



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Natural
and Agricultural Sciences

UPDATED AND USEFUL INFORMATION

University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) Grant National Collaborative Project: Strengthening Academic Staff Development in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences in South Africa.

23 March 2023

1. Partner Institutions

The project involves the following Partner Universities (22), Centres of Excellence (1), Institute (1), Learned Societies (2), and Government Agency (1):

Partner Universities:

Durban University of Technology, Mangosuthu University of Technology, Nelson Mandela University, North-West University, Rhodes University, Sefako Magatho Health Sciences University, Sol Plaatje University, Stellenbosch University, Tshwane University of Technology, University of Cape Town, University of the Free-State, University of Johannesburg, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Limpopo, University of Pretoria, University of South Africa, University of Fort Hare, University of the Western Cape, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Venda, University of Zululand and Walter-Sisulu University

Centres of Excellence:

Centre of Excellence in Mathematical and Statistical Science (MaSS)

Institute

The African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) - Muizenberg

Learned Societies

The South African Mathematical Society (SAMS) and The South African Statistical Association (SASA)

Government Agency:

National Research Foundation (NRF) - Advisory

Other Universities that have not been listed above as partners are encouraged to participate in the activities of the project.

2. Governance Structure

The following governance structure has been retained:

- a) Advisory Committee: Current Human Capacity Development Steering Committee of Mathematics and Statistics chaired by Professor Loyiso Nongxa (Wits/UP).
- b) Project Coordinator: Professor Barend Erasmus, Dean NAS (UP).
- c) Academic Project Leader: Professor Mapundi K. Banda (UP).
- d) Project Administrator: Ms Retha Meiring (UP).
- e) Node Leaders: Appointed by each Partner Institution. The following are the node leaders at the participating institutions:

Mathematics and Statistics:

Dr Warren Bretteny (NMU), Prof Alfred Msomi (MUT), Maggie Aphane (SMU), Prof Seithuti Moshokoa (TUT), Prof Farai Nyabadza (UJ), Dr Timotheus Darikwa (UL), Dr Alphonse Bere (UV), Dr Syamala Krishnannair (UZ), Mr Frans Koning (UFS), Prof Renette Blignaut (UWC), Prof Bruce Watson (WITS), Prof Winter Sinkala (WSU).

Mathematics:

Prof Keo Motaung (DUT), Prof Sanne Ter Horst (NWU), Prof Dennis Pollney (RU), Dr Prof Aifheli Gelebe (SPU), Prof Ingrid Rewitzky (SU), Prof Peter Dunsby (UCT), Prof Sakhile Ngcibi (UFH), Dr Rituparno Goswami (UKZN), Prof Melusi Khumalo (UNISA), Dr Charles Maepa (UP),

Statistics:

Dr Anisha Singh (DUT), Prof Gerrit Grobler (NWU), Prof EM Munapo (NWU), Mr Jeremy Baxter (RU), Prof Paul Mostert (SU), Prof Freedom Gumedze (UCT), Dr James Ndege (UFH), Prof Temesgen Zewotir (UKZN), Prof Eeva Rapoo (UNISA), Dr Sollie Millard (UP),

3. Remaining Duration of the Project

The approved end date of the project has been extended to 31st December 2023.

4. Priority Activities for 2023

Determination of the priorities is guided by the project proposal that was submitted to DHET in 2016 specifically now that the project is coming to an end towards the goal of “to increase the number of permanent academic and professional staff at South African universities who hold doctoral degrees and to build postgraduate supervisory capacity in South African universities”, as well as the limited funding towards attaining degrees. Furthermore, the proposal to top-slice the allocation for graduate academics and early career academics from previously disadvantaged institutions is still in effect. Funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Requests may be added to the waiting list if unused funds are returned to the project in time.

Copies of the proposal and funding application guidelines attached as Annexure B are also available on the project website for your perusal.

