CGS REPORT CARD 2020

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Introduction

The College of Graduate Studies (CGS) forms part of Unisa's Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation Portfolio and comprises the School of Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Studies, the School of Transdisciplinary Research and Graduate Studies, the Ethiopia Regional Learning Centre and the Postgraduate Administration Department. Multi, inter and transdisciplinary research is at the core of all our activities, thereby providing a unique range of opportunities for Master's and Doctoral research under high-quality supervision.

We work with other colleges and in partnership with other universities and have a wide range of national and international networks through our academic staff.

In addition, we host the prestigious National Research Foundation/Department of Science and Technology South African Research Chair in Social Policy and the UNESCO/UNISA Africa Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology.

As Unisa's answer to the national imperative to increase the number of Doctoral graduates and provide for high-calibre researchers, CGS is also responsible for the administrative, registration and examination processes and the facilitation of the research training of some 12 000 Master's and Doctoral candidates who represent a large slice of the research potential in South African universities. Our aim is to assist the colleges where these students are registered and to increase the number of successful graduates from this cohort to ensure our competitiveness among emerging economies. With research methodology as a central platform of CGS, the College has developed a suite of research training programmes that are delivered through workshops, colloquia, video conferences and virtual research environments. It reaches out to candidates in Unisa's regional centres, from Gauteng to Akaki, Ethiopia. Many of the offerings are general, but some are tailormade to fit the precise demands of specific fields of research.

The CGS Postgraduate Administrative Department deals with the applications, admissions and registrations of about 45 000 students registered for postgraduate qualifications, namely Postgraduate Diplomas, and Honours, Master's and Doctoral degrees, as well as with the assessment coordination for Master's and Doctoral dissertations and theses.

Our vision

Our vision as the College of Graduate Studies is to be a leader in providing excellent research support for postgraduate students and supervisors and to be a leader in Interdisciplinary research

Our mission

Our Mission in the College of Graduate Studies is to:

- Strive to undertake interdisciplinary research and knowledge development, guided by fostering a high level
 of integrity, quality, rigour and ethics among postgraduate students and supervisors.
- Contribute to society by producing Master's and Doctoral Graduates of sound character, versatile ability and knowledge.
- Meet the research needs of the society by nurturing collaborative relationships with relevant stakeholders through engaged community research.
- Provide training to postgraduate students and supervisors in research methodologies covering all research traditions.
- Promote the use of African epistemologies and indigenous knowledge research.

What does CGS do at Unisa?

Provides a central hub for Master's and Doctoral support within Unisa, South Africa and Africa to fulfil the national imperative of producing high quality postgraduates who will be the dominant drivers of new knowledge production within the higher education and science innovation system.

- Nurtures a research community whose primary purpose is to sustain Master's and Doctoral researchers within a supportive academic environment.
- Promotes and facilitates interdisciplinary research.
- Fosters academic integrity through the use of similarity index detecting software.
- Inculcating an African perspective in postgraduate support.
- Creating a vibrant intellectual space for research innovation, debate and creative thinking.
- Producing research and helping Master's and Doctoral candidates publish.



Committed Staff

Male



Postgraduate Students Graduations

Unisa produce more work-equipped graduates than any other institution in the country and, indeed, on the continent, belies the main thrust of Unisa's societal mission: make a true impact on lives, communities and society, helping to build a kinder yet more efficient world, and using academic muscle to bolster both the African and gender agendas. The University awarded a total of 12 176 Postgraduate Qualifications in 2019, a testimony to the rich variety of study options and levels available at the university. This include 7 128 postgraduation diplomas, and 5 048 advanced gualifications in the honours, master's and doctoral categories.

