

# The National Association of Distance Education and Open Learning in South Africa

## CONFERENCE 2019

### FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The National Association of Distance Education and Open Learning in South Africa (Nadeosa) provides a forum for South African organisations and individuals who are committed to increasing access to an affordable, cost-effective and quality learning environment in which learners are empowered to become self-sufficient members of society.

Its Organising Committee invites you to take part in the 2019 Nadeosa Conference.

**Date:** 3 – 5 July 2019

**Venue:** Monash University at 144 Peter Rd, Ruimsig, Roodepoort.

**Website:** <http://www.nadeosa.org.za/>

### CONFERENCE THEME:

## Developing Capacities for Sustainable Open Education Practices (OEPs)

#### 1. PREAMBLE:

Open Education Practices (OEP) promise to address the issues of increasing access and ensuring the quality of provision of education. To promote these practices, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) released an *Open Learning Policy Framework for Post-school Education and Training*. This Framework builds on Chapter 7 of the 2014 *White Paper for Post-school Education and Training*. It adopts 'open learning' as a strategy to increase access to education and training opportunities.

However, there is little understanding of what open education practices entail. Neither is there sufficient understanding of the open learning principles that underpin the DHET’s Open Learning Policy Framework.

Other challenges facing the implementation of the Framework include the lack of necessary skills and competencies among academics and students to use OER in enhancing teaching and learning; the lack of empirical studies that focus on the pedagogies, theories and the impact of OEP in addressing the social mandate of education; and the lack of capacity of academics and students to use OEP in enhancing teaching and learning.

Consequently, the theme of the 2019 NADEOSA conference is “Developing Capacities for Sustainable Open Education Practices”.

The Conference aims to:

- Share ideas, lessons, and best practices on technology-enhanced learning, e-learning, and blended learning for student success;
- Interrogate the role of open learning as a vehicle to widen access, improve quality, and ensure cost-effective educational delivery;
- Share ideas, lessons, and best practices on staff and student support systems, and recognition for credit of prior learning experience;
- Explore existing implementation models across the university and TVET College sectors, to facilitate cross-pollination of relevant practices.

The conference will therefore explore the following sub-themes.

Sub-themes	Suggested topics/contexts
<b>Sub-theme 1: Access with success in open education practices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Providing access through open education practices</li> <li>b. Enhancing access and quality through open education practices</li> <li>c. Innovative practices to improve student success and throughput rates in open education.</li> </ul>
<b>Sub-theme 2: Supporting students.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Supporting students through open education practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Sub-theme 3: Enhancing quality assurance.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implementing quality open education practices in the PSET system.</li> <li>b. Monitoring and evaluating open education practices.</li> </ul>
<b>Sub-theme 4: Collaborative practices.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Collaboration that promotes innovation and opportunities for lifelong learning</li> </ul>

	b. Creating a culture of articulation in open education practices
<b>Sub-theme 5: Capacity Development</b>	a. Developing capacity for open education practices in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. b. Funding open education practices.
<b>Sub-theme 6: Program design for open learning</b>	a. Technology and OER b. Innovative technology for open education practices c. Developing cost-effective programme design for open learning

## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

a. Kindly adhere to the following guidelines

- The word count for abstracts is a maximum of 250 words (excluding title and author information) and should be written in Arial 11.
- Include a theoretical/conceptual framework, research questions, methodology, findings, recommendations and conclusion.
- Do not include sub-headings.
- Do not include references.

b. Submit abstracts to the following address: [Info@nadeosa.org.za](mailto:Info@nadeosa.org.za) and the subject should be **Abstract\_2019**.

Please provide the following details on your abstract:

- Name(s) and contact details of the author(s)/presenter(s)
- The institution
- The sub-theme
- Presentation type (refer to the different options in Table 3)
- Whether you plan to write a paper for publication purposes

c. Note the dates for submission of abstracts and papers in the table below.

d. The following criteria will be used for accepting abstracts:

- Does the abstract address issues/challenges/lessons related to the conference theme and a specific sub-theme? (Refer to the abovementioned list of sub-themes and related topics.)
- Does the abstract demonstrate understanding of the issues and existing scholarship?
- Does the abstract adhere to the provided guidelines?

#### 4. RELEVANT DATES

#	Activity	Date
1.	Deadline for abstract submissions	15 April 2019
2.	Notification of acceptance and feedback	15 May 2019
3.	Deadline for submission of papers for conference presentation	30 June 2019
4.	Deadline for confirmation of presenters' participation in the conference	15 June 2019
5.	Final deadline for submission of papers for publication in the special edition of <i>Progressio</i> .	To be provided in due course

#### 4. PUBLICATION OF PAPERS IN A SPECIAL EDITION OF PROGRESSIO

A special edition of *Progressio* will give participants an opportunity to draft papers for inclusion in this publication. We will need at least eight (8) approved papers for this special edition to be published. Please refer to the website for submission requirements and criteria:

<http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=7388>

**Please note: Conference fees and pre-conference details will be communicated soon. Should you wish to be kept notified of developments please send an email to [info@nadeosa.org.za](mailto:info@nadeosa.org.za).**