RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
2021
Open Distance and eLearning Virtual Conference
MEDIATING OPEN DISTANCE AND eLEARNING IN THE ADVENT OF GLOBAL CRISES

The Research, Postgraduate Studies, Innovation and Commercialisation Portfolio
University of South Africa (Unisa)

Open Distance and eLearning Virtual Conference

SUBMISSION INFORMATION SHEET

I. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

	Papers	Workshops	ODeL Postgraduate Consortium
Language	English	English	English
Length	**FULL PAPER** • 4 000 words, including references • Arial 11 – double line spacing	200 keywords	2 000 words, including all figures and references
Abstract and keywords	Submitted articles should contain an abstract of between 150-200 words and should be accompanied by 3-10 keywords.	Abstracts should not be longer than 200 words and the total proposal should not exceed 2 000 words (including references).	An abstract of up to 200 words and 3-5 keywords describing the main topics should be included
Referencing style	Chicago referencing style	N/A	APA referencing style

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Preparation for submission	Authors should prepare and upload only one version of their manuscript. The submission document should be a PDF and should contain the following: • Title • Author details • Abstract • Keywords • Text with references • Figures and tables in the correct place in the text The manuscript should NOT be anonymous (an open review process will be used).	• Title • Workshop background (rationale) • Objectives and outcomes • Organisational details (how the workshop will be organised – participatory or group work) • Activities • Number of participants • Workshop requirements (e.g. Google docs, number of breakaway rooms needed) • References	• The first page must contain the title of the paper, the full name of the author, the institution and contact details. • The paper outlining the candidate's research should be in the form of an abbreviated dissertation proposal, as outlined below:

1. **Problem statement:**	What is the problem that you are addressing?
2. **Relevancy:**	Why is the problem important? Who will benefit if you succeed in conducting this research?
3. **Related work:**	How have others attempted to address this problem?
4. **Research question(s):**	What are the research questions that you plan to address?
5. Objectives	What do you want to achieve with your study?
6. Approach(es)	How are you planning to address your research questions?
7. Methodology	What types of methods have you used or are you planning to use for your study?
8. **Preliminary results (optional)**	Do you have any preliminary results that you would like to share?
9. Rationale:	How is your suggested solution different from, new or better than existing approaches to the problem?

			All proposals submitted will undergo a thorough reviewing process and the authors of those proposals that are selected will be invited to give a presentation at the Postgraduate Consortium that forms part of the conference programme.
Editorial responsibilities	The editorial committee is permitted to make changes to the final document, such as editing changes. Final proofs will be signed off by the author. The conference committee chair will sign off for posting on the Unisa 2021 Open Distance and e-Learning Virtual Conference collection on the ScienceOpen platform.	N/A	N/A
Copyright	Authors keep the copyright of their manuscripts under a Creative Commons license: CC BY See: https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/	Authors keep the copyright of their manuscripts under a Creative Commons license: CC BY See: https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/	N/A

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Submission process	The Unisa 2021 Open Distance and e-Learning Virtual Conference uses the ScienceOpen platform to manage the submission and review processes. Submissions will be treated as preprints on the ScienceOpen platform. Complete guidelines for preparing and submitting your paper to this conference are provided. New users should first create an account. Registration on the ScienceOpen platform requires users to have an ORCID account. Once a user has logged onto the site, submissions should be made via the "Submit manuscript" link. Papers must be submitted to: https://www.scienceopen.com/collection/2021eLearningConference OR **Submit manuscript** on the Conference website: www.unisa.ac.za/2021OdelConference • Clearly indicate on your submission whether the paper falls under the main theme or one of the sub-themes (if a sub-theme, provide the name of the sub-theme selected).	Workshop proposals must be submitted to: odelconference@unisa.ac.za	ODeL Postgraduate Consortium submissions should be sent to Qakisme@unisa.ac.za

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	• During this process, the paper will be reviewed by a member of the conference organising committee and it will then be peer-reviewed, via an open peer review process, by two members of the paper review committee.		
Who should submit a: • **paper** • **workshop proposal** • **ODeL Postgraduate Consortium proposal**	The submission process is open to all ODeL academics/experts. All submissions will be reviewed according to how they address the theme and sub-themes of the conference, their academic rigor and the quality of the research design, methodology and findings.	The submission process is open to anyone with expertise in the field of open, distance and e-learning. Workshop proposals will be evaluated in terms of their value contribution in addressing the themes and sub-themes of the conference, the workshop methodology and interest value for participants.	The intention of the ODeL Postgraduate Consortium is to support and inspire master's and doctoral students during their research efforts. The Consortium will provide a supportive forum where master's/doctoral students can present their ideas and receive constructive feedback from prominent scholars in the areas of open distance and e-learning (ODeL), open educational resources (OERs), massive open online courses (MOOCs) and technology-enhanced learning, as well as serving to build a cohort of emerging researchers in the identified fields. It is envisaged that the Postgraduate Consortium will be able to accommodate 10-20 presentations (allowing 20 minutes for each presentation, including questions and discussions). Therefore, we suggest that each presentation be no longer than 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for questions from the audience and discussion of the candidate's presentation. The workshop will form part of the parallel session during the Unisa 2021 Open Distance and e-Learning Virtual Conference. Hence, Unisa is inviting master's and doctoral students who are conducting research in ODeL, OERs, MOOCs and technology-enhanced learning to participate in the Consortium. • Candidates must be currently enrolled at any university. Therefore, the author must not have earned a master's or

				doctoral degree, nor have officially submitted his/her thesis.
				• Submissions must address master's or doctoral research by means of a specific research proposal and some preliminary work that has been done.
				• Submissions must be made by a single author and should include a statement by the student's advisor / supervisor, indicating the benefit that the student would derive from attending the consortium.
				• All proposals submitted will undergo a thorough reviewing process and the authors of those that have been selected will be invited to make a presentation at the ODeL Postgraduate Consortium that forms part of the conference programme.

II.   PRIZES FOR BEST PAPERS

Recognition will be given for the following papers:

- Best ODeL paper (as judged by the editorial committee)
- Best first paper in ODeL (as judged by the paper review committee)
- Best ODeL Postgraduate Consortium paper (as judged by the Postgraduate Consortium review committee)

III.   IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for workshop proposals	**Deadline extended** 31 May 2021
Notification of acceptance of workshop proposals	**Deadline extended** 30 June 2021
Deadline for full papers	**Deadline extended** 31 May 2021
Notification of acceptance and feedback for full papers	**Deadline extended** 30 June 2021
Submission of approved conference papers	14 July 2021
ODeL Postgraduate Consortium proposal submission deadline	**Deadline extended** 10 May 2021
Notification of acceptance of proposal for ODeL Postgraduate Consortium	31 May 2021
Registration opens	18 April 2021
Pre-Conference workshops	3 August 2021

IV. CONFERENCE ENQUIRIES

For all conference enquiries: odelconference@unisa.ac.za

V. WEBSITE

www.unisa.ac.za/2021OdelConference

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