



**VAAL UNIVERSITY  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

*Inspiring thought. Shaping talent.*

# **Vaal University of Technology**

## **Centre for Academic Development**

### **Muntu Chili**

**6-7 December 2023**

[www.vut.ac.za](http://www.vut.ac.za)



# Presentation Outline



What has been successful? How do you see that success going forward?



What are the impediments to implementing/scaling your student success interventions?



UCDP: How are you including student success in your UCDP 2024-2027

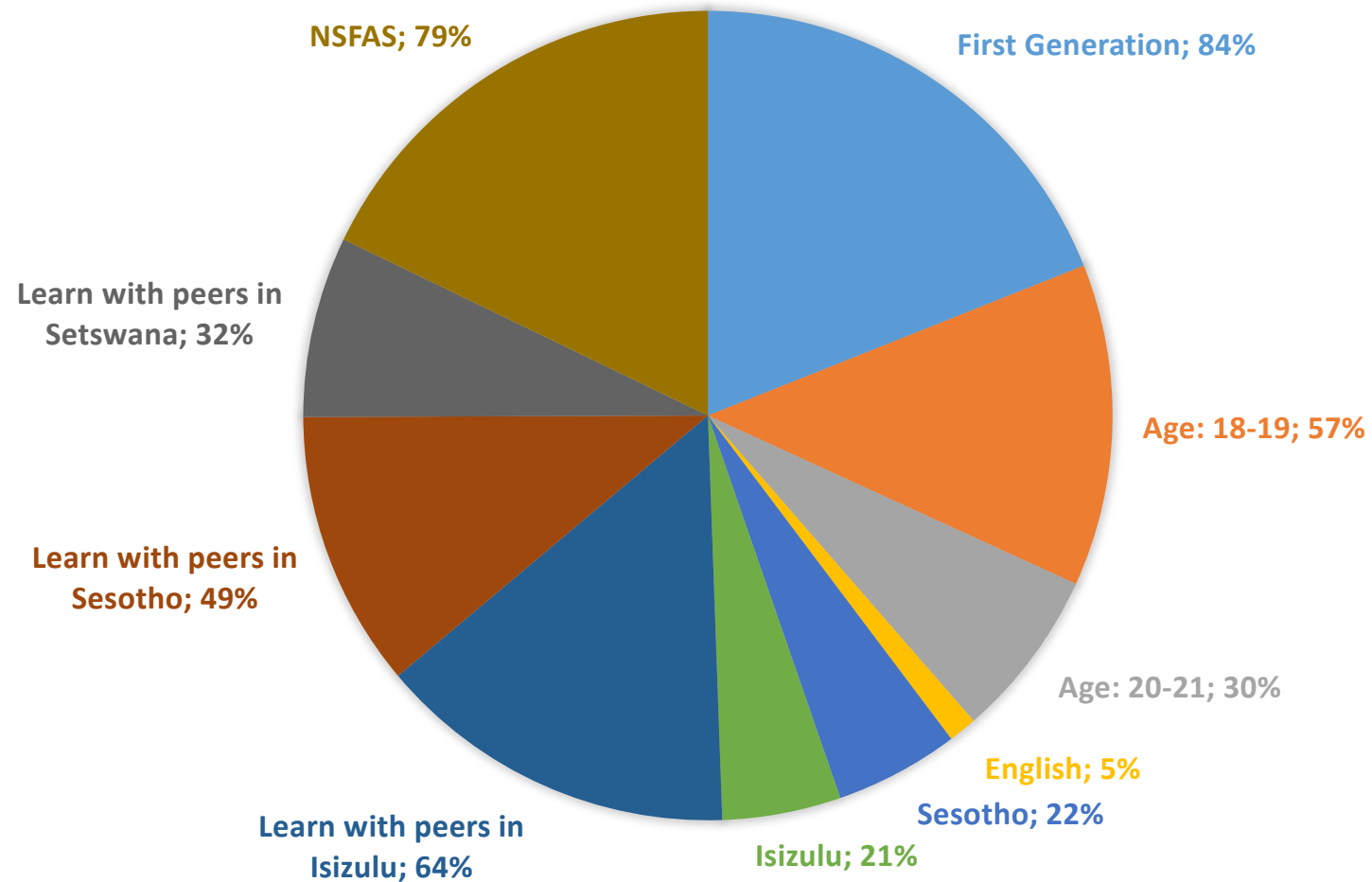


High-level overview of what you have planned for 2024



Conclusion

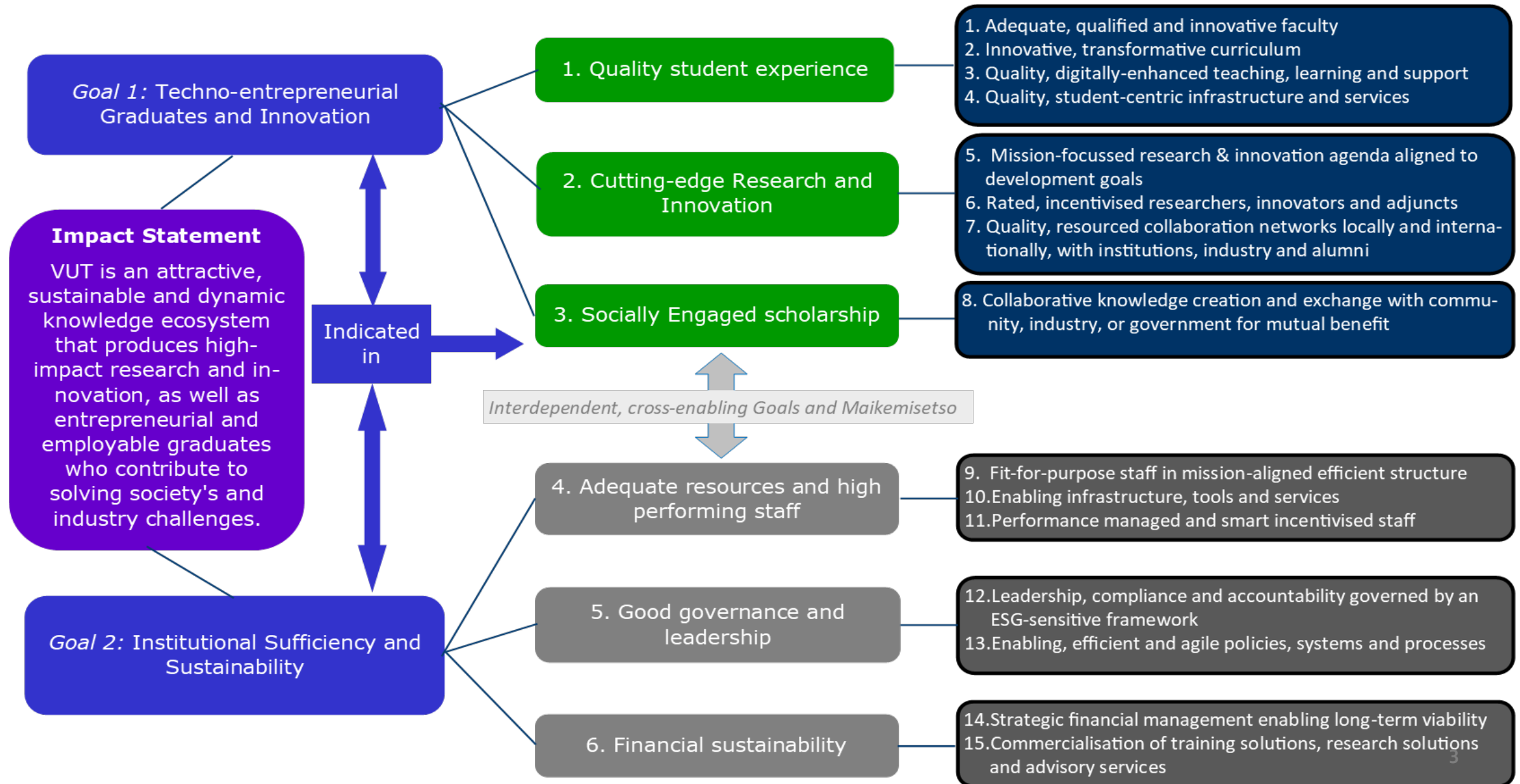
## 2023 VUT FIRST YEAR STUDENT PROFILE



## Strategic Goals

## Maikemisetso (Strategic Objectives)

## Success Drivers



# Vision Mission Values

## Vision

Learning and Innovation for a Digitally Smart and Sustainable Industrial Progress and Socio-Economic Transformation

