



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



Development of the internationalization of PhD studies in South Africa

“Toward institutional structures that support the complete PhD life cycle”

Pretoria, Training session 2, 26-29 March 2019



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FEEDBACK AND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

DAY 4

29 March 2019



Central University of
Technology, Free State



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Outcomes of Yebo! 2nd Training...



Next Steps...

- Research, Innovation & Engagement Strategy approved Council..
 - Elements of Internationalisation/Engagement to be worked out...
 - Policy issues (*PG policy review, Policy on Joint-Doctorates, Policy on Internationalisation (Issues of Mobility, MoUs, enablers for MoUs, PG Students)*);
 - Relevant committees for the above currently in the process of being set up;
- Discussion on Integration/Cohesion of units/functions (RnI, Registrars Env. for Internationalisation, PG Institutes...)
- Need for tracking of students (*Platform → New or Clarivate??*)
- Establishment of Skills development Centre for PG focused on Doctoral training (*Staff/Students*)
- Start Discussions on Internationalisation with Local Partners...



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University of the Western Cape

YEBO Workshop March 2019

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UWC Internationalisation Project Implementation plan 2019-2020

- Internationalization policy for UWC (recruitment, enrolment plans, support services, IP, and other activities until graduation)
- Collaborate with Universities in WC to benchmark products and services to post grad students
- Integrate Support Systems for International students
- Engage with other universities and come up with framework agreement/s to cover internationalization activities.
- Develop a Library Framework for closer alignment and integration into research development in UWC to enhance Doctoral programmes
- Feedback to the International Office at UWC on working with embassies and Sub Saharan African governments for funding
- Feedback to International Office on European mobility programmes available



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Thank you!

**Grateful and appreciate the sharing and the learning in this
Yebo project from South African and International partners**

Yebo Feedback session

29 March 2019



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Yebo Feedback session

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- Communication between offices in the RTI division
- Synchronising of training offered by Faculty Research Coordinators, Research Forum, SIP
- Recruitment targeted at Post Graduates students
- Services offered to Post Graduate Students eg Immigration
- Minimize steps and administration for Post Graduate registration

- Training cohorts
- On and Off campus accommodation for Postgraduates
- Collaborations with other universities , UWC, UCT and Stellenbosch
- Continue to improve our online system and look at possibilities of integrating it with ITS



Recommendation/Implementation Plan

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Recommendation/Implementation Plan

1. Synergy between systems and governance
2. Centralised access and services
3. Communication strategy to raise awareness of key services
4. Improved evaluation and process hubs
5. Review of postgraduate hub
6. Ongoing postgraduate orientation
7. Report on the activities on the Yebo Project to the UCT community
8. Strategic/consistent selection of UCT participants in the Yebo project
9. Lobbying for improved resourcing of The Centre of Post Graduate studies
10. Leadership vacuum in Internationalisation at UCT
11. Strategic Partnerships





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100

1918 · 2018

forward together · saam vorentoe · masiye phambili

YEBO! Feedback session

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Take-home and next steps.



- SU is currently developing a new Student Information system – take home pointers learned
- Need and a scope for leveraging of the existing competencies at other SA institutions,
 - IE Setting up a PhD Forum between SU and UCT, UWC, CPUT
- Standardisation of administration practices and resources at institutional level, with the scope to align according to faculty or departmental requirements.
- Address turn-around time for verification of admission for international students to DIRCO for granting of student visas.
- Decide on what internationalization should mean for the institution – and measure if has contributed to student success and through put.
 - Faculties should decide what it is what they want to achieve/who are partners
- Collect matrix for not just enrolment and graduations – also look at internationalisation, via countries, international cohorts per faculty.
- Create awareness of mental health resources on campus. Sensitize postgraduate environments to mental health challenges and services available, towards destigmatising.



FEEDBACK AND IMPLEMENTATION



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FEEDBACK AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Enhancing the systems related to PhD Life Cycle (ITS, Tracking of progress).
- Enhancing CUT stakeholder relationship relating to PhD life cycle (Research Development and Postgraduate Studies, International Office, Student Administration, Finance, Human Resources and Faculties).
- Infrastructure – Governance- all policies and procedures to be aligned to feed into and respond to the PhD life cycle (CPUT model).
- Revising of the committee structures – (from decentralized to Centralized)-
Long term Objective.
- Enhancing supervisory capability through assistance from International Partners – **Medium Term Objective.**



Feedback and Implementation

- Regional collaboration we have MoU with UFS & Sol Plaatjie
- Professional development of PhD candidate using the research development framework – **Immediate implementation.**

Some feedback from European institutions

- Interactive, open atmosphere, good exchange of information
- SA context presented from different angles
- PG schools as an uncommon system > collaboration is challenging
- Structures are different, strengths/challenges often the same
- Some things to take up at our own institutions (e.g. approach of international PhD candidates; change rules for joint degrees; automated systems to support PhD life cycle; explore bilateral funding, e.g. France-SA)

Recommendations

- Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate (e.g. Doctoral Schools, joint degrees, joint automated systems)
- Invest in joint doctoral programmes
- Explore bilateral funding schemes
- Rediscuss/reconsider goal of doubling number of PhD degrees (what about quality?)
- Bring in other participants (doctoral students, supervisors)



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