Unisa Ethiopia Regional Learning Centre Graduates

Programme	Graduates until 2019	2020 Graduates (12 November)	Total		MOSHE Sponsored	
			Graduates	Percentage	Graduates	Percentage
Doctoral	286	56	342	41%	213	99%
Master's	340	10	350	42%	3	1%
Honours & PGD	75	3	78	9%		
Undergraduate	50	5	55	7%		
TOTAL	751	74	825	100%	216	100%



CGS Research

National Research Foundation (NRF) Ratings December 2020

Name	Rating	Expiry	Gender	Race
Prof Jimi Adesina	В3	2023	Male	Black
Dr Elnerine Greeff	Y2	2023	Female	White
Prof Patrick Ngulube	C1	2023	Male	Black
Prof Lindiwe Zungu	C3	2021	Female	Black

Strategic Partnerships

- The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, Switzerland
- The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)
- The Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Harare, Zimbabwe
- UNESCO
- NRF
- DHET
- Mine Qualifications Authority
- Minerals Council of South Africa
- Mine Health and Safety Council

External Grants

- R3.5 million grant for 2020: Department of Science and Innovation & National Research Foundation for the SARChI (South African Research Chairs Initiative) Chair (Prof Adesina)
- US\$1 500: Young African Researchers in Agriculture research grant "Livelihood Smallholder Farmers. Recipient: Mr Newman Tekwa"
- US\$1 500: Young African Researchers in Agriculture research grant "Livelihood impact of COVID-19 on Smallholder Farmers". Recipient: Dr Clement Chipenda

- US\$10 000: SSRC/Carnegie Endowment Next Generation Social Science in Africa Fellowship: Ms Kimberley Usher
- R130 000: NIHSS African Pathways Scholarship. Recipient: Mr Madalitso Phiri
- French-Southern Africa multilateral joint Nano-MSC initiative (75k Euros, 2021-2022) (Prof Maaza)
- German DAAD-Africa Regional Postgraduate Programme (Full amount to be confirmed, 2021 2023) (Prof Maaza)
- Swedish ISP-Africa Postgraduate Programme (271152\$, 2021 – 2024) (Prof Maaza)

UNISA accelerated online postgraduate research programme (Prof Mgutshini)

VALUE OF GRANT:

- 5 million rands over 6 months (July February 2021) PROJECT GOAL:
- Developing a new cohort of skilled postgraduate students in research methodology, academic writing and grant writing

Development of Masters and Doctoral students' supervision and monitoring dashboard (Dr Makua) VALUE OF GRANT:_____

• 1.9Million rands over 6 months (July – February 2021) PROJECT GOAL:

- The development of an online solution for compulsory Masters' and Doctoral students' supervision and monitoring for:
 - Specific online research support platform to Master's and Doctoral students
 - Supervisor /student interactions (student uploads research activities and supervisor uploads feedback)
 - Transparent Master's and Doctoral research processes and workflow (with built in email alerts)
 - Quality assurance & Automation in reporting of student / supervisor engagements

Investigation of the effectiveness of SARS-COV- 2 preventive measures implemented by the South African Mining Industry (Prof Zungu) VALUE OF GRANT:

ALUE OF GRANT:

- R763.000 over 40 days (July- August 2020) PROJECT GOAL:
- To develop the leading practices that will assist the Minerals Council members to prevent exposure to SARS- COV-2 and the transmission of COVID-19

CGS Appointments & Honours

2020

- Prof Jimi Adesina was appointed as a member of the South African Government's Expert Group for the 'Development of a Country report on the measures implemented to combat the impact of COVID-19 in South Africa'
- Prof Jimi Adesina was appointed by the United Nations Institute for Economic Development and Planning to design and direct the capacity building programme for African policymakers (Social Policy for Development Planners in the context of COVID-19)
- Prof Jimi Adesina was appointed the Convenor of the NRF Rating Specialist Committee for Anthropology, Development, Geography, Sociology and Social Work
- Prof Jimi Adesina was invited by the University of Bremen's (Germany) Global Dynamics of Social Policy to produce the Country Report on Nigeria's Social Policy Response to COVID-19
- Prof Jimi Adesina was invited by the French government as an expert at a two-day High-Level Expert Meeting on the Establishment of a Global Fund Social Protection for All
- Prof Jimi Adesina delivered a keynote address/public lecture at the ISS (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Netherlands at an international conference on Critical Perspectives on Social Policy in Developing Countries
- Prof Jimi Adesina delivered a public lecture at the London School of Economics (London, UK) as part of the Cutting Edge Issues in Development Thinking & Practice 2020/21 series
- Prof Jimi Adesina supervised four Doctoral students to completion in 2020 and is awaiting the examination results for a fifth Doctoral student
- Prof Malik Maaza was appointed as Editor in Chief, African Physical Reviews (UNESCO & IAEA International Centre for Theoretical Physics)

