

ACADEMIC RESEARCH SUPERVISOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2026

FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS

The CHEC Academic Research Supervisor and Manager Capacity (ARS) Development Programme focuses on equipping supervisors with key competencies to enhance their leadership and effectiveness in research supervision based on four competencies with structured sessions. The competency themes and sessions aim to promote alignment with institutional goals, foster student development, uphold ethical standards, and create a collaborative research environment.

Creating a capacity development programme for university research supervisors is an essential strategy to enhance their skills, enabling them to guide students more effectively. The Programme focuses on building both technical and soft skills across various areas such as leadership in mentoring, project management, communication, and ethical supervision.

These competencies are:

Supervisory leadership and institutional alignment
| Ethics and integrity in research | Mentorship and student development | Creating a constructive and collaborative research environment.

Each competency area is broken down into four sessions. Sessions will run from 9:00 to 13:00 SAST, with the exception of discussion-based activities. The cost is R8000 per person per competency.

Purpose: To develop leadership and mentoring skills for supporting students' academic and professional growth by providing skills and understanding of best practices in research supervision.

Target audience: Academic staff involved in postgraduate research supervision (new and experienced supervisors) or interested in becoming successful research supervisors.

Duration: August to November 2026 (this programme follows on the Advancing Scholarship Programme taking place in the first semester).

Mode of delivery: Virtual

Closing date for registrations: 2 August 2026
Programme structure: The Programme is divided into four competency areas.

Cost: R8000 per competency.

Programme value

The development of mental models by learning from each other by engaging and participating across the higher education network.

Contact us at CHEC

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Academic research supervision programme			
Competencies		Workshops (4 hours each)	Dates and times All times 9:00-13:00 SAST,
ARS1: Supervisory leadership and institutional alignment		Cost per person per competency: R8000	August
Session 1.1	Roles and responsibilities of a research supervisor	Prof René Pellissier	Aug 17, 2026
Session 1.2	Mentoring and coaching (including diversity & inclusivity)	Dr Rica Viljoen	Aug 18, 2026
Session 1.3	Aligning supervision with institutional, national and global research priorities.	Prof Andrée Sursock	Aug 19, 2026
ARS2. Ethics and integrity in research		Cost per person per competency: R8000	September
Session 2.1	Ethical frameworks, responsible practices (including handling sensitive data, and approvals)	Prof Retha Visagie	Sep 14, 2026
Session 2.2	Managing conflicts of interest, plagiarism and open science practices	Dr Khalida Akbar	Sep 15, 2026
Session 2.3	Fostering innovation and impactful research	Prof René Pellissier	Sep 16, 2026
ARS3. Mentorship and student development		Cost per person per competency: R8000	October
Session 3.1	Building productive relationships and managing student expectations	Prof Cobus Oosthuizen	Oct 12, 2026
Session 3.2	Milestones, progress monitoring, and crisis management.	Prof Gina Wisker	Oct 13, 2026
Session 3.3	Networking, collaboration skills, and student career development	Prof Eugene Cloete	Oct 14, 2026
ARS4. Creating a constructive and collaborative research environment		Cost per person per competency: R8000	November
Session 4.1	Preparing for the submission and examination of the thesis	Prof Gina Wisker	Nov 16, 2026
Session 4.2	Supervising multi- or transdisciplinary projects	Dr David Phaho	Nov 17, 2026
Session 4.3	Research funding, resource management, and collaboration strategies	Dr Henriette van den Bweg	Nov 18, 2026
CAPSTONE project 3 December 2026		Participants will apply the knowledge and skills gained from all competencies through a Capstone Project. This final element encourages supervisors to develop practical strategies for research supervision within their respective contexts.	
CHEC Certificate		Upon successful completion of the Capstone project, participants will receive a CHEC Certificate in Research Supervision.	