5. Further Issues to Note

The importance of communication is emphasized. UP has set up a website for the project on the Faculty website under the following link: <http://www.up.ac.za/ntdg>

6. Requests

Node Leaders of participating institutions and/or their representatives are requested to provide by **no later than 31st June 2023** the following: (Template attached as Annexure C)

- a) The names of academic staff who are working towards registering or completing their MSc and PhD studies in order for us to update our database of prospective participants in the project. This should also include their Supervisors' names and HOD's;
- b) The names of academic staff who benefitted from the project in the period 2017 - 2023 and have completed their MSc and PhD studies;
- c) The names of academic staff who completed their PhD's since 2017 in order for us to update our database as these may have been funded as early career academics.
- d) Please indicate if the beneficiary was/is a nGap lecturer.
- e) The names of academic staff who will act as node leaders, if node leaders change. The node leaders will take responsibility of coordinating the activities of the project on behalf of the participating institutions.
- f) All outstanding funds for the period 2017 – 2023 should be reimbursed to the University of Pretoria as per the project requirements.

The reason for asking for all this information includes: we need to continually update the records of the project as DHET needs to be appraised on the impact of the funding on the next generation of academics with respect to the objectives of the project; thus there is a need to monitor to which extent the objectives of the project are being met; collecting data for final reporting with the hope that DHET would provide further funding after the current project folds.

The compliance by participating institutions in this regard has not been consistent.

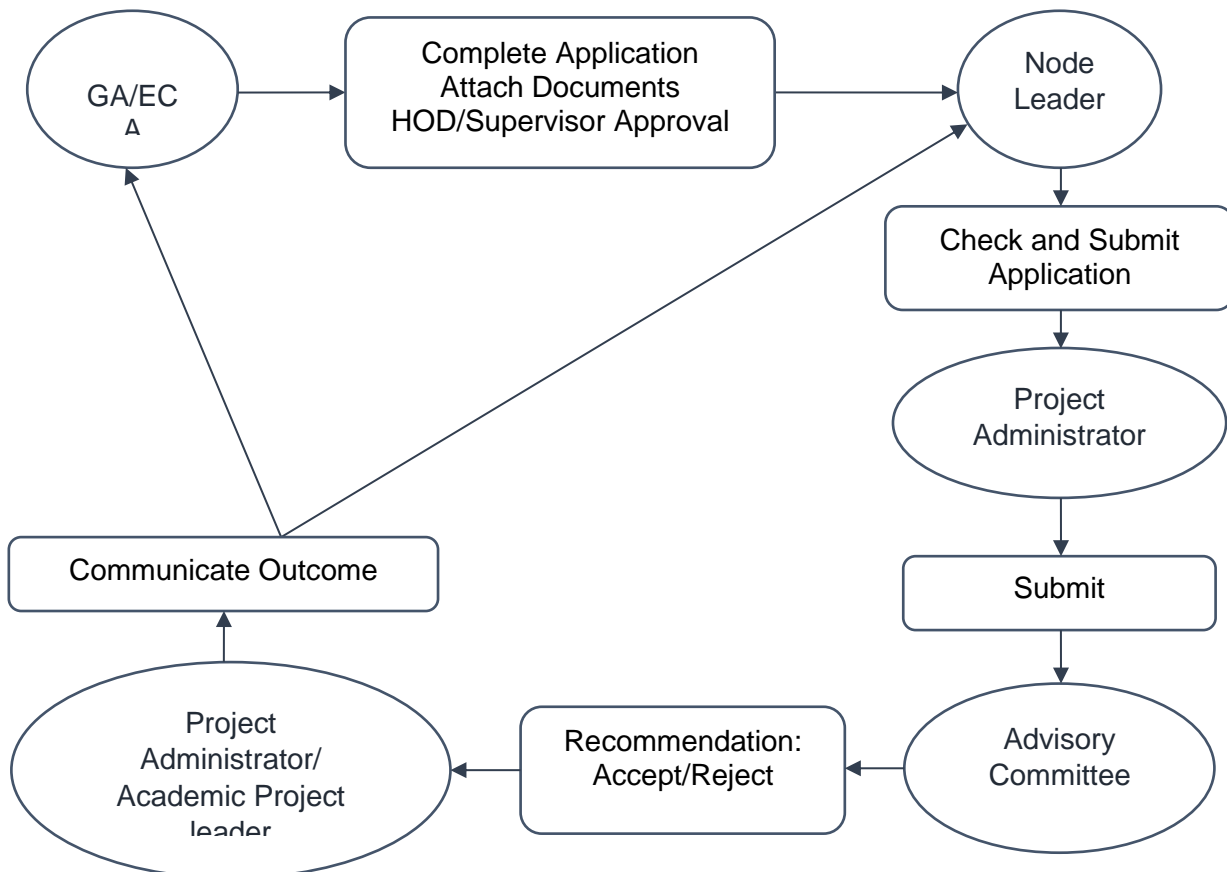
7. Quality Control and Processing of Applications:

Heads of Departments or Node leaders are requested to assist with compliance and quality assurance of applications before they are signed and submitted. Otherwise applications with inadequate information or incomplete information or applications that do not fully comply with the objectives of the grant are referred back and this leads to delays. Supervisors or mentors should indicate that the funding requested would help the applicant in their research. Levels and items of funding should be consistent with the institution's own policies.

