

The African University Shaping Futures in the Service of Humanity

Unisa is a leading contributor to the South African graduate pool, offering a wide range of quality programmes to a third of all higher education students in the country, as well as to other international students. At the forefront of this, is Comprehensive Open Distance e-Learning (CODEL + Business Model), the cornerstone of Unisa's unique positioning, giving accessibility of its programs to the remotest parts of South Africa, the continent and the world.

Academic Partners has been exclusively mandated to identify and assess talent for the following key position.

VICE PRINCIPAL: RESEARCH, INNOVATION, POST-GRADUATE STUDIES AND COMMERCIALISATION

P2 • 5-YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT • REFERENCE: AP1171

The University of South Africa (UNISA) seeks an accomplished and visionary academic leader who is ready to shape the future of research, innovation and societal impact.

The successful candidate will be a Full Professor with a Doctoral Degree and at least 12 years' relevant experience in Higher Education, a Science Innovation System or related industry, including a minimum of five years' experience at executive or senior management level. Recognition as a globally acclaimed scholar is essential, while an NRF rating will be an added advantage

You will provide strategic leadership and direction across UNISA's research, innovation and commercialisation ecosystem, while providing oversight of Library and Information Services, postgraduate studies and research dissemination. You must demonstrate the ability to scale research excellence, innovation and global impact, while working interdependently with the scholarship of teaching and learning and engaged scholarship.

A passion for student development and the transformative impact of research is essential. You will champion and embed interdisciplinary collaboration across the University and advance initiatives aligned with relevant legislation, UNISA's Comprehensive Open Distance and e-Learning (CODEL) model, and its 2016–2030 Strategy.

As an astute science diplomat, you will harness strategic partnerships across academia, industry, government and other relevant sectors. Your expertise in research, innovation, postgraduate studies, commercialisation, relationship management, projects, performance and change management must be underpinned by sound general management, administration and impeccable corporate governance.

As a key member of the University's executive leadership team and an immediate support to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, you will bring the intellectual authority, strategic insight and technical prowess required to position UNISA as a globally impactful institution. **Are you ready to lead, innovate and make a lasting impact?**

Please supply our Head of Assessments, Genevieve Michel with a letter of motivation and your Curriculum Vitae via shireen1171@talenting.co.za. Closing date for applications is 04 October 2026.

UNISA welcomes applications from persons with disabilities. Appointments will be made in accordance with UNISA's Employment Equity Plan and applicable legislation. UNISA reserves the right not to make an appointment. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

For further information please visit: <https://www.executivetalenting.co.za/talent-registry/>

All applications will be treated as strictly confidential. We correspond with all our candidates.



UNISA



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