Recognitions and Awards

2020

• Three CGS staff members have been named on a list of the top 2% of the most-cited scientists in various disciplines globally. Based on data from Elsevier's Scopus, the abstract and citation database, the report was prepared by Professor John Joannidis of Stanford University and his team and published in the journal PLOS Biology. (Prof Malik Maaza, Professor and incumbent of the UNESCO-Unisa Africa Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology, College of Graduate Studies; Dr Kaviyarasu (Kevi) Kasinathan, Senior Research Fellow of the UNESCO-Unisa Africa Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology, College of Graduate Studies & Mr Ali Talha Khalil, Fellow, UNESCO-Unisa Africa Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology)



Prof Maaza

2019

 Prof Lindiwe Zungu (Executive Dean: College of Graduate Studies) was awarded the TW Kambule-NSTF Researcher Award at the NSTF-South32 Awards in 2019. This was in recognition of work done to cater to the health and safety needs of miners, with a focus on women. The work included developing guidelines to assist the South African mining industry to improve the health and safety of women in underground mining.



• Recent Unisa graduate, Dr Takalani Madima-Cele (a Doctoral student under the UNESCO-Unisa Chair in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology)was acknowledged as one of the exceptional young women scientists conducting research in sub-Saharan Africa at the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of last year and was one of 14 brilliant young women researchers awarded a research grant at this event. Through this remarkable initiative, accomplished women researchers are recognised and rewarded for their outstanding contribution in the scientific field.

- Professor Malik Maaza, incumbent of the UNESCO-Unisa Africa Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology, was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe in Silver by President Cyril Ramaphosa at an award ceremony on 25 April 2019 at the Sefako Makgatho Presidential Guesthouse.
- In June 2019, Prof Lindiwe Zungu (ED: CGS) received her state-of-the-art NSTF-South32 titanium trophy, representing a 'feather in her cap' as the winner of the 2018/2019 TW Kambule-NSTF Award: Researcher. Her research outputs have impacted positively on the promotion of worker's health and safety – including her guidelines for the re-design of safety clothing for women in mining.
- Prof Malik Maaza of CGS received the International Commission for Optics' Galileo Galilei 2019 Medal, adding it to his impressive collection of national and international recognitions. What makes this award doubly special is that this is the first time in the award's illustrious 35-year history that the recipient is from Africa.
- Unisa's Professor Lindiwe Zungu, Executive Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, was recognised at the 2019 GLAMOUR South Africa Women of the Year Awards that took place in November 2019. This achievement proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that transforming the world is hard-work, but that it can be GLAMOU glamorous, too. Professor Zungu has been acclaimed for her role in breaking barriers to create positive change in the fields of science and technology.

Prof Zungu

CGS Research Support for PG Students

School of Interdisciplinary Research & Graduate Studies (SIRGS) Highlights

- Streamlining M&D Workshops: The research training workshop content was reviewed by the head of graduate studies and college representatives to ensure that all students, irrespective of their geographical location, will receive the same support. Previously, workshops favoured those in close proximity to the main and Florida campuses, as well those close to some regional service centres. The honours and postgraduate diploma workshops were officially added to the programme. This move translated to: 122 212 Master's &Doctoral students reached across all colleges, inclusive of international students; 639 639 Ethiopian Students were reached as part of the dedicated workshops on Saturdays and 15% of the Honours + PG Diploma student populations were reached.
- Social Media: During the lockdown, social media formed part of the support interventions, and Facebook as well as Ms Teams
 were used optimally to support students. MS Teams was adopted as the medium to facilitate the workshops for staff and students.
 MS Teams:

