

Programme

Research and Innovation Week

25 - 29 May 2026

Muckleneuk and Science Campuses

THEME: 4IR and Digitalisation: Catalysing Access, AI Literacy, Openness, and Innovation in ODeL at Unisa

Time	Session Title
08:00 – 09:00	Tea/coffee
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome & Opening remarks Prof. Sindile Ngubane <i>CoD Institute for Open and Distance Learning</i>
09:15 – 09:20	Introduction of Presenter - Dr. D. Hees
09:20 – 10:00	Presenter: Dr. J. Setshedi DHET: Director of Teacher Education <i>AI Literacy and the Future of Teacher Education in South Africa: A Critical Analysis of MRTEQ in the Context of Digitalisation</i>
10:00– 10:10	Introduction of Keynote Presenter: Dr. S. Muchaku
10:00 – 10:45	Keynote address: Dr. Tony Mays Education Director Commonwealth of Learning Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada <i>Digitisation as a tool for scaling learning for development.</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Q&A
TEA BREAK	
11:15 – 12:00	ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION Facilitator: Dr. Hugo van der Walt <i>Driving Digital Futures: 4IR, AI Literacy, and Innovation in ODeL in South Africa</i> Dr. Twabu UNISA: Acting Deputy Director: Academy of Applied Technology and Innovation Dr. Tjano UNISA: Director: T&L Strategy, Projects, and Portfolio Performance Office of the VP Dr. Krull University of Cape Town: Academic Staff Developer (Senior Lecturer) Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) Centre for Higher Education Development Prof. Mphahlele UNISA: Institute for Open and Distance Learning Editorial board member of the following Journals: Journal of Educational Technology and Online Learning (JETOL) Journal of Online Learning Studies (Jour-OLS) Journal of New Paradigms in Education Former Secretary and Conference Co-Chair: Mixed Methods International Research Association (MMIRA)
12:00 – 12:20	Q&A
12:20 – 13:00	Digitisation: The Student Voice
LUNCH	
13:00 -13:30	Unisa Students' Roundtable Facilitator: Prof. JN Zongozzi <i>From Access to Innovation: 4IR and Digitalisation in OdeL</i> Ms. Tania Molapo – Masters level Ms. Mmabatho Makotanyane – Honours level Mr. Samuel Maluleke – Honours level (tentative) Mr. Mbhalati Matimu – 2 nd year Ms. Kedibone Mboweni – 4 th year
14:15-14:30	Q&A
14:30	VOTE OF THANKS and CLOSING: Prof. R. Tabane