

 **LIVE WEBINAR**

# **FYE** **IN FOCUS**

## **UNISA & UKZN**

This webinar will provide an overview of First-Year Experience (FYE) initiatives from two distinct South African higher education contexts. The first presentation will outline the strategies, support mechanisms, and student engagement activities implemented at the University of South Africa (UNISA), focusing on the unique challenges and opportunities of supporting a geographically dispersed student body. The second presentation will highlight FYE initiatives at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), a contact-based university, illustrating how campus-centred approaches foster student transition, belonging, and academic success. Together, these perspectives will offer valuable insights into how South African institutions adapt FYE principles to their respective teaching and learning environments.



**Prof Ruth Hoskins**  
UKZN



**Sharma Rama**  
UKZN



**Ziyanda Febana-Mkila**  
UNISA

**THURSDAY**



**SAVE THE DATE**  
25 September 2025

**START AT**  
2PM - 3PM



**Register Now**

For More Information  
[nadeosa.org.za](https://nadeosa.org.za)



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# **FYE IN FOCUS**

**UNISA & UKZN**

25 September 2025 | 2pm - 3pm

## **MEET YOUR PRESENTERS:**



**Prof Ruth Hoskins**  
UKZN

Ruth Hoskins is a full Professor in the Information Studies Programme of the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. She is currently the Dean of Teaching and Learning in the College of Humanities (CHUM) and is the UKZN Facilitator for the FYE Programme for all four Colleges at UKZN. UKZN are currently the Siyaphumelela leader of the FYE workstream. Her research interests include student support, success and the transition of FYE students at the undergraduate level. She has presented several papers on FYE initiative at local and international conferences. She is a member of several associations locally and internationally, including NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising, and is the UKZN Project Leader for the UFS Academic Advising Project.



**Sharma Rama**  
UKZN

Sharmila Rama is a senior lecturer in the Sociology Programme of the School of Social Sciences at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. She is currently the interim Head of Academic Monitoring and Support in the College of Humanities (CHUM) and oversees the College of Humanities FYE Programme. Her research interests include youth and gender studies, teaching sociology, and student success, support and transition at the undergraduate level. She has co-presented several papers on UKZN FYE initiative at local and international conferences. She is a member of several associations locally and internationally, including NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising, the International Sociological Association, and HELTASA.



**Ziyanda Febana-Mkila**  
UNISA

Ziyanda Febana-Mkila is a student success practitioner at the University of South Africa (UNISA), where she co-leads the Siyaphumelela Project and has overseen the institution-wide First-Year Experience initiative. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Johannesburg, building on her Master's degree in Sociology (cum laude) and Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Fort Hare. Passionate about inclusive education and accessibility, Febana also uses photography as a tool for advocacy and research, promoting environments that enable the success and participation of students with disabilities.

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