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3RD INNOVATION IN THE SCIENCE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS 2025

Extended Abstract Submission closes: 06 June 2025

-- STUDENT SUCCESS IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE --

When Human Potential Meets Artificial Intelligence in the Learning Revolution

📅 **01 - 03 October 2025**   📍 **Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel, Durban**

We are pleased to announce the 3rd Innovations in the Science of Teaching and Learning Conference, which will focus on artificial intelligence and student success in higher education.

Learning and teaching in higher education are at a crucial turning point. This is a direct result of the transformation that artificial intelligence systems are bringing to educational practice around the world. Research studies have shown that the transformation now taking place in higher education presents the sector with both enormous potential and major constraints (Holmes et al., 2021).

The rapid development of artificial intelligence technologies has ushered in an era of upheaval in education, which scholars refer to as the fourth education revolution. This revolution includes the introduction of personalised learning environments, intelligent tutoring systems and AI-powered assessment techniques. Recent research by Roll and Wylie (2023) has found that the use of artificial intelligence in higher education requires the use of technological tools in conjunction with human skills that enable relevant learning experiences. To discuss the critical convergence of education and AI, this conference will bring together academics, educators and innovators.

The conference builds on AI integration frameworks for education and models of learner success in technology-enhanced learning environments to explore how educational institutions can develop AI-driven, student-centred environments that support human interaction and intellectual development. Research has shown that the use of strategic artificial intelligence leads to improved learning outcomes, particularly in the areas of personalised learning pathways (Tariq, 2024), early intervention systems (Gordanier, Hauk & Sankaran, 2019,) and flexible assessment techniques (Barua & Lockee, 2025). The introduction of artificial intelligence raises the question of how to strengthen academic standards and maintain fairness among students while improving the understanding of AI among both staff and students.

The goal of the 3rd iSOTL conference is to bring together evidence-based and collaborative research to address important concerns. By examining both established research and new findings from the field, we can create a link between theoretical ideas and their practical application. Meaningful dialogue between technologists, educators and researchers is essential to successfully navigate the revolution that is occurring in higher education.

THEMATIC STRANDS

AI integration in teaching and learning

- Teaching and learning in the era of AI
- The impact of AI on pedagogy
- Curriculum redesign and AI integration
- Learning science and cognitive development
- Balancing AI capabilities and human interaction
- Creating personalised learning experiences
- Critical thinking in an AI-enhanced environment
- Supervision models for postgraduate students incorporating AI support
- Bridging language gaps between English and isiZulu through AI

Data-driven student support

- innovative practices in the First-Year Experience (FYE) programme
- Academic counselling in the age of AI
- Strategies for academic monitoring and student support
- Predictive analytics for student success
- Early intervention systems
- Evidence-based decision making in education
- Building inclusive learning environments
- AI-powered tracking systems for postgraduate research progress
- Creating isiZulu interfaces for academic support systems
- Analytics to remove language barriers in the supervision of doctoral students

Quality and ethics in higher education

- Academic integrity in an AI-enabled world
- Quality assurance frameworks for AI-enhanced education
- Ethical considerations in the introduction of AI
- Assessment strategies for the AI era
- Maintaining academic standards while embracing innovation
- Designing courses for hybrid learning environments
- Ethical supervision practises in multilingual postgraduate contexts
- Quality assurance for cross-lingual postgraduate research

Global connectivity and intercultural learning

- International collaboration in the digital space
- Cultural competence in AI-enhanced education
- Global perspectives for educational innovation
- Overcoming geographical barriers through technology
- Nurturing international student communities
- Language learning and AI-enhanced communication
- Multilingual learning environments
- Supporting isiZulu in global digital research communities
- Intercultural mentoring approaches for postgraduate students

Holistic student support

- Mental health and wellbeing in the digital age
- Building community in hybrid learning environments
- Developing resilience and adaptability
- Ensuring equity and accessibility
- Student engagement and retention strategies
- Building digital literacy and AI skills
- Culturally appropriate support for postgraduate students
- Access to mental health resources in isiZulu
- Building supportive communities for isiZulu speaking researchers

Sustainable education practices

- Environmental impact of digital learning
- Resource optimisation through AI
- Long-term sustainability of educational technologies
- Building resilient education systems
- Environmentally friendly computing in education
- Sustainable infrastructure development
- Creating sustainable multilingual academic resources
- Capacity building for postgraduate supervisors
- Building a long-term digital infrastructure to support the academic content of isiZulu

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The conference presentation provides an ideal opportunity to learn about new and innovative projects, either completed or in progress, with noteworthy preliminary results. An oral presentation will be a 10min presentation and 5min Q&A session.

- Abstracts, no more than 300 words (do not use paragraphs).
- Abstracts must include a clear and brief indication of the purpose of the paper, methodology, major results/findings, and conclusions/implications.
- The abstract should provide a concise indication of what the audience can expect from the presentation.