M&D Students – 2 319 were reached | Ethiopia Learning Centre – 43 users | Honours and Postgraduate diplomas – 516 users **Facebook:**

M&D –1.9k are following this group | Honours – 596 are following this group

CGS YouTube Channel:

A repository for recorded research training workshops and events was implemented and has racked up close to five hundred subscriptions and more than ten thousand views. **Mailboxes activity:**

M&DRW@unisa.ac.za more than 3 500 emails | honoursRTW@unisa.ac.za close to 600 emails | UCGS@unisa.ac.za more than 1400 emails (inclusive of M&D registration and other CGS entities)

- Ethics Colloquium: CGS collaborated with the Research Integrity Directorate & the Psychology Department to host an ethics colloquium, which was later followed by research ethics workshops and interventions. These helped the students especially those in the proposal phase to understand what research ethics entails and to fill in the right forms for ethical clearance. This intervention assisted the ethics committee in the colleges and ensured that there would be fewer enquiries and comebacks from students' proposals.
- CGS Virtual Open Day: CGS hosted two virtual open days for prospective PG students. More than 1 500 attended and participated in the two events. M&D held a workshop on the research outline document that forms part of the application documentation. A standard template was designed and adopted across all the colleges to ensure that prospective students all use the same template.
- Indigenous Epistemology Seminar Series: This series of seminars was in line with commemorating Heritage Day in South Africa between 22 and 25 September 2020. 552 attended the seminars and 519 viewed the recorded sessions. The presenters were from Unisa, Wits and other universities on the African continent, as well as the USA.
- Staff capacity workshops: Five workshops were facilitated for supervisors to enhance their postgraduate supervision skills. Supervisors from across all the colleges attended the five online interventions.
- Non-Examination workshop: An online workshop was presented to capacitate Non-Examining chairs. The M&D administration section took part in the presentation and highlighted the administrative side of NEC.
- Publishing from M&D projects: Workshops on publishing from M&D projects were facilitated for staff and students. This was in preparation for the upcoming amendments to the M&D procedures, in terms of which publications will form part of the examination process.
- Streamline originality checking workshops: A series of four workshops were facilitated for M&D students, along with an additional four workshops for supervisors. Recordings of the sessions were shared on the YouTube channel and the college received fewer queries on Turnitin-related matters after this intervention. Collaboration with the Research Integrity Office was successful in delivering on academic integrity and ethics in general.
- **2nd annual PG Research Indaba:** CGS collaborated with the NSRC to deliver the 2nd annual Postgraduate Research Indaba. This was a platform upon which the university, from the office of the Vice-Chancellor to all student support services, was able to interact with Unisa's postgraduate students.



CGS Research Support for PG Students

School of Transdisciplinary Research & Graduate Studies (STRGS) Highlights

- **PhD-by-Publication:** A PhD-by-publication concept note was developed and presented to the Intercollege Postgraduate Studies Committee. Inputs on the implementation model of the programme are being solicited from the various Colleges.
- Online Accelerated Postgraduate Support Programme: Successful implementation this programme, with activities commencing on 7 September 2020 and running up to 22 January 2021. The Programme designed specific support intervention activities that worked to (i) accelerate excellence in postgraduate research support; (ii) improve learner support by promoting an enabling postgraduate support system; (iii) foster online academic support/ programmes to promote lifelong higher education for all, as well as knowledge creation that is nationally responsive and globally relevant; and (iv) inculcate an African perspective in postgraduate support.





Prof Rosemary Moeketsi

Prof Tennyson Mgutshini

Prof Lindiwe Zungu

• Academic Integrity MOOC: Successful implementation of the Academic Integrity MOOC intending to foster academic integrity for Masters and Doctoral (M&D) programmes by providing training in academic writing and originality verification software, both of which are crucial for the improvement of throughputs and completion rates. The MOOC blast sessions commenced on 27 October and ran up to 25 November 2020.



