

12th Annual Academic  
Development Symposium  
Cape Town

# Call for Papers

Unisa Western Cape Region in partnership with the  
Academic Development Open Virtual Hub (ADOVH)



## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Academic Development Symposium

***Higher Education as Catalysts for Future-Ready Learning in a Rapidly Evolving Technological Landscape: Building AI-Responsive Collaborative Ecosystems for Teaching, Student Support, Employability and Research.***

**Date: 17-18 September 2026**

We invite educators, researchers, practitioners, managers, policymakers, communities, and students from across South Africa to contribute and participate in the 2026 Academic Development symposium hosted by the Unisa Western Cape Region. This is your opportunity to network and share your insights and innovative practices related to the theme in the field of higher education, further education, and training. We welcome emerging and aspiring researchers to submit abstracts.

Share your experiences, practices, and research on:

### Submission Categories

#### 1) Building Pathways for Future-Ready Graduates and Careers

- Research and practice on employability, graduate attributes, and career readiness in a technological landscape.

#### 2) AI, Technological Change and the Future of Work

- Implications for employability, skills, human capability, and curriculum innovation

#### 3) Student Support and Success in AI-Responsive Learning Environments

- Innovations, practices, and research on supporting students in evolving digital ecosystems

#### 4) Building Local Knowledge and Research Hubs through Collaborative Ecosystems

- Leveraging regional strengths, partnerships, and niche areas for research, innovation, and impact

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## 5) Teaching and Learning Innovation in Technology-Enhanced and AI-Responsive Contexts

- Pedagogical practices, curriculum transformation, and knowledge-building approaches

## 6) Building Collaborative Research Ecosystems

- Partnerships between universities, TVET colleges, industry, and communities to support knowledge production and innovation

### Abstract Submission Guidelines

- Abstract: Submit an abstract of no more than 250 words.
- Title: Include a concise and descriptive title.
- Biography: Provide a brief biography of the presenter(s) of no more than 200 words, including a head and shoulder photograph (in colour).
- Your presentation can either be a research paper or an experience-based paper.
- Please consult your acceptance letter and/or the final programme for the specific presentation time. The assigned presenter (author or co-author) must be present at the designated symposium space during the given time to engage in discussions about the presented work.

### Submission Process

- Prepare Your Abstract: Ensure your abstract aligns with the submission guidelines.
- Submit to [ctntut@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ctntut@unisa.ac.za)

### Important Dates

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **30 June 2026**
- Notification of Acceptance: **31 July 2026**

### Contact Information

For enquiries regarding the submission process or requirements, please contact us at [ctntut@unisa.ac.za](mailto:ctntut@unisa.ac.za)

Our team is available to assist you with any questions you may have.