postgraduate Students

Date: Friday, 4 June 2021 Join Zoom Meeting
Time: 2pm – 3:30pm <https://cut-fs.zoom.us/j/92959489897?pwd=K3IBR3J0UDZXNE9uMXlmaTZ3djVodz09>
Target audience:
Postgraduate students Meeting ID: 929 5948 9897
 Passcode: 105215



Programme 1: Critical Reading and Academic writing Programme for Masters' Students (1st cohort)

Full-time students: 17 March 2021 – 2 June 2021

Wednesdays	Time:	Topic
Session 1	17 March	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	24 March	Development of the argument, formulation of the problem, formulating the hypothesis, formulating the: aim, objectives, and research questions
Session 3	5 May	The composition of information
Session 4	12 May	The importance of "own voice in writing"
Session 5	19 May	Scientific style & referencing
Session 6	26 May	The research product - Language Editing
Session 7	2 June	Reflective session

Part-time students: 15 March 2021 – 31 May 2021

Mondays	Time: 6pm - 8pm	Topic
Session 1	15 March	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	12 April	Development of the argument, formulation of the problem, formulating the hypothesis, formulating the: aim, objectives, and research questions
Session 3	3 May	The composition of information
Session 4	10 May	The importance of "own voice in writing"
Session 5	17 May	Scientific style & referencing

Session 6	24 May	The research product - Language Editing
Session 7	31 May	Reflective session

Master's: Full-time: 21 July 2021 - 22 September 2021 (2nd cohort)

Wednesdays	Time: 10 am - 12 pm	Topic
Session 1	21 July	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	28 July	Development of the argument, formulation of the problem, formulating the hypothesis, formulating the: aim, objectives, and research questions
Session 3	4 August	The composition of information
Session 4	25 August	The importance of "own voice in writing
Session 5	1 September	Scientific style & referencing
Session 6	15 September	The research product - Language Editing
Session 7	22 September	Reflective session

Master's: Part-time: 19 July 2021 to 13 September 2021 (2nd cohort)

Mondays	Time: 6 pm – 8 pm	Topic
Session 1	19 July	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	26 July	Development of the argument, formulation of the problem, formulating the hypothesis, formulating the: aim, objectives, and research questions
Session 3	2 August	The composition of information
Session 4	23 August	The importance of "own voice in writing
Session 5	30 August	Scientific style & referencing
Session 6	6 September	The research product - Language Editing
Session 7	13 September	Reflective session

Programme 2: Critical Reading and Academic writing Programme for Doctoral Students

Full-time students: 19 March 2021 to 4 June 2021 (1st cohort)

Fridays	Time: 10am – 12pm	Topic
Session 1	19 March	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	26 March	Craft your academic writing
Session 3	7 May	Writing your thesis: thesis essentials
Session 4	14 May	Writing your thesis: ethical considerations & plagiarism
Session 5	21 May	Writing your thesis: academic writing – acquisition of the skills set for success and consolidation
Session 6	28 May	Completing your thesis: Language Editing
Session 7	4 June	Reflective session

Part-time students: 16 March 2021 – 1 June 2021 (1st cohort)

Tuesdays	Time: 6pm – 8pm	Topic
Session 1	16 March	Introduction to Academic Writing

Session 2	13 April	Craft your academic writing
Session 3	4 May	Writing your thesis: thesis essentials
Session 4	11 May	Writing your thesis: ethical considerations & plagiarism
Session 5	18 May	Writing your thesis: academic writing – acquisition of the skills set for success and consolidation
Session 6	25 May	Completing your thesis: Language Editing
Session 7	1 June	Reflective session

Doctoral: Full-time: 23 July 2021 to 22 September (2nd cohort)

Fridays	Time: 10am – 12pm	Topic
Session 1	23 July	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	30 July	Craft your academic writing
Session 3	6 August	Writing your thesis: thesis essentials
Session 4	27 August	Writing your thesis: ethical considerations & plagiarism
Session 5	3 September	Writing your thesis: academic writing – acquisition of the skills set for success and consolidation
Session 6	17 September	Completing your thesis: Language Editing
Session 7	22 September (Wednesday)	Reflective session

Doctoral: Part-time: 20 July 2021 to 14 September 2021 (2nd cohort)