Graduate Academics and Early Career Academics must apply timeously (**at least 3 months** before a local event and **4 months before an international event**) in order to provide enough time for the Advisory Committee to review the applications.

UP would pay institutions in line with the allowed activities as detailed in the UCDP Proposal by way of invoice and in accordance with the rules of the UP Finance Department.

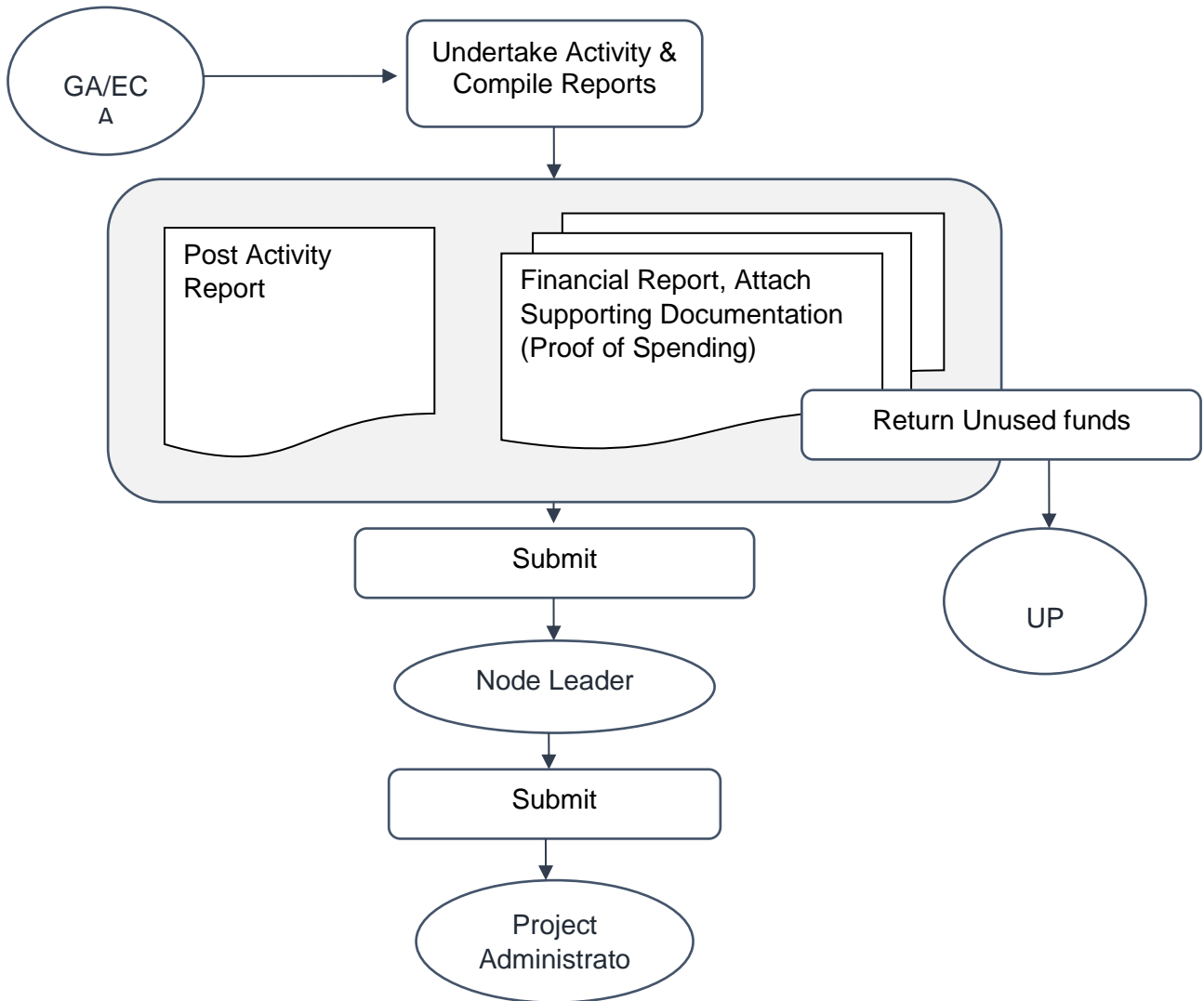
The application process flow in which the process is initiated by Graduate Academic (GA) or the Early Career Academic (ECA):



