Online Training Course for Supervisors of Doctoral Candidates at African Universities

Aims and objectives of the Course:

The Supervision of Doctoral Candidates programme is designed by Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA),South Africa, in collaboration with Kyambogo University (KYU), Uganda, College of Business Education (CBE),Tanzania, University of Sheffield Information School (INF), United Kingdom and eLearnAfrica and Association of African Universities (AAU) partnership.

The course is aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills development in the doctoral education of universities in Africa. The key objectives of the course are to: train doctoral supervisors on mentoring, supervision and application of information skills in training doctoral students; offer high impact research methodology training for doctoral candidates; provide skills for academic writing, publishing and career development training and opportunities for networking among doctoral supervisors; serve as a platform for doctoral administrators (supervisors, heads of departments, deans and other relevant stakeholders) to review doctoral candidate training at African universities, and mainstream pedagogical approaches in doctoral students supervision.

The design of the online training course for supervisors of doctoral candidates within the scholarship programme offered will ensure improved quality of supervision by the trained doctoral supervisors at the institutions in the medium and long term. The curriculum is tailored for aspiring and practicing doctoral supervisors. The programme takes a modular approach, it helps supervisors to develop a specific set of skills, knowledge and understanding to guide a diverse range of candidates to successful and timely completion of their degree programmes. The programme discusses best practices the most effective and up-to-date supervisory techniques, using case studies, and thought-provoking scenarios and activities to encourage supervisors to reflect on their own adapted approach.

At the end of the course participants will be able to:

a) reflect on and develop their own identity in the context of their institution and subject areas as a supervisor: understanding the doctoral context; research traditions; institutional dynamics and context, importance of applicable procedures and policies.

b) have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities as a supervisor, and
know their rights and duties as a supervisor: setting up the procedures for attracting and retaining doctoral candidates; managing expectations, responsibilities, and relationships with students.

c) Furthermore, participants will also acquire the following skills: knowledge of doctoral education systems in sub-Saharan Africa; intercultural competencies; procedural knowledge of the entire process of doctoral supervision support competencies; strategies for supervision (including communication, mentoring, monitoring, etc.)

Mode of delivery:
The course will be offered fully online, through a structured and modular based programme. Participants will not need to attend a face-to-face training to complete the course.

Strong focus on Information skills:
The curriculum aims to enhance supervisors' information skill set which is a key requirement for participants from diverse disciplines and strengthens the foundation of doctoral supervision delivery. Information seeking, collection, curation and ethical referencing strategies and standards will be covered in the programme.

Modular format:
4 stand-alone modules that build on each other

Who is eligible to participate?
Aspiring, newly appointed and more experienced doctoral supervisors in all major disciplines from African Universities

Participants selection:
Demonstrate experience of supervising post graduate students (Masters/PhD)

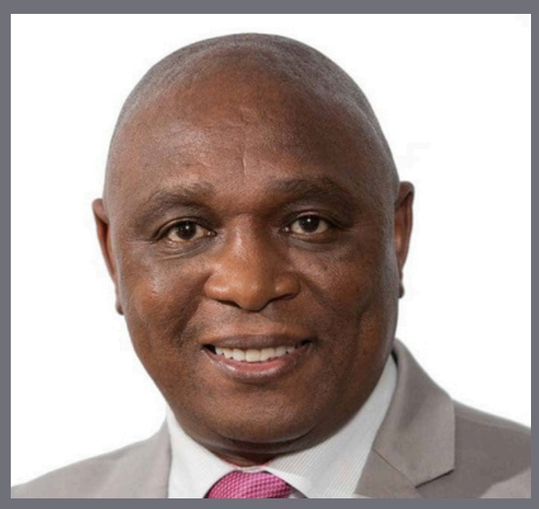
Participation:
Self-paced participation

Course dates: 26 May - 22 June 2025

Course duration: The course is 30 hours long and delivered over 4 weeks

Course delivery:
The course will be delivered in English. It combines discussions, case studies, research literature, video clips, scenario-based activities, continuous assessment and reflective journal writing to help the new supervisor engage with the practice and process of doctoral supervision in a reflective and informed way.

Programme Facilitators:
The course will be delivered via the ITOCA learning management system (LMS). ITOCA has vast experience delivering online and hybrid courses for academics, researchers, librarians and postgraduate students. It will be facilitated by academics with a total of over 50-years of academic experience and supervision of doctoral students from across six African countries: Dr. Gracian Chimwaza, Professor Maria Musoke, Professor Edda Tandi Lwoga, Professor Bamidele Fawole, Dr. Pamela Abbott, Dr. Andrew Cox, Professor Patrick Ngulube.



Dr. Gracian Chimwaza, Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA), South Africa (Programme Director)

Dr Gracian Chimwaza is the Founding and Executive Director of ITOCA. He is an international development expert with over 25 years of leadership experience in strategic planning & execution, information management consultancy, capacity development, teaching, learning and development, research, project management and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) initiatives in many African countries. He holds a Ph.D. (Information Science) from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and a master's in business administration (MBA) degree in Strategic Management from the University of West London (United Kingdom).

Professor Maria G. N. Musoke, Kyambogo University, Uganda

Professor Maria Musoke is a Professor of Information Science, with a Ph.D, from the University of Sheffield. Professor Musoke has been involved in training supervisors of graduate students using her post-doctoral course on information competence and management that has been running since 2005. She is the current Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academics and Research at Kyambogo University.

Professor Tandi E. Lwoga, College of Business Education, Tanzania

Professor Edda Tandi Lwoga is the University Vice Rector at the College of Business Education in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, supporting a cohort of international students to undertake multidisciplinary doctoral research projects on library and information science. She holds a PhD in Information Studies from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa and is also a user representative for the Research4Life programmes.

Professor Bamidele Fawole, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Professor Fawole is a Professor of Nematology and recently retired from the Department of Crop Protection and Environmental Biology at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. He holds both a Master of Science in Plant Pathology and a Ph.D. from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA. He has supported 19 doctoral students in nematology in the past twenty years.

Dr. Pamela Abbott, Information School, University of Sheffield, UK

Dr. Abbott is a senior lecturer in Information Systems and has recently been appointed Director of Postgraduate Research, a position which oversees the Doctoral Programme in the Information School, with circa 60 students and 30 supervisors. She holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University and she is also the Head of the Information Systems Research Group, and leads the school's initiative to apply for and attract GCRF funding.

Dr. Andrew M. Cox, Information School, University of Sheffield, UK

Dr. Cox is a senior lecturer in the Information School. He holds a Ph.D. from Loughborough University and an MSc in Library Studies from Aberystwyth. He spent a number of years working on development projects around the use of ICT in library contexts, funded by EC, JISC, and others.

Professor Patrick Ngulube, University of South Africa, South Africa

Professor Ngulube is a Doctor of Philosophy with a PhD from the University of Natal, an MSc in Information Science from Addis Ababa University. His fields of academic interest are interdisciplinary, including E-government, Information management, Knowledge management, Indigenous knowledge systems, field methods, theory and theorising and postgraduate studies.

Registration fee: ZAR 3 500/ $200

Registration: Please register ***here***

For group registration please contact: ***itoca@itoca.org***

The Online Training Course for Supervisors of Doctoral Candidates at African Universities is an advanced online training course conducted bi-annually to meet the needs of the participants and deliver the goals of the programme.

INFORMATION TRAINING AND OUTREACH CENTRE FOR AFRICA

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