**Call for Research Papers**

**Extension to the closing date: 1 June 2018**

The Unisa Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation Portfolio, in collaboration with the Unisa National Student Representative Council (NSRC), invites all registered Unisa students (undergraduate and postgraduate) to submit research papers to be considered for presentation at the 2018 Annual Unisa Student Research and Innovation Showcase scheduled for **15 to 17** **August 2018.**

Students are invited to submit research papers in any of the following disciplines:

1. Arts
2. Humanities
3. Natural and physical Sciences
4. Social Science

The following types of research papers can be submitted:

1. **LONG PAPER (8 pages) - For master's and doctorate students**

A long paper may be suitable for those students that have either commenced with their research and have research results to report or completed their research. Your paper should state what is new in the research, how it builds on past research, and/or how it has developed new research directions and pathways. Some level of critique must exist.

1. **SHORT PAPER (2 pages) - For undergraduates and honours students**

A short paper may be suitable for those students that have an idea of a research project they want to do and may have started their research but have no results to report yet. This category is intended for research that is at an early stage, perhaps with no data collected but ideas on questions that the research is going to explore and a review of literature.

**Additional information on the research papers can be found in Annexure 1.**

# Eligibility requirements

The showcase is open to all currently registered students from all disciplines.

# Application process

**Step 1:** Participate in one of the information sessions and workshops on “how to write a research paper” at a Unisa site near you. For more information on these sessions, consult Annexure 2 below.

**Step 2:** Decide on a topic of your choice, undertake your literature survey and collect the material you will need.

**Step 3:** Draft the paper. Please remember to reference your information sources properly.

**Step 4:** Edit your paper. Please check spelling and grammatical errors. If possible, have someone else read your paper before submitting it.

**Step 5:** Submit the research paper to Showcase@unisa.ac.za, including the following supporting documents:



* 1. The submission form
	*and*
	2. Proof of registration

Master's and PhD students can only submit a long paper. Undergraduate and honours students can submit a short paper. **Please note that papers that exceed the stipulated number of pages will be rejected without further consideration.**

# Assessment process

* The research papers will be evaluated by a discipline specific technical committee based on the following criteria:

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* The best research papers from each discipline will be invited for oral presentations during the Unisa Annual Student Research and Innovation Showcase.
* The oral presentations will be judged by reviewers selected from various colleges at Unisa based on the following criteria:
	+ Scientific / intellectual merit (50%)
	+ Originality (20%)
	+ Potential impact (15%)
	+ Quality of the presentation (15%)

#  Prizes

* The winners will receive trophies.
* The winners and runner-ups will receive certificates.
* The cash prizes per category in each discipline are listed below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Short Paper(oral presentation) | Master's (oral presentation | PhD (oral presentation) |
| Winner | R5000 | R5000 | R5000 |
| First runner-up | R3000 | R3000 | R3000 |
| Second runner-up | R1500 | R1500 | R1500 |

* The winners in each category **may** form part of a Unisa student delegation to go on an international exchange program provide they have not been to the same exchange program.

The winners in each discipline will be announced during the award ceremony to be held on 17 August 2018

Should you experience any problems accessing the information or wish to ask any question relating to the Showcase, please feel free to contact the following people:

* Ms Hlumela Kunene (kunendq@unisa.ac.za; 012 429 8549)
* Ms Nṱangananedzeni Muanalo (muanan@unisa.ac.za; 012 429 3767)

# Annexure 1

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE RESEARCH PAPERS**

## LONG PAPER

This covers research projects that are in progress or closer to completion or completed. The research paper should state what is new in the research, how it builds on past research, and/or how it has developed new directions and pathways. Some level of critique must exist. This may be suitable for students who have already undertaken the research and have results to report.

Two types of papers are possible under the long paper category:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Empirical studies | Theoretical, conceptual and philosophical essays |
| These include observational, ethnographic, experimental, quasi-experimental, and case studies. Papers on empirical studies should contain, at minimum, the following:* a statement regarding the focus of the submitted paper;
* the study’s theoretical framework;
* references to the related literature;
* an indication of and justification for the study’s methodology; and
* and a sample of the data and the results (additional data can be presented at the conference but some data ought to accompany the proposal)
 | These should contain, at a minimum, the following:* a statement regarding the focus of the submitted paper;
* a statement about the paper’s theoretical or philosophical framework;
* references to related literature;
* a clearly articulated statement regarding the author’s position on the paper’s focus or theme; and
* Implications for existing research in the respective
 |

### What should students submit?

A research paper not exceeding **8 pages** (including references). All submissions should be in ***Times Roman, 12 point and 1.5 spaced.***

## SHORT PAPER

Short papers, for the purposes of the R&I Showcase, are intended for research that is at the beginning stage, perhaps with no data collected but ideas on questions that the research is going to explore and a review of literature. This may be suitable for students who have an idea of a research project they want to do but they may have not completed it yet.

Short papers should consist of a text part describing the research and a reference section providing the references cited in the text part. The text part should contain the following essential aspects (in an order that makes sense):

* a short description of the theoretical background or framework;
* research goals, questions or hypotheses;
* methods used for the study (in the case of empirical studies this includes information about the sample, the design, the instruments, the method of data analysis);
* If any, results obtained by the study (due to space limitation better presented as text and not as table or figures);
* if the proposal presents a planned study, then expected results must be described (with reasons why these results are expected); and finally
* a short discussion or conclusions should be mentioned, giving an idea how the research question or goals are satisfied; if possible the new knowledge provided by this proposal should be stressed.

Due to space limitation it is not necessary to give a lot of references. To cite one or two sources would be preferable so that the reviewers get an idea in which paradigm or perspective the study is located.

### What should the student submit?

A research paper not exceeding **2 pages** (including references). All submissions should be in ***Times Roman, 12p and 1.5 spaced.***

## NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF SUBMISSIONS

1. Students are advised to take note of the University’s Policy on Plagiarism. The papers should be properly referenced.
2. No student will be allowed to have his or her name on the program more than two times, as an author or co-author, on any kind of presentation.
3. Presentations of Long Papers will be allocated a total time of 30 minutes of which 20 minutes will be for the actual presentation and 10 minutes for questions and comments.
4. Presentations of Short papers will be allocated a total time of 15 minutes of which 10 minutes will be for the actual presentation and 5 minutes for questions and comments.

All word versions of research papers together with other supporting documents should be e-mailed to: showcase@unisa.ac.za

The due date for the submission of research papers is **1 June 2018**.