Once the activity has been undertaken it is expected that the Heads of Departments or Node Leaders assist UP in following up and ensuring that reports are submitted, and unspent funds are paid back to UP. This is a DHET requirement. As a consortium, unspent funds are recycled back into the grant for the active financial year and other graduate academics or early career academics can also benefit from such funds.

Timeous reporting after the event is also critical in order for UP to have all the information ready and available in the event that the project auditors require such information for their quarterly reports.

The following is the information flow of the reporting process after the event/activity:



8. Graduate Academics and Early Career Academics (Potential Beneficiaries)

Mathematics and Statistics academic staff at all Universities that offer Postgraduate studies and programmes are eligible to apply and be supported through the staff development initiative. The successful applications will be selected on merit following an appropriate review process. In particular, the candidate's participation in the project will require the permission of the candidate's Head of Department (HOD). The HOD would then take responsibility for ensuring compliance in accordance with activity guidelines, as well as responsibility for reporting. Node leaders would forward these approved candidates to the Advisory Committee via the Project Administrator.

Established academics are also requested to organise workshops and other activities beneficial to graduate and emerging academics. Funding for such activities can be made available as part of Activity 1. Refer to Annexure B, Funding Guidelines.

We wish to reiterate that according to DHET guidelines, potential beneficiaries are academic staff in the categories presented in the Funding Guidelines presented in Annexure B.

Senior academics benefit by organising activities in which a prescribed threshold of participants are graduate academics/early career academics as per DHET guidelines.

9. Beneficiaries who are now Early Career Academics

We would like to congratulate the following beneficiaries who have successfully completed their doctorate studies:

2018:

Dr Basetsana Pauline Ntsime (UNISA), Dr Ben Moditi Mahudu (WITS), Dr Cerene Rathilal (UJ), Dr Caston Sigauke (UV), Dr Chibueze Christian Okeke (WITS), Dr Christiaan Pretorius (NMU), Dr Dephney Mathebula (UV), Dr Francois Kamper (SU), Dr Gaonyalelwe Maribe (UP), Dr Garth Van Schalkwyk (UWC), Dr Grant Muller (UWC), Dr Gerrit Goosen (NWU), Dr Humphrey Brydon (UWC), Dr Ibukun Sarah Oyelakin (WITS), Dr Jabulani Phakathi (WITS), Dr Jacob Majakwara (WITS), Dr Johan Ferreira (UP), Dr Justine Nasejje (WITS), Dr Malesela Clifford Kekana (TUT), Dr Marcel Dunaiski (SU), Dr Michael Hoefnagel (SU), Dr Michael Rogans (WITS), Dr Monika Nowakowska (WITS) Dr Retius Chifurira (UKZN), Dr Rosephine Georgina Rakotonirainy (UCT), Dr Sean van der Merwe (UFS), Dr Thokozani Ncambalala (WITS), Dr Thobeka Nombebe (NWU).

2019:

Dr Akinwumi Sunday Odeyemi (UFH), Dr Boitumelo Moletsane (WITS), Dr Chioneso Show Marange (UFH), Dr Hloniphile Sithole Mthethwa (UKZN), Dr Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel (SU), Dr Katlego Sebogodi (UJ), Dr Kenneth Dukuza (UP), Dr Khehla Moloji (UL), Dr Knowledge Chinhamu (UKZN), Dr Letlhogonolo Moleleki (NWU), Dr Mathew Olajiire Abinu (DUT), Dr Michael Rogans (WITS), Dr Mozart Umba Nsuami (UWC), Dr Narenee Mewalal (DUT), Dr Olumuyiwa Otegbeye (WITS), Dr Rina Durandt (UJ), Dr Ritesh Ajooda (WITS), Dr Ruffin Mpiana Mutambayi (UFH), Dr Segun Isaac Oke (UZ), Dr Sesuai Yash Madanha (UP), Dr Sfundu Cebolenkosi Gumede (MUT), Dr Sibaliwe Maku Vyambwera (UWC), Dr Sicelo Praisegod Goqo (UKZN), Dr Simo Sisize Mthethwa (UKZN), Dr Thembisile Gloria Mkhize (DUT), Dr Tshaudi Motsima (TUT), Dr Tshupo Edward Mogorosi (SPU).