## Mission

To develop techno-entrepreneurial graduates and innovators who will drive a vibrant transformation of a flourishing and sustainable society, industry and commerce

## Values

Excellence, Creativity, Ethic of Care, Collegiality, Integrity, and Diversity

## Stakeholder Impact

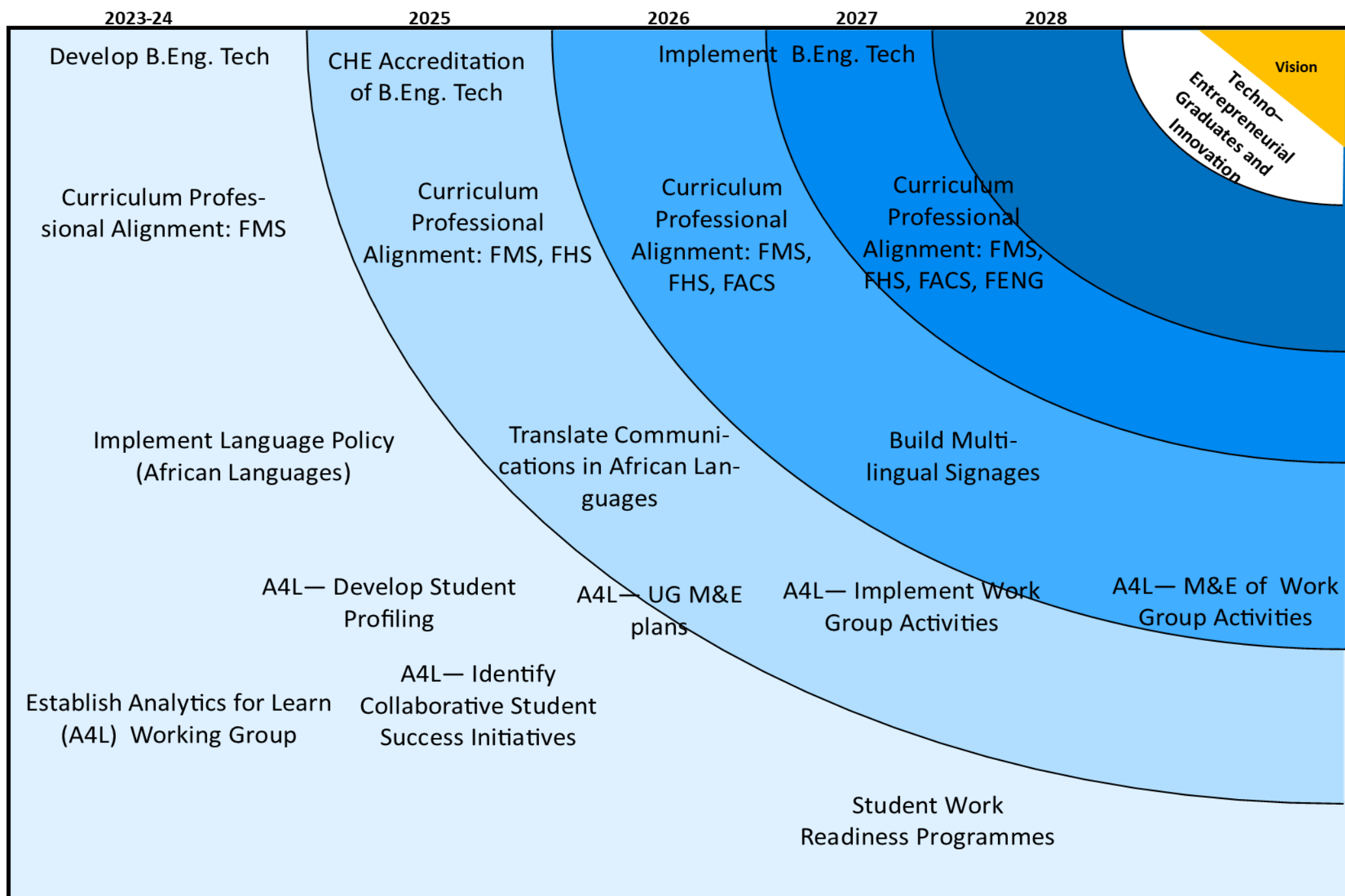
VUT is an attractive, sustainable and dynamic knowledge ecosystem that produces high- impact research and innovation, as well as entrepreneurial and employable graduates who contribute to solving society's and industry challenges.