Abstracts will be reviewed by a panel, based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the overall conference theme
2. Clarity and coherence
3. Appeal to a diverse higher education audience
4. Contribution to scholarship, innovative practice, critical reflection
5. Evidence-based arguments and findings
6. Sound and appropriate methods

Abstracts are to be submitted using this link: Abstract Submission Form

Authors will be notified of the review decision by 12 June 2025. Acceptance of the abstract means that the sole author or at least one author of joint papers will present at the conference.
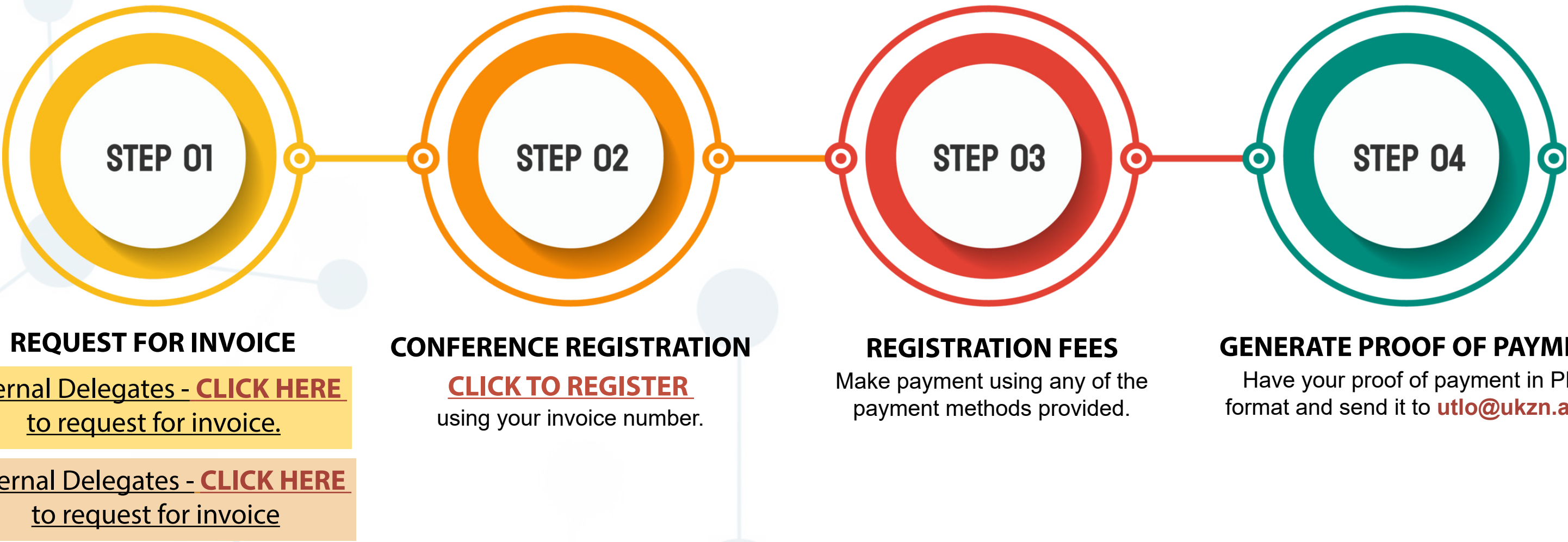
SUBMIT ABSTRACT

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission and Registration: Open	21 April 2025
Extended Abstract Submission: Closes	06 June 2025
Notification to authors: Acceptance/Rejection	12 June 2025
Abstract Re-submission: Revise and Resubmit	19 June 2025
Notification to authors of resubmissions: Acceptance/Rejection	26 June 2025
Registration Closes	31 July 2025
Conference Dates	01 – 03 October 2025

REGISTRATION

Please note: Your conference registration will only be finalised after payment of the registration fee is received and validated.

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early bird Registration 21 April – 15 May	Registration 16 May – 30 June	Late Registration 01 July – 31 July
Staff (UKZN)	R2000	R2500	R3000
Postgrad Students (UKZN)	R1000	R1500	R2000
External Local delegates	R5000	R6000	R7000
External International delegate	R8000	R10,000	R12,000

REGISTRATION PROCESS

STEP 01

REQUEST FOR INVOICE

Internal Delegates - **CLICK HERE** to request for invoice.

External Delegates - **CLICK HERE** to request for invoice

STEP 02

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
CLICK TO REGISTER
using your invoice number.

STEP 03

REGISTRATION FEES
Make payment using any of the payment methods provided.

STEP 04

GENERATE PROOF OF PAYMENT
Have your proof of payment in PDF format and send it to **utlo@ukzn.ac.za**

PAYMENT METHODS

PAYMENT METHODS	GUIDELINES
IDR	UKZN only - Department Code: 3865 and Cost Centre: MC52-30156
UKZN Campus Cashiers	Please indicate the following cost centre: MC52-30156
Electronic Deposit/Direct Deposit	Bank: Standard Bank of South Africa Account Name: UKZN Main Account Account Type: Business Current Account Account Number: 053080998 Branch: Westville (Code:045426) Payment Reference: MC52-30156 and delegate initials and surname - e.g. MC52-30156 JE Smith

Note: The conference registration fee covers registration, conference items (including a gift bag, name badge, notebook, printed/online conference programme and other paraphernalia), certificate of participation, breakfast, lunch, and dinner.**There are no refunds, but delegates may send substitutes at no additional cost.**