

THE UKZN e-PPMOSA INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOOL SERIES

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the International Research Summer School for PhD on e-Participation and Policy Modelling in South Africa (ePPMOSA), to be hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). UKZN invites South African and international PhD candidates to apply to participate in the summer school. This will be a hybrid event (to be hosted both physically and virtually).

2024 THEME

**“Development,
e-Participation, Policy
Modelling, and Artificial
Intelligence in the Global
South”**

DATE

1-10 July 2024

VENUE

Howard College Campus, Durban, Republic of South Africa

Justification for the ePPMOSA International Research Summer School

In the Global South, and Africa in particular, doctoral studies represent critical engine for development through the knowledge economies. The PhD research strengthens the investigation capacity of scholars who play a vital role in the socio-economic development of the continent. This is so because doctoral education produces individuals who are competent of transferring their intellectual and technical knowledge to a wide-ranging global context. Africa needs tens of thousands of more PhDs. So, it is important for African universities to increase their PhD programmes and engage in partnerships to solve the socio-economic, environmental and political challenges of the continent through innovation, entrepreneurship, democratic participation and the 4IR. However, the PhD scholars work often in a relative isolation with their supervisors and fellow researchers in their geographical and conceptual areas of research. As a result, they do not have opportunities to engage with and learn from other scholars, and/ or are not exposed to the experiences from other countries. This disconnection would keep the researchers unaware of a wide network of scholars from around the world and available resources.

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Aims and Objectives of the UKZN e-PPMOSA International Research Summer School Series

The aims for the 2024 event are as follows:

- To create a platform for experts in different thematic areas to share their research results, knowledge, and experience with their colleagues, and transfer these assets to the PhD students.
- To assist the PhD students to present their research projects to the panels of experts in various thematic areas of the meeting and engage with their supervisors and other experts in these disciplines.
- To teach the participants how to create innovative ideas and transform them into business ventures to create employment for themselves and the country.
- To help PhD students to improve leadership, academic and personal skills that will assist them both socially and in the work environments or as innovative entrepreneurs.
- To create awareness around public sector innovation, e-participation, artificial intelligence, and the role of institutions of higher learning.

Specifically, for 2024 as the focus objectives are on e-participation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), the UKZN e-PPMOSA International Research Summer School Series seeks to:

- Empower the students with the necessary skills to write research proposals, funding/business proposals, and research articles for peer-reviewed journals;
- Empower the students with entrepreneurial ability to create employment whilst remaining competitive in the challenging labour market setting;
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and empower participants with the knowledge and insights necessary to navigate the complexities of development, e-participation and policy modelling in the Global South;
- Provide a platform for collaborative learning and dialogue while nurturing change agents committed to advancing sustainable and equitable development for the future.

The UKZN e-PPMOSA International Research Summer School Series for PhD students will use the following thematic areas for 2024:

- Research Design and Methodology
- Innovation, technology and development in the Global South
- E-Participation and inclusive governance
- Policy Modelling and Decision Support Systems
- Capacity Building and Technology Transfer
- Digital Platforms Supporting Energy Transitions in the Global South
- Case Studies and Best Practices
- Future Trends and Opportunities
- AI for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals
- Globalisation and local development
- Informal Cities and the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) in the Global South
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Grant Funding and Business Plan Writing

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For more details, please contact:

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Application Procedure

- **To apply**, please send an email to both: AmisiB@ukzn.ac.za and ZunguS@ukzn.ac.za
- Include the following information in your e-mail:
 - An expression of interest
 - Copy of doctoral studies acceptance letter
 - A doctoral research concept note/abstract (250 words) or work in progress
- Current students will be presenting their respective research projects at this International Research Summer School event.

Cost

The e-PPMOSA Doctoral International Research Summer School is FREE for all First Year (or proposal stage) doctoral students. Accepted participants are responsible for their travel and accommodation costs. Grants are available for the needy on first come first serve basis. Apply on time. The registration fee for other participants is US\$200 per person.

Deadline for Applications

All applications to participate in the **UKZN e-PPMOSA International Summer School Series for PhD students** must be received by: **07 June 2024**