# Strategic Projects

Success Driver	Project	Summary	Value
Innovative, transformative curriculum	Student work-readiness programme	To enhance teaching and learning, increase the throughput rate and student academic development.	R1 655 000
Quality, digitally enhanced teaching, learning and support	Analytics for learn enhance to student success	Procurement and implementation of data analytical software to analyze student behaviour and performance to inform interventions.	R5 737 525
Innovative, transformative curriculum	Language implementation of policy and African languages	Transforming the university from a monolingual into a multilingual institution.	R3 000 000

# Implementation Milestones



# What has been a Success

Approval of Student  
Success strategic  
projects

Approval of Student  
Success Committee (3  
meetings and 1 in  
presence of our Coach -  
Elizabeth)

Draft Student Success  
Framework

100 % participation in  
Regional Network  
Sessions

Participation in the  
Network workshops

Surveys of student  
engagements and  
workshops (BUSSE and  
SASSE)

National Academic  
Advising Project

SI training and 2 staff  
qualified as trainers

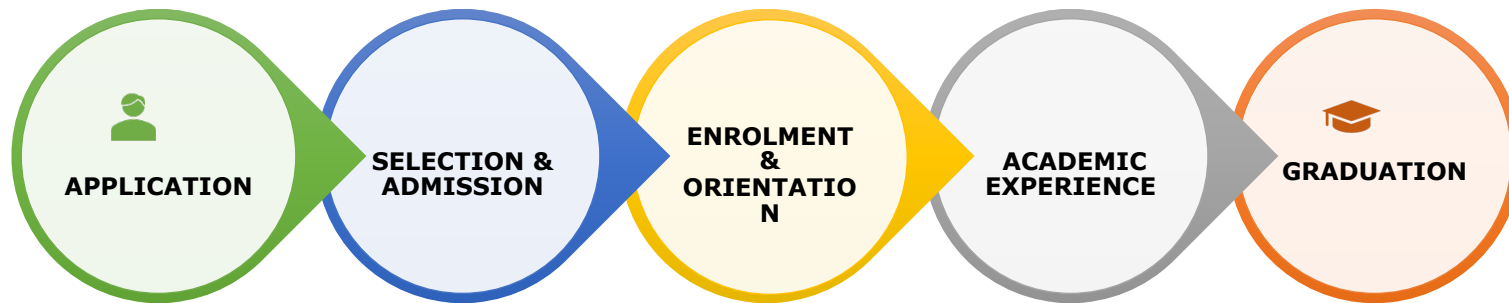
Data Analytics Project

Collaboration with  
proper referral from  
Faculties – Academic  
Advising – support  
units

Development and  
implementation of in-  
house diagnostic  
assessment tools.

