

UNISA WESTERN CAPE REGION

invites you to the 11th Annual Academic Development Symposium

in partnership with

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT OPEN VIRTUAL HUB (ADOVH)

Rethinking Teaching, Learning and Student Support: Exploring Opportunities for Innovation and Shaping Future-Ready Graduates in the Age of AI and 5IR

Date: 18-19 September 2025

Preamble

Higher education is being reshaped by the rapid advances of the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR) and the transformative power of artificial intelligence. These developments offer exciting opportunities for innovation, but they also raise complex challenges around academic integrity, access to information, and the continued relevance of our qualifications in a world of constant flux.

Student support has undergone a profound shift, especially after the recent pandemic, having to navigate adopting new technologies while ensuring that the personal, human element of care and connection is not lost. This balancing act, often framed in terms of innovation and responsiveness, has more profound implications for how institutions value and support the professionals who work closest to students.

At the same time, meaningful change takes time and resources. As higher education institutions contend with constraints on both fronts, we are challenged to reflect not only on what must change, but on how we can make the most of what we already have to serve our students with purpose and adaptability.

This symposium provides a platform for stakeholders from across the higher education spectrum to reflect and exchange ideas on contributing to innovative strategies within higher education. We invite reflections, case studies, innovations, and provocations that speak to how we might respond—creatively, collaboratively, and sustainably.

Programme

We invite academic and support staff, student affairs professionals, curriculum designers, and higher education practitioners to contribute to this year's conversation in the context of a rapidly evolving technological environment.

Share your experiences, practices, and research on:

- Innovative teaching and learning practices in the age of AI and 5IR
- Student support and care in a digitally evolving environment
- Staff support and care in a digitally evolving environment
- Enhancing graduate attributes and employability
- Addressing academic integrity and access
- Collaborative solutions for skills shortages and institutional adaptability

For more information, contact ctntut@unisa.ac.za

Provisional Programme

Programme Director: Dr Denzil Chetty

Academic Development Open Virtual Hub (ADOVH)
University of South Africa

Pre-symposium Student Workshop

Notes:
Students to bring their own mobile devices.
Some kind of recognition of participation (Digital badge)
ADOVH to spearhead marketing
ADOVH to fund the catering for tea and lunch

Wednesday: 17 September 2025		
Time	Topic / Item	Presenter / Facilitator
08h30 - 08h45	Arrival and Registration	
08h45 - 09h00	Welcome	Mr M Nkgoang Regional Director Unisa -Western Cape
09h00 – 10h30	Morning workshop 1	Mobile literacy
10h30-11h00	Tea break	
11h00-12h30	Workshop 2	AI Literacy
12h30-13h15	Lunch	
13h15-14h15	Exam training	
14h15-14h30	Closing remarks	

Thursday, 18 September 2025			
Time	Topic / Item	Presenter / Facilitator	
08h00-08h30	Arrival and Registration		
08h30-08h45	Welcome	Mr M Nkgoang Regional Director, Unisa - Western Cape	
08h45-09h00	Opening Address	Prof Moloko Sepota, Acting Registrar, Unisa	
09h00-09h45	Keynote Address 1 The impact of AI and 5IR on education	Dr Azwinndini Christopher Tshivhase Acting Vice Principal, Teaching, Learning, Community Engagement and Student Support	
09h45-10h30	Keynote Address 2 Inclusive education in technology	Mr Juan Benjamin Chief Director for Curriculum Management and Teacher Development	
10h30-11h00	Keynote Address 3	Prof Daniela Gachago CILT - Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching	
11h00- 11h15	Tea		
Parallel Sessions			
Venue: B01	Venue: B02	Venue: B1-41	Research Commons

Innovative teaching and learning practices in the age of AI and 5IR.	Student support and care in a digitally evolving environment.	Staff support and care in a digitally evolving environment.	Enhancing graduate attributes and employability.
11h15 - 11h45			
Perception and challenges of computer-based examination among library and information science students in federal Polytechnic Ede, Nigeria. Dr UW Madu	The reimagined, smart and technologically enhanced TVET Ms J Esau	Impact of student evaluations on lecturers' mental wellbeing & practice in private Higher Education. Dr C Edson-Ashley	Embedding computational thinking through project-based learning in civil engineering: A case study on seismic analysis of water tanks. Dr MS Pourbehi
11h50 - 12h20			
The Effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR) in Education: Innovative Teaching and Learning Best Practices. Mr MC Marakakala	Navigating the digital divide: students' perceptions and preparedness for online learning. Dr M Thobejane Dr E Makwakwa	The psychological impact of modern transformations in higher education: Academic well-being, stressors and coping strategies. Mrs B Wright	
12h25 - 12h55			
Reimagining Life Sciences Education with AI Utilisation in Initial Teacher Education Dr X Khalo	Reimagining Postgraduate Supervision and Student Wellness: Integrating Human, More-than-Human, and AI-Informed Approaches for Future-Ready Graduates Prof J Maritz		
13h00-13h20	Closing remarks		Mr M Nkgoang Regional Director, Unisa - Western Cape
13h25-13h30	Word of thanks		
13h30-14h30	Lunch and Networking		
Friday, 19 September 2025			

Time	Topic / Item	Presenter / Facilitator	
8h00-8h30	Arrival and Registration		
8h10-8h15	Welcome	Mr M Nkgoang Regional Director Unisa -Western Cape	
08h30-08h45	Opening Address	Prof Magano Department of Tuition Support and Facilitation of Learning Executive Director Unisa	
08h45-09h30	Keynote Address 1 (online)	Prof Batchelor University of Johannesburg	
09h30-10h15	TVET perspective	Dr Muswaba CEO College of Cape Town TVET College	
10h15-11h00	Panel Discussion-USAf – DELT 1. Prof Anne Verhoef (North West University) 2. Dr Nicola Pallitt (Rhodes University) 3. Dr Gloria (University of Johannesburg) 4. Dr Hanelie Adendorff (Stellenbosch University)		
11h00-11h15	Tea		
Workshops			
11h15-12h00	Workshop Masterclass on Researching with Elicit AI	Dr Denzil Chetty Advancing African Digital Humanities Ideation Hub (AADHiH) University of South Africa	
12h00-12h45	Closing	Dr Shahieda Jansen Deputy Director University of South Africa Western Cape Region	
12h45-13h00	Word of thanks	Dr Zama Khanyile Senior Counsellor Unisa Western Cape	
13h00 - 14h00	Lunch and Networking		

Day 4: Teacher/ Final CEDU student focus

Post symposium workshop

Saturday 20 September 2025		
Time	Topic / Item	Presenter / Facilitator
08h00-8h15	Arrival and Registration	
08h15 - 09h00	Welcome and Keynote Address	Prof Magano Executive Director Department of Tuition Support and Facilitation of Learning Unisa
9h00-13h00	Future minds bootcamp: AI-enhanced skills for educators	ADOVH
13h00	Lunch	