

Pointers for POSTGRADUATE STUDIES @CUT No 1



18 March 2017

Dear Staff and Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate studies are of interest to many – for government it is a way to grow healthy societies, eradicate poverty and contribute towards the wealth of a nation; for the economy has knowledge become “raw material” – it has commercial value; for universities it is a way to grow the knowledge basis and for society it is to develop the social fabric of society.

Postgraduate studies have become the drive for next generation universities.

The University Research and Innovation Committee recently agreed to place special emphasis on postgraduate studies and support in 2017. This year I will allocate a substantial portion of time to develop and promote a postgraduate studies culture at the university.

One of our first initiatives was a workshop on 24 February 2017. The theme of the workshop was: *How to be successful with your postgraduate studies.*

During my presentation I asked the attendees what their concept of research is. Excellent comments were made.

Can I share some of them with you?

- Research is investigating a problem in order to seek a solution.

- Research produces reliable information.
- Research is relevant, applicable and implementable.
- Research is to address real life problems.
- Research is to know what is not known to us.
- Research is to add meaning to our existence.

I think this is most useful to guide us in our research. Remember what was said: Research is investigating a real life problem to seek a solution that can advance our society. This is aligned with the global understanding of the research agenda.

Research is therefore purposeful, it must speak to a challenge that we experience now and the purpose is to improve our society.

During the presentation the following was mentioned as important enablers to do research:

- Knowledge of science writing.
- Applications for own research funding.
- Effective advice from your supervisor.
- Networks with other students and your research environment.
- Effective time management.
- In-depth knowledge of your research topic.
- Relevant research.
- Networks.
- Opportunities to share and discuss research.
- Support and capacity-building.

To be successful as researcher you need to be in command of a number of enablers.

Let us take on the challenge to become effective researchers.

The RD & PGS section will communicate on a monthly basis what we are doing with regard to develop postgraduate studies at the university.

Please look out for our next conversation when I will share with you more tips to support your research!

Best wishes

Prof. Laetus OK Lategan

Director: Research Development and Postgraduate Studies