## VUT STUDENT WALK

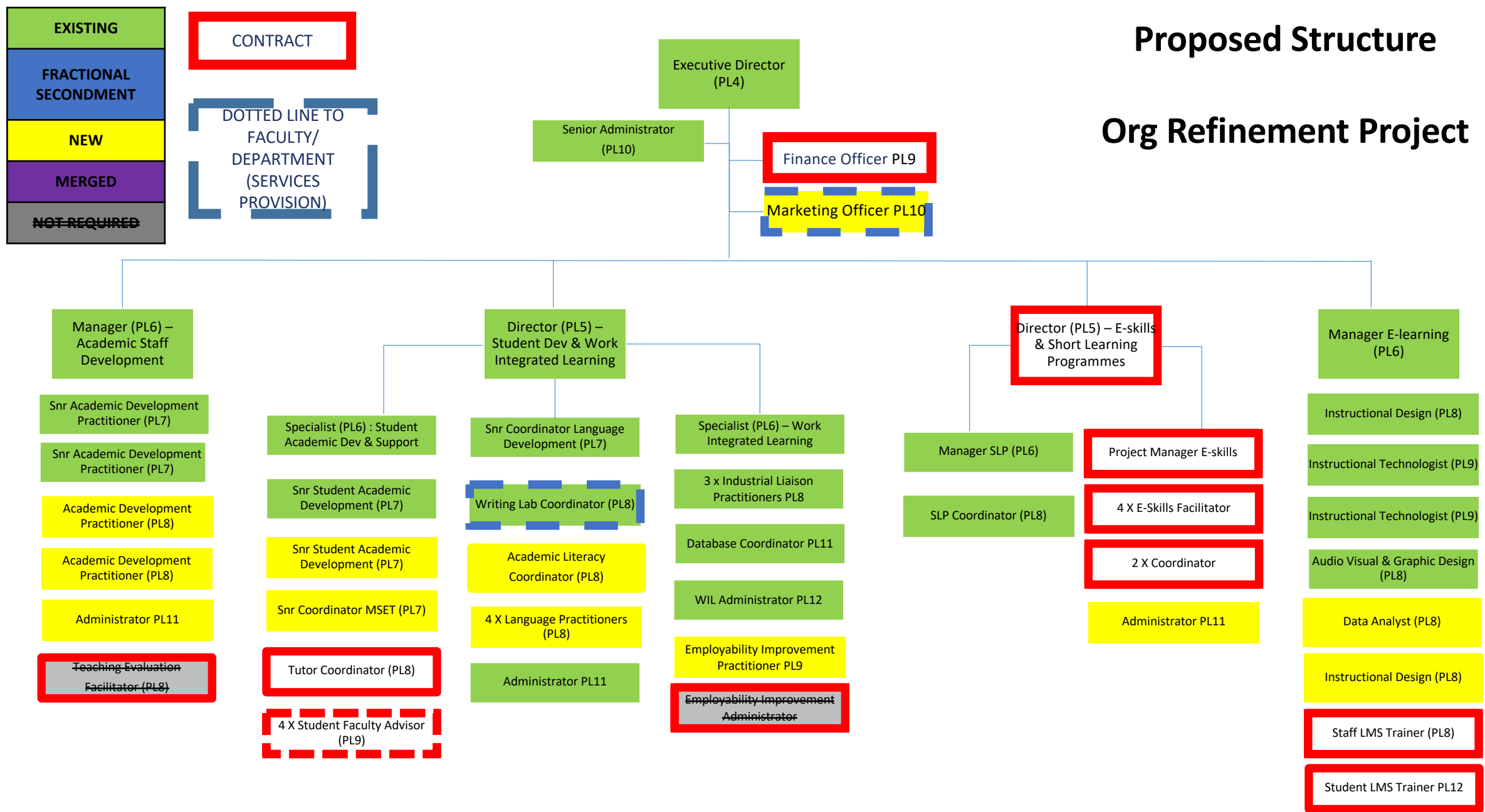
OVERARCHING GOAL OF MAINTAINING QUALITY, IS TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS/ TO BE SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES



