

Distinguished Visiting Professor Call for Applications

The University of South Africa (UNISA) is proud to invite applications for the prestigious position of Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Note: This call is distinct from UNISA's existing Distinguished Researcher Support Programme (DRSP). The latter is open only to tenured UNISA staff members, while this call is open to all suitably qualified researchers.

Background and Purpose

UNISA is committed to the development of a thriving research environment in which we offer a space for the most cutting-edge scholarly interventions to take place, and to infuse the rest of our core activities. In order to serve this mandate, we will be offering Distinguished Visiting Professor positions to suitably qualified applicants. These positions will be filled by scholars who are leading their disciplinary fields with internationally recognised excellence. Successful candidates will find an institutional home in our College of Graduate Studies, where we have a dedicated Research Excellence Optimisation Hub.

In addition to contributing to the development of a vibrant research culture at UNISA, successful applicants will play a leadership role in optimising our strategically identified catalytic niche areas (please see below for a list of the areas). We thus particularly welcome applicants with strong track records of scholarship in these areas. UNISA invests in the development of academic capacity and in the growth of emerging scholars. For this reason, we encourage candidates to identify suitably qualified postdoctoral fellows and to include them as part of their applications. Successful applicants and their postdoctoral fellow cohorts will be offered the space to collaborate on their own research projects under the auspices of UNISA. We also encourage collaboration between our Distinguished Visiting Professors and our own academic departments by means of activities that may include, but are not necessarily limited to, seminars, workshops, supervision or co-supervision, co-publication and the development of larger research projects with third-stream funding applications.

The catalytic niche areas are:

- Marine Studies;
- Aviation and Aeronautical Studies;
- Automotive;
- Energy,
- Space Study and Square Kilometer Array;
- Fourth Industrial Revolution and Digitalisation;
- Natural Sciences [Biotechnological studies];
- Health Studies/Medicine;
- Feminist, Womanist,
- Bosadi Theorisations;
- Student Support and Co-Curricular activities.

UNISA is an ODL institution and successful applicants need not relocate to Tshwane or to South Africa fulltime. They may fulfil significant parts of their responsibilities remotely via online interactions with the rest of the institution's stakeholders. Successful applicants may be required to spend at least part of their tenure in residence at UNISA for in-person interactions. Applicants may also hold substantive positions at other institutions concurrently with their tenure as Distinguished Visiting Professors at UNISA. These positions will be particularly suitable for scholars who are on research leave or who may be seeking to foster inter-institutional collaborations with a premier South African university.

UNISA offers very competitive remuneration to successful applicants. In addition, we offer financial support for the postdoctoral fellows who will be working with the Distinguished Visiting Professor, as well as funding for other approved research-related expenses.

Requirements:

1. Since these positions are targeted at scholarly leaders in their fields, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they are at an advanced stage of their academic careers. Applicants may offer evidence of meeting this requirement in several ways. For instance, they may show that they have been full professors or leaders at internationally recognised universities, research institutions or think tanks for at least 5 years.
2. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the capacity to foster vigorous research communities of practice that involve scholars at different levels of their careers. Applicants may offer evidence of meeting this requirement in several ways. For instance, they may have served as editors of leading academic journals, and they may have been the principal investigators of larger research projects.
3. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the development of emerging academics and postgraduate students.
4. Applicants must have an exceptional track record of publishing their research in high impact journals and with prestigious publishers.
5. Applicants must have a proven ability to lead research projects consisting of various team members.
6. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability and willingness to add value to one of UNISA's catalytic niche areas.
7. Applications must be accompanied by a clear and convincing annual plan that explains how the requirements are met and how the expectations (as listed below) will be fulfilled.
8. Applications must be accompanied by a budget that lists all research-related expenses for the year.

Expectations of Successful Applicants:

The CGS will offer support and actively collaborate with successful applicants in the fulfilment of the requirements listed below, as necessary and requested. We aim to provide a supportive and collegial research space where we accommodate some degree of flexibility in terms of how successful applicants meet these requirements.

As scholarly leaders of exceptional quality and international standing, we recognise that successful applicants may bring their own, innovative ideas for collaboration with UNISA, to their tenures. We undertake to respect and support such initiatives as far as is reasonably possible.

Successful applicants will be expected to:-

1. Play a leadership role in the development and maintenance of a rich and vibrant scholarly environment at UNISA.
2. Advance scholarly conversations in one (or more) of UNISA's catalytic niche areas.
3. Play a leadership role in optimising the catalytic niche areas in different institutional spaces.
4. Develop and submit research outputs with UNISA listed as sole or co institutional affiliation.
5. Collaborate with academic departments to ensure that the research momentum that is gained within the Distinguished Visiting Professor's project reaches other institutional spaces at UNISA. This may be done by means of, for instance, seminars, workshops, mentoring or supervision.
6. Lead research projects that involve several team members and that contribute to the capacity development of emerging scholars.
7. Provide mentoring for UNISA academics in terms of applying for research grants and other forms of third-stream income.

Submission Deadline:

The deadline for submission **11 February 2024**

For academic queries, please contact: Prof Jessica Murray, College of Graduate Studies

Tel: 012 429 6047. E-mail: murray@unisa.ac.za

Application Process:

Please submit the required documents to Ms Mmabatho Nkoane

Tel No: 012 337 6110 Email: ncubemp@unisa.ac.za

Note: The information provided in this call for applications is subject to change, and applicants are advised to check the official UNISA website for any updates or amendments. The university reserves the right to fill or not to fill the position(s).