

THE UKZN E-PPMOSA

VVISDP INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOOL SERIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

2026 THEME

**“Transforming the Global South: Public Innovation,
E-Participation, Digital Governance, and the Pursuit of Social
Justice, Decolonization, and Equitable Development.”**



DATE
21 SEPTEMBER –
05 OCTOBER 2026

PLATFORM
ONLINE
(MICROSOFT TEAMS)



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TO REGISTER**

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the University of KwaZulu-Natal e-Participation and Policy Modelling in South Africa International Research School (UEIRS) 2026, hosted under the VVISDP ePPMOSA Project, for all registered doctoral students, new graduate PhDs, and emerging researchers.

JUSTIFICATION

Doctoral studies are a critical engine for the socio-economic development of our countries. They equip graduates to conduct independent research, analyse complex problems, and contribute to efficient, evidence-based socio-economic and educational policies.

The 2026 theme foregrounds the urgent need to rethink governance, innovation, and development in ways that are contextually grounded, socially just, and inclusive — critically engaging with public innovation, digital governance, and the pursuit of social justice, decolonization, and equitable development across the Global South.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ⦿ Improve research skills and knowledge among PhD scholars through interaction with subject experts and peers in a conducive, relaxed environment;
 - ⦿ Provide students the opportunity to network and collaborate with other students and experts across different fields of research;
 - ⦿ Facilitate knowledge exchange around development, e-participation, and policy modelling in the Southern Hemisphere; and
 - ⦿ Provide a platform for collaborative learning and dialogue that nurtures change agents committed to equitable development for future generations.
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THEMATIC AREAS

- ⦿ Research Methodology
- ⦿ Public Innovation & Inclusive Governance
- ⦿ Digital Governance & Inclusive Decision-Making
- ⦿ Social Justice & Decolonization
- ⦿ Equitable Development & Global Relations
- ⦿ Bridging Knowledge Systems
- ⦿ Climate Justice & Resilient Cities
- ⦿ Service Delivery & Social Equity
- ⦿ Sustainability & Equitable Development
- ⦿ Grant Funding & Business Proposal Writing
- ⦿ Globalisation & Local Inclusive Development
- ⦿ Entrepreneurship & Innovation

[CLICK HERE](#) to access detailed concept note

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Registered doctoral students, newly graduated PhDs, and emerging researchers are invited to apply. Applicants should submit an abstract, research title, or work-in-progress sample related to the school's thematic areas. A targeted cohort of approximately 50 – 100 participants will be selected through a competitive review process, with priority given to interdisciplinary participation and geographical diversity.

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Application Procedure:

- ☉ Send an email to QwabeO@ukzn.ac.za and DladlaK1@ukzn.ac.za including the following: (1) An expression of interest, (2) Copy of doctoral studies acceptance letter and (3) A doctoral research concept note/abstract (250 words)

OR

- ☉ [CLICK HERE](#) to access the form.

COST

The University of KwaZulu-Natal e-PPMOSA International Research School carries no participation fee for registered doctoral students, new graduate PhDs, and emerging researchers. Participants are responsible for their own connectivity and equipment costs.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

14 September 2026