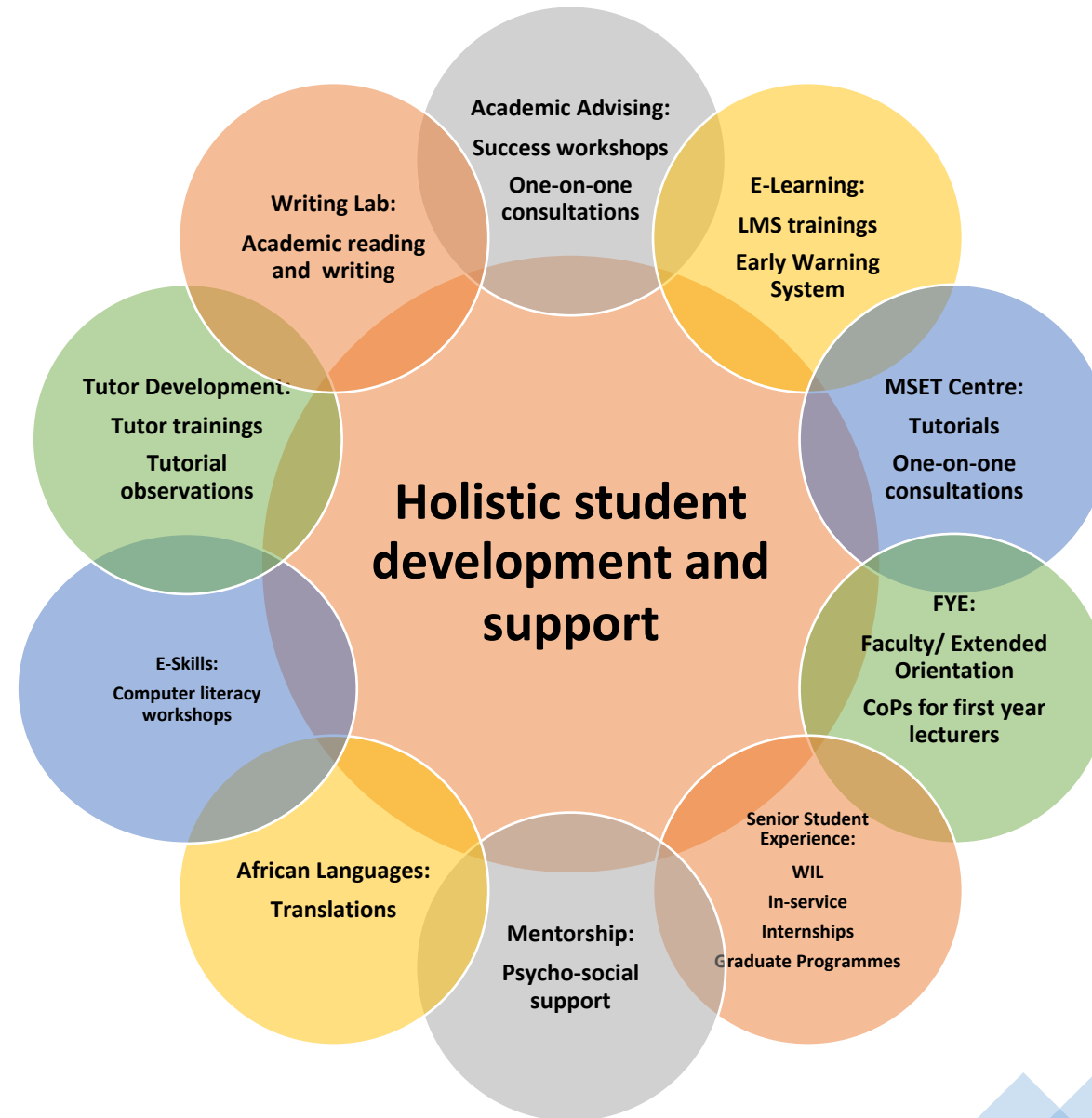
QUALITY MANUALS

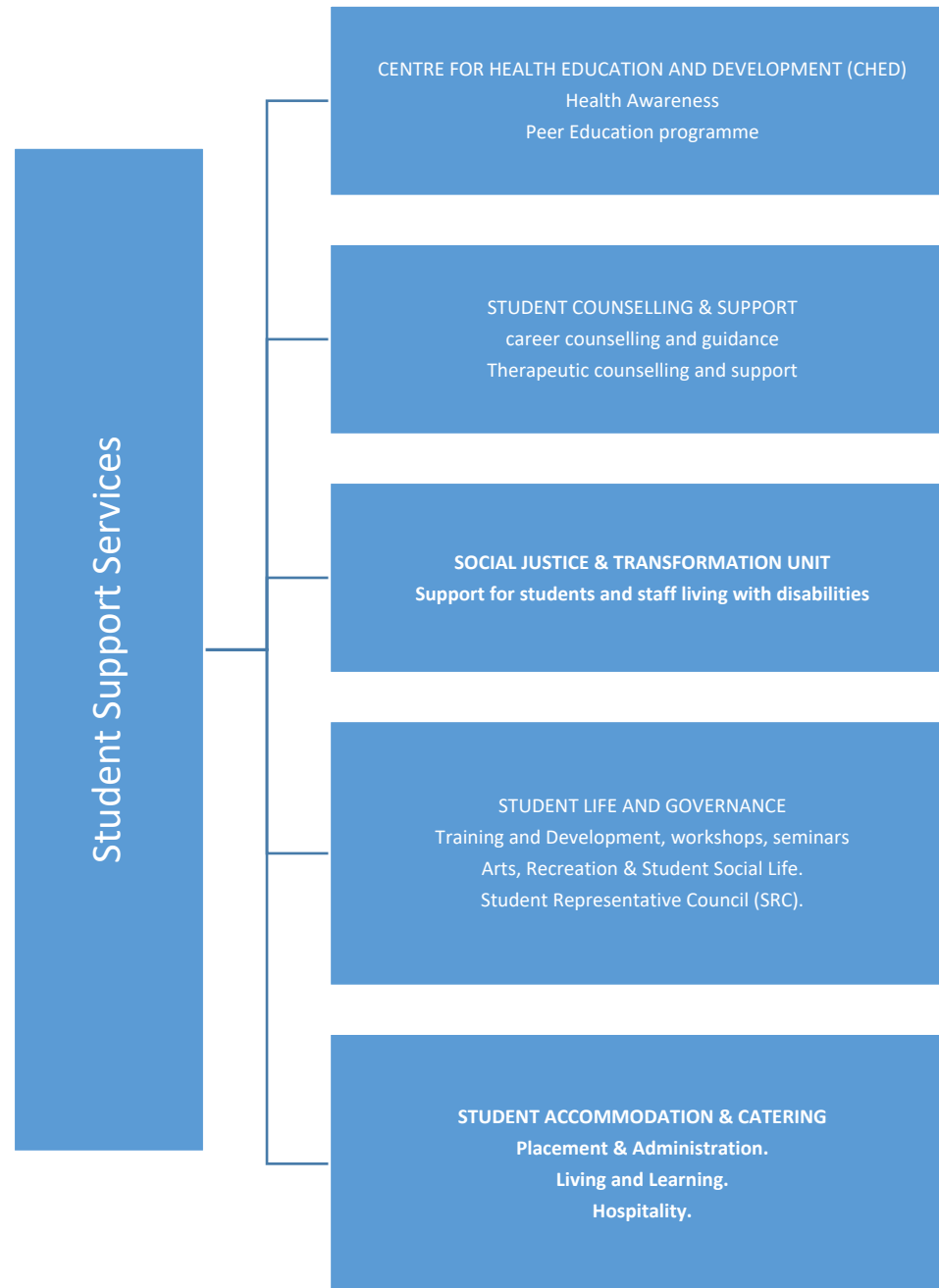
QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK



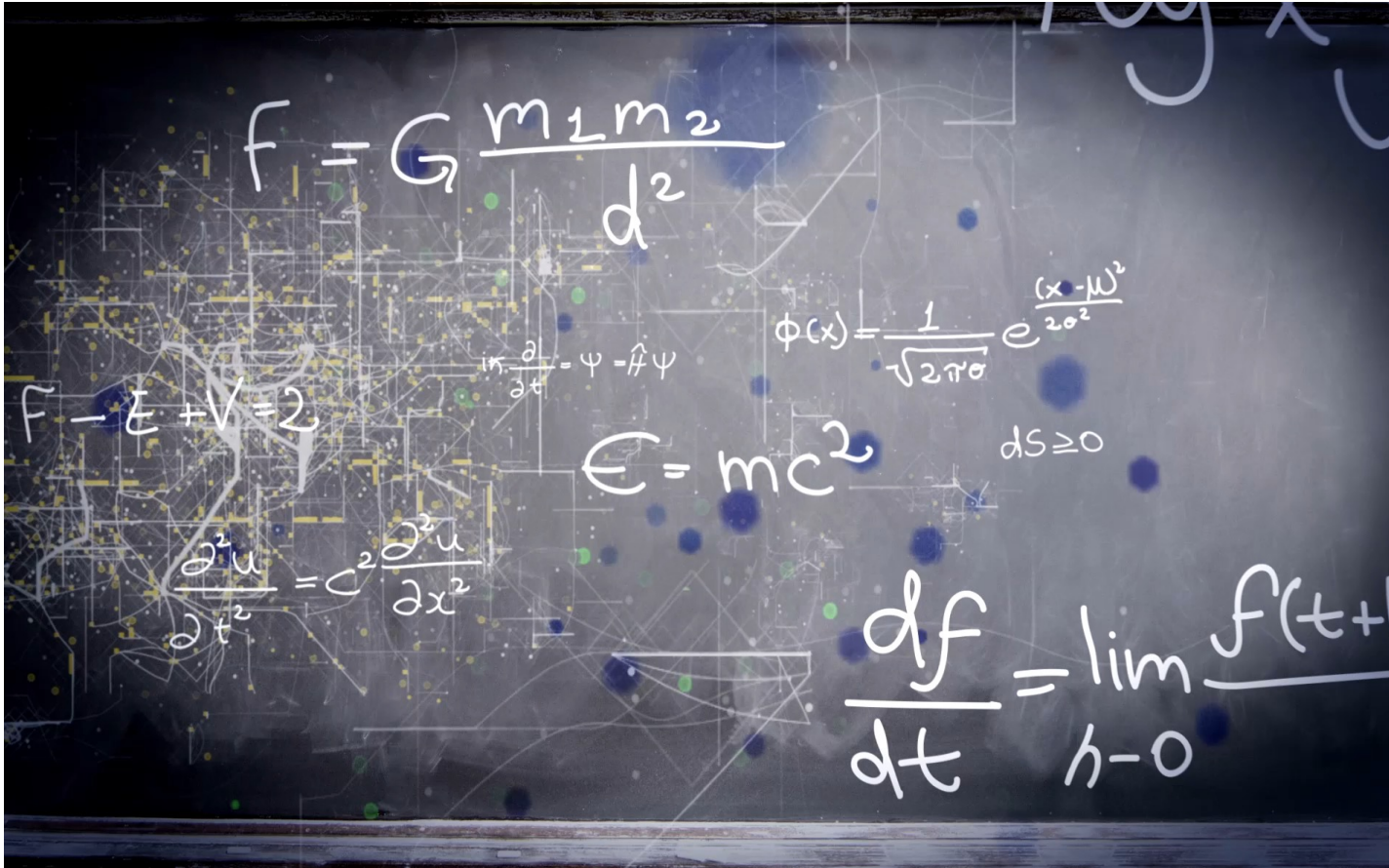


# Highlights of impactful student success interventions





# ACADEMIC SUPPORT IN