2020:

Dr Anisha Ananth (DUT), Dr Carel Johannes Van der Merwe (SU), Dr Claud Steyn (NWU), Dr Imran Allie (UCT), Dr Jacob Jaftha (UCT), Dr Jocelyn Mazarura (UP), Dr Liam Baker (SU), Dr Malose Joseph Fatlane (SMU), Dr Marike Cockeran (NWU), Dr Marius Smuts (NWU), Dr Martin Chanza (NWU), Dr Modisane Seitshiro (NWU), Dr Renier Stefan Jansen (UFS), Dr Seitebaleng Makgai (UP), Dr Shawn Liebenberg (NWU), Dr Shina Daniel Olonijju (RU), Dr Shivani Singh (UNISA)

2021:

Dr Albert Antwi (SPU), Dr Albert Whata (SPU), Dr Alex Alochukwu (UJ), Dr Batsile Tlharesakgosi (UNISA), Dr Brenda Vuguza Mac'Oduol (UP), Dr Bridgette Makhosazana Simelane (UP), Dr Carl Johannes Lötze van Heerden (NWU), Dr Christo Willem Kriel (WITS), Dr Hilda Dhlakama (UJ), Dr Jacques Van Appel (UJ), Dr Lesedi Mabitsela (UP), Dr Mark Anthony Sias (UJ), Dr Mathibele Willy Nchabeleng (UP), Dr Mathibele Willy Nchabeleng (UP), Dr Neill Smit (NWU), Dr Rendani Netshikweta (UV), Dr Siphumlile Mangisa (NMU), Dr Sonwabile Mafunda (UJ), Dr Stefan Janse van Rensburg (NMU), Dr Steven James (WITS), Dr Timotheus Brian Darikwa (UL), Dr Yanga Bavuma (UCT), Dr Zekhaya Benard Shozi (SPU).

2022:

Dr Allan Clark (UCT), Dr Alma van der Merwe (WITS), Dr Danielle Roberts (UKZN), Dr Elzanie Bothma (NWU), Dr Frans Kgomotshwana Thosago (UL), Dr Karin Bothma (UP), Dr Madelein van Straaten (NWU), Dr Oscar Sivenathi Mbusi (NWU), Dr Raeesa Manjoo-Docrat (WITS), Dr Rechelle Jacobs (UWC), Dr Rosinah Mphedziseni Mukhodobwane (UV), Dr Tshikhudo Lukoto (UL), Dr Tshilidzi Benedicta Mulaudzi (UV), Dr Vaughan van Appel (UJ), Dr Zanele Grace Ngenisile Mkhize (UKZN).

2023:

Dr Bonelwa Sidumo (NWU), Dr Lyson Chaka (SPU).

Congratulations on the well-deserved qualification!

10. Beneficiaries who are now in Professorial ranks

We would like to congratulate the following beneficiaries who have been promoted to the professorial ranks:

Prof Dephney Mathebula (previously at UV now at UNISA), Prof Syamala Krishnannair (UZ), Prof Oghenetega Ighedo (UNISA), Prof Volition Montshiwa (NWU-Mahikeng), Prof Gerrit Grobler (NWU), Prof Rendani Mbuyha (WITS), Prof Inger Fabris-Rotelli (UP), Prof Sollie Millard (UP), Prof Johann Ferreira (UP)

11. Closing

To close, the University of Pretoria on behalf of The National Graduate Academy – Mathematical and Statistical Sciences wishes to voice its appreciation to the DHET for the introduction of the intervention, which is of valuable importance to produce highly trained man-power in the critical area of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. The University of Pretoria considers this role as an honour and will do all in its power to support the other role players in this initiative. Should you have any queries regarding the project, please, do not hesitate to contact the University of Pretoria.

12. Contact Details

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