

The development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem framework for public universities in South Africa

Dear participant,

My name is Annelie Steenkamp, and I am currently working towards my PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof Luzaan Hamilton and Prof Liandi van den Berg as part of the requirements for completing my PhD in Business Management at the North-West University (NWU). The purpose of this research study is to develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem framework for public universities in South Africa. The target population of the study comprises university academics in entrepreneurship and business management, support staff responsible for entrepreneurship development and management involved with entrepreneurial strategy development and implantation at South African universities. Your input into addressing this study's objective is valuable, given that you fulfil a role related to the entrepreneurial or managerial issues of an institution.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could assist me by agreeing to participate in an online, telephonic or face-to-face interview. Participation in this study is completely voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any point. The interview schedule will be sent to you two days prior to the interview for you to become acquainted with the questions and topics of discussion. The interview should take about 40 to 60 minutes. Confidentiality of all information is guaranteed, and no personal details linking you to this specific study will be included (e.g., name, address); that is, your anonymity, as well as the anonymity of the institution at which you are employed, is guaranteed. Demographical questions will be used for sample description purposes and will be reported in aggregate form.

Inclusion criteria for participation:

- Academic staff in the field of entrepreneurship and business management, responsible for transferring entrepreneurial/business knowledge and skills to students.
- Entrepreneurial support staff members associated with entrepreneurial development within the institution.
- Deans, deputy deans, directors, heads of departments (HODs) or programme leaders in the school or departments of management, business or entrepreneurship as the strategic thinkers and decision-makers of entrepreneurial development. Directors or managers of entrepreneurship centres, incubators, science parks and technology transfer offices as implanters of the entrepreneurial vision.
- You must be a full-time employee at your institution.
- You must at least be employed for a minimum of three years in your current role.
- You must have ticked the informed consent box at the end of this letter.
- Your only responsibility as a willing participant will be to participate in this voice-recorded interview.

Important notices, terms and conditions:

- The study is part of a post-graduate qualification and is conducted by NWU.
- Any personal identifying information, such as demographics, will remain confidential.
- This interview is voluntary, and you are under no obligation to participate in it.
- There will be no negative consequences to you if you do not participate in the interview.
- Findings will only be used and presented in an anonymised format from the total sample. Your individual results will, therefore, not be presented or released at any time.
- By completing this interview, you agree that the information you provide can be used for research purposes, specifically for potential academic publications and conferences.
- There are no correct or incorrect answers for any of the interview questions.
- This study will seek approval from the Economics and Management Sciences Research Ethics Committee (EMSREC), which reserves the right to audit this study to ensure compliance.

What will happen to the results?

Once the data analysis is completed, the anonymised results will be reported in the researcher's thesis. The findings will also provide an entrepreneurial ecosystem framework for public universities in South Africa. The final copy of the full report findings will be held by NWU. Furthermore, the anonymised data and results may be used for peer-reviewed academic publications in journals or to present at conferences. At no point will individual results be reported, only the total group results. You may request the results from one of the researchers (email provided below).

Statement of consent:

I have read the above description of this research study. I have been informed that it is a low-risk study, and I am aware of the purpose of the study. I voluntarily agree to participate in this study, and by continuing and completing the interview, I consent to the information being used in aggregate form.

Thank you for your important contribution to this study. Your time and input are greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

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☐ I hereby agree to participate in this study.

Demographic Information

Information will only be used to compile a demographic profile of the sample.

Please mark the appropriate box with a cross (X) or write down your answer.

A1. At what type of institution do you work?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Traditional University | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | University of Technology |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|

A2. In which province do you work?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Eastern Cape | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Mpumalanga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Free State | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | North-West |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Gauteng | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Northern Cape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | KwaZulu-Natal | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Western Cape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Limpopo | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | Other |

A3. What is your main field of study or area of expertise?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Business management | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Operational management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Project management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Financial management | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Strategic management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Human resource management | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Marketing management | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | Other |

If other: Please specify:

A4. What is your role at your institution?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Dean | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Deputy dean | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Programme leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Director | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Support staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Head of an academic department | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | Lecturer | | |

If other: Please specify:

A5. How many years have you been working in your current role?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Less than 3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | 6 - 10 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | 3 – 6 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | More than 10 years |

A6. What is your employment status?

1
2

Full-time
Part-time

3

Contract

A7. What is your affiliation with Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE)?

1
2
3
4
5

CoP: Entrepreneurship Research
CoP: Entrepreneurship in Teaching & Learning
CoP: Entrepreneurial Universities
CoP: Student Entrepreneurship
Intervarsity

6
7
8
9
10

Lekgotla
SEW
SWEET
None
Other

If other: Please specify:

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A8. What is your highest qualification?

1
2
3
4

Matric
Certificate
Diploma
Bachelors

5
6
7
8

Honours
Masters
PhD
Other

A9. In which age category do you fall?

1
2
3
4
5

18 - 25
26 - 30
31 - 35
36 - 40
41 - 45

6
7
8
9
10

46 - 50
51 - 55
56 - 60
61 - 65
66 and older

A10. To what extent do you agree/disagree with the following statement?

My university is a driving force for entrepreneurship development of our students.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree	Agree	Agree Somewhat	Strongly Agree
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Thank you.