Tuesdays	Time: 6pm - 8:00pm	Topic
Session 1	20 July	Introduction to Academic Writing
Session 2	27 July	Craft your academic writing
Session 3	3 August	Writing your thesis: thesis essentials
Session 4	24 August	Writing your thesis: ethical considerations & plagiarism
Session 5	31 August	Writing your thesis: academic writing – acquisition of the skills set for success and consolidation
Session 6	7 September	Completing your thesis: Language Editing
Session 7	14 September	Reflective session

Programme 3: Writing your article

The Graduate School will be presenting a series of sessions focusing on how to write-up your research results for publication. The first session will cover a range of aspects such as the purpose of writing, the research design, and the write-up of results. The discipline specific sessions will focus on the current publication trends within disciplines and will be facilitated by an NRF Rated Researcher within the six fields of study identified by the DHET. The last two sessions will focus on the importance of qualitative evidence, as well as research ethics. The programme is targeted at (a) early career researchers who have already graduated with a doctorate and (b) doctoral supervisors and their postgraduate students.

Programme 4: Publishing your article

Disseminating your research results is an important factor, considering the effort that went into conducting the research in the first place. Within academia, research results are communicated in various ways including, journal articles, chapters in books, conference proceedings, and research reports. Journal articles form most research publications. Hence, this programme will cover a range of aspects including, identifying an academic journal, guidelines for

submission, ethical considerations, open access and peer review.

Science communication is inevitable as part of public engagement and will be explained in more detail.

The programme is targeted at (a) early career researchers who have already graduated with a doctorate and (b) doctoral supervisors and their postgraduate students.

If you enroll for the programme, then the attendance of the two sessions (2) is compulsory. A confirmation letter for full attendance will be issued at the end of the programme. Join this short programme and improve your opportunity to publish your paper and to communicate your research to a wider (public) audience.

To register for Programmes 3 and 4 please contact *Ms Cecilé Olivier olivierc@cut.ac.za*. **Registration deadline: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 for first Semester registration and Monday, 6 September 2021 for second Semester registration.**

Platform: Zoom – Please note that a zoom link will be sent to you on your registration to attend the programme.

Research Development and Postgraduate Studies Scholarships



As a drive for the University to grow its research outputs via the completion of Masters' 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 Masters' 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.



FACULTY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Central University of
Technology, Free State

PRESTIGE RESEARCH DAY

**“Together for a fair, healthy,
and accessible COVID 19 vaccines”**

Zoom Webinar

21th October 2021

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Prestige Research Day (PRD) honours outstanding research, scholarship and creative activity from The Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences and showcases their accomplishments for fellow academics, postgraduate students, external partners, industry representatives and the broader community.

The 2021 PRD Committee is pleased to invite faculty members to submit their abstracts for original scientific or review papers in the Health and Environmental Sciences. The seminar activities will include oral and poster presentations.

Abstracts should strictly adhere to the attached Abstract Template and be submitted to Mrs Muriel Mpotle @ MMpotle@cut.ac.za by the 20th of August 2021. Please indicate your choice of presentation (oral or poster) when submitting the abstract. Also state whether you are a B.Tech. Masters, Doctoral student or an emerging or established researcher (for staff members).

IMPORTANT DATES

20 Aug 2021	Deadline for submission of abstracts and Posters
20 Aug 2021	Deadline for submission of articles (published from Nov 2020 – Aug 2021)
03 Sep 2021	Notification of abstract acceptance
20 Sep 2021	Deadline for registration
12 Oct 2021	Submit video recordings of presentations (backup) NB: Presentations will be live.
21 Oct 2021	Prestige Research Day

For PRD Registration, RSVP to Ms Mojabeng Kotsi (Bernice)
(mkotsi@cut.ac.za)

General Enquiries: Mr Wonga Mbijekana
(wmbijekana@cut.ac.za)

www.cut.ac.za



Institutional resources and support for researchers

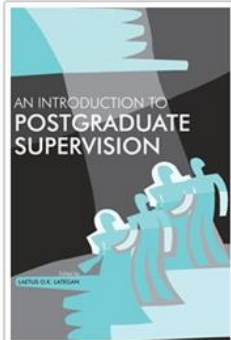


eThuto Postgraduate Community Platform





CUT Library and Information Services



CUT Publication: Postgraduate Supervision



CUT Publication: 7 Imperatives for Success in Research



CUT Publication: Doing Research



CUT Publication: REsearch 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

Tel: +27 51 507 4320 | | E-mail: enel@cut.ac.za
 Central University of Technology, Free State (CUT)
 Private Bag X20539, Bloemfontein, 9300, South Africa
www.cut.ac.za