Prof Elnerine Greeff



- Social Entrepreneurship Café: The launch, on 26 October 2020, of a strategic partnership between Unisa's STRGS, Facebook and Dignify Africa to offer students access to a course on Social Media Marketing. It is a first-in-the-world offering at the cutting edge of training and development. The course took the form of a WOOC a WhatsApp Open Online Classroom. This intervention offered students learning on their mobile devices, making use of WhatsApp as a platform and incorporating digital and audio-visual elements into the learning product.
- Launch of research collaboration effort: The successful launch of a programme series that works to offer students enrolled in the Accelerated Online Postgraduate Support Programme a mentored journey into publishing.
- Learner analytics and community of scholarship: Development and initial implementation of learner analytic findings and provision for the launch of larger-scale research in this field, with approval from the relevant Ethics Committees at Unisa.
- **Further DHET Funding:** An application for further funding from DHET is receiving consideration and we expect formal feedback by March 2021.

CGS Research Support for PG Students

ERIIKL

Asmara

Addis Abdba ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia Regional Learning Centre Highlights

- The Bilateral Agreement between the Government of Ethiopia and UNISA was renewed in the course of the year.
- The Ethiopia Centre rented premises that are accessible to students.
- Total number of students registered in the year was 629 of these, 94% are M&D students.
- The Ethiopia Centre graduated 74 students. Of these, 56 earned their Doctoral degrees, while 10 students graduated with Master's degrees.
- The Centre facilitated the M&D workshops offered by CGS. (The pandemic has influenced all workshops, causing them to be conducted online.)
- By the end of the workshops, proposal defence sessions had been held for all newly admitted M&D students.
- In collaboration with various sections of the university, M&D students were assisted in developing their academic writing skills and in how to publish in peer-reviewed journals.
- Staff members' fixed-term contracts were renewed with improved conditions of employment.
- All staff members job descriptions were reviewed. This helped to align the KPAs and weights of JD with IPMS documents.
- Library and ICT support services were granted to students, mitigating the impact of the pandemic.



Prof Lindiwe Zungu and Mrs Dvumisile Senzosenkosi Hlophe-Sikhondze honoured at Unisa's graduation in Ethiopia Djibou

CGS projects

One of the critical and successful initiatives introduced by the Executive Dean in 2020 was the Oxford Women. Leadership Development Training Programme that aimed at empowering CGS women with Leadership and management skills. The programme was designed to improve the skills of current leaders to comprehend challenges and gender tendencies within the workplace and promote the critical skills of aspirant leaders seeking to lead, influence, and mentor.

This 6 weeks' intensive online programme provided an opportunity for women in leadership at the College of Graduate Studies to build on their self-acceptance, self-management and self-development skills to enable them to lead their teams effectively to their optimal potential. The programme will contribute to the goals and progress of the department to achieve greatness. Through attendance of this programme, delegates were empowered with skills, expertise and knowledge to address many of the barriers that women must overcome in order to pursue their leadership ambitions.

The following are women who successfully completed the leadership training programme in CGS in 2020:

- 1. Prof Lindiwe Zungu Executive Dean: College of Graduate Studies
- 2. Dr Memme Makua Head: Quality Assuraance & Enhancement, CGS
- 3. Prof Khanyisile Mbatha Manager: Community Engagement & Outreach Projects, CGS
- 4. Ms La-Portia Matjila Director: Postgraduate Administration Department (PGAD), CGS
- 5. Ms Elena Swanepoel Deputy Director: Postgraduate Administration Department (PGAD), CGS
- 6. Ms Lindi Madiseng Supervisor: Postgraduate Administration Department (PGAD), CGS
- 7. Ms Penny Ngcobo Manager: Postgraduate Administration Department (PGAD), CGS
- 8. Ms Thembeka Tshikhudo Acting Manager: Postgraduate Administration Department (PGAD), CGS

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Strong women aren't simply born. They are made by the storms they walk through.

