Unisa's 10 Catalytic Niche Areas

7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies)



INVITATION: Working Group

1. Marine Studies, 2. Aviation and Aeronautical Studies, 3. Automotive, 4. Energy, 5. Space Study and Square Kilometer Array, 6. Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation, **7. Natural Sciences (Biotechnological studies),** 8. Health Studies/Medicine, 9. Feminist, Womanist, Bosadi Theorisations, 10. Student Support and Co-Curricular Activities.

Working Group Session

You are cordially invited to the 4th 2026 series of CGS-facilitated Catalytic Niche Area Working Group meetings for Biotechnological Studies. The theme for series 4 is "Future-Focused, Adaptive and Sustainable Catalytic Niche Areas". In this series, we explore emerging trends, risks and opportunities, and we consider the sustainability and adaptability of our niche area engagements.

The Futures of Biotechnology: Navigating Innovation, Uncertainty and Responsibility
How can UNISA's Biotechnological Studies Catalytic Niche Area anticipate emerging scientific developments and their possible consequences while balancing the pursuit of innovation with ethical responsibility, environmental sustainability and the particular needs and priorities of African societies?

Strategic reflection:
Which emerging areas of biotechnology warrant greater research attention at UNISA, and what new disciplinary partnerships, ethical frameworks or institutional capacities might be needed to pursue them responsibly over the next decade?

Reading:
OECD (2026). Anticipatory Governance for Responsible Innovation in Synthetic Biology. OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers, No. 193. Published 21 May 2026.
https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2026/05/anticipatory-governance-for-responsible-innovation-in-synthetic-biology_b0f8c49e/864dd003-en.pdf

Monday, 30 November 2026
14:00 – 15:00

Join the Session on MS Teams
https://tinyurl.com/4zvh8brw OR
Teams Link

ENQUIRIES:
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FACILITATOR:
Prof Jessica Murray

Define tomorrow.

UNISA college of graduate studies