

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

25 - 29 May 2026
Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

MONDAY, 25 MAY 2026

Venue: Senate Hall, Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria

Theme: “UNISA’s Catalytic Niche Areas: Powering Change”

10:30 – 10:40	<p>WELCOME Prof Tennyson Mgutshini Executive Dean: College of Graduate Studies, Unisa</p>
10:40 – 10:45	<p>CONTEXT Prof Patrick Ngulube School of Interdisciplinary Research & Graduate Studies (SIRGS), College of Graduate Studies, Unisa</p>
10:45 – 11:30	<p>“Students’ Support and Co-Curricular Activities: Revisiting Students’ Career Development Programme of the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy” Prof William Amos Pallangyo Vice Chancellor: Tanzania Institute of Accountancy, Tanzania</p>
11:30 – 12:00	<p>“Leveraging Data Analytics and Machine Learning to Identify At-Risk Students and Predict Academic Success in Higher Education Institutions” Dr Mthokozisi Ncube, Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Graduate Studies, Unisa</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>“Indigenous knowledge management in the digital and open science era” Dr Josiline Chigwada, Senior Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Graduate Studies, Unisa</p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>“Drones as a catalyst for sustainable last-mile health access in Sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities and Challenges for Lesotho” Dr Sharon Chilunjika, Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Graduate Studies, Unisa</p>
13:00 – 13:45	<p>“Showcasing the work of the UNESCO UNISA ITL/NRF Africa Chair in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology” “Mott phase transition oxide in VO₂ and its application for smart windows towards green air conditioning”, Dr. I. Madiba (Early career scientist) “Oxygen deficient Black TiO₂ and its photocatalytic activity in decontaminating water from pesticides”, Ms. K. Humbelani (MSC student) “Bio-inspired engineering of surface sulfurization of nanoscaled Cu and cost effective removal of Arsenic from geogenic contaminated ground water”, Ms. A. Shams Khamenei (PhD student) “Bio-inspired engineering of a novel nanomaterial for cloud seeding and artificial rain harvesting”, Mrs. S. Khosroshahi (PhD student) “Nanofluids as a new generation of coolants for waste heat recovery and emerging data center cooling challenges”, Mr. M. Aligholami (PhD student)</p>
13:45 – 14:00	<p>REFLECTIONS & CLOSING REMARKS</p>