Message from the Executive Dean

The 2020 academic year was a year unlike any other. It was characterised by the most catastrophic societal and public health emergencies that the globe has ever been faced with over a century. First reported in January 2020, the corona virus or COVID-19, as it is medically known, had, established itself as the deadliest modernday virus. As the enormity of the Covid-19 challenge became apparent, businesses including the Higher Education sector scrambled to adjust their practices to uncertainty caused by the global pandemic. Beyond its health impact, the epidemic caused serious disruptions in the provision of education globally and in the same instance, it exposed serious disparities in educational provision especially between marginalised rural populations and their more connected urban counterparts. The scourge of COVID-19 pandemic did not only threaten the financial sustainability of businesses, including the higher education sector, but necessitated the need for an aggressive overhaul of postgraduate research support to a comprehensive online support programmes. The latter was critical to ensure for our college and is directly aligned to UNISA's strategic imperative of Enhancing Research on the African Continent and Globally. Despite challenges brought about by the global pandemic, as a college we emerged victorious in accelerating our college mandate – of promoting Postgraduate research performance and the generation of innovative outputs by UNISA's postgraduate students represents a critical performance area, one that requires very targeted attention especially within a Post COVID-19 environment. This was made possible because of the overwhelming collective efforts by all staff members who continued to work tirelessly under extreme conditions to deliver on the mandate of the college. The level of support and commitment we received from so all staff members in the college, was truly humbling. Although the weight of responsibility felt overwhelming at times because of the national restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. as the Executive Dean, it was also a huge privilege to be at the very heart of an amazing collective effort.

As Bishop Desmond Tutu eloquently puts it..." Do your little bit of good where you are. It is those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world..." This is what pulled us through in our college during the most challenging times in 2020.

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If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.

2021 Postgraduate Student Update

Only online registrations will be accepted. No walk-in/Self-Help registrations.

Honours & PGD qualifications

All qualifications are closed for application.

Students can track their applications at: https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Apply-for-admission-to-study:-application-tool

Once an offer has been made to a student, he or she must accept or decline the offer via the link: https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Apply-for-admission/Apply-for-admission-to-study:-application-tool

A student can register for a qualification only once the offer has been accepted.

For any enquiries, send an e-mail to the following e-mail addresses, as indicated at the link: https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Undergraduate-&-honours-qualifications

- College of Accounting Sciences: cashons@unisa.ac.za
- College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences: sciencehons@unisa.ac.za
- **College of Education:** eduhons@unisa.ac.za
- College of Economic and Management Sciences: econhons@unisa.ac.za
- College of Human Sciences: artshons@unisa.ac.za
- College of Law: lawhons@unisa.ac.za
- College of Science, Engineering and Technology: sciencehons@unisa.ac.za

Graduate School of Business Leadership: SBL@unisa.ac.za

Hons/PGD registration dates: https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa

Registration for CTA 1 and CTA 2 students: https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Announcements/Registration-for-CTA-1-and-CTA-2-students

2021 Postgraduate Student Update

Only online registrations will be accepted. No walk-in/Self-Help registrations.

Master's and Doctoral qualifications

Applications for the 2021 academic year closed on 6 November 2020. However, qualifications where there are still spaces available will indicate this fact on the online application platform. If the qualification does not appear on the list, it is fully subscribed. The next application period will open in mid-September 2021 for the 2022 academic year.

Students can expect the outcome of their applications, at the latest, during the first week of March 2021.

The M&D contact e-mail address is: MandD@unisa.ac.za

M&D registration dates: https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/corporate/default/Register-to-study-through-Unisa/Master%27s-&-doctoral-degrees

Master's and Doctoral Research examinations

For any enquiries about the M&D research component examinations, please send an e-mail to Resexcoord@unisa.ac.za



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