

THE UKZN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE
KINDLY INVITES YOU TO THE LAUNCH OF UKZN'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN-SWEDEN
UNIVERSITY FORUM (SASUF+) LAUNCH AND THE
RESEARCH COLLABORATION AIMDAY INFORMATION
SESSION.

UKZN SASUF+ LAUNCH & AIMDAY INFO SESSION



DATE

Thursday,
12 March 2026

TIME

14h00 - 15h30

RSVP

Via Microsoft Teams



CLICK HERE TO RSVP



BACKGROUND

SASUF (The South Africa-Sweden University Forum) is a strategic internationalisation project which was launched in 2017 as a three year project aimed at strengthening research collaboration between South Africa and Sweden. This initial phase laid the foundation for the successful follow-up initiative, SASUF 2030

SASUF 2030 united 40 universities from across Sweden and South Africa. Bringing together leading researchers, teachers, students, university leaders and other stakeholders, the project will develop joint solutions to the challenges posed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030. SASUF is currently in its third cycle, known as SASUF+, which was launched in August 2025. The programme now comprises a total of 37 member universities, including 12 Swedish universities and 25 South African universities.

The thematic focal areas for SASUF+ include

- Sustainable Health
- Green Transition
- Migration and Urbanisation
- Democracy, Social Justice, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

AIMDay 2026 (Academia, Industry, Government and Society Engagement)

AIMday is an academia–industry engagement initiative aimed at promoting and strengthening innovative research collaboration between academia, industry, government, and civil society to address real-world challenges. AIMday seeks to bridge the gap between research and practice by bringing together researchers and external stakeholders to co-create solutions.

AIMday 2026 will be convened as a virtual platform, on 26–28 May 2026, and will be followed by a call for research proposals in response to challenges deliberated at this platform.

At our webinar, we will engage with a presentation on the SASUF+ initiative, and learn how UKZN academics and post-graduate researchers, together with our partners in industry and civil society, can engage with the research collaboration opportunities presented through this partnership. We will work to identify one or two key societal challenges, and sub-topics falling within the thematic focal areas identified and relevant to our various disciplines, that we would put forward as UKZN for inclusion in AIMDay 2026.



SPEAKER MS HELIN BACKMAN

Helin Bäckman Kartal is Project Manager of the South Africa–Sweden University Forum (SASUF), an internationalisation project uniting 37 universities across Sweden and South Africa. The platform promotes strategic collaboration in research and innovation, facilitates sustainable institutional partnerships, and advances long-term cooperation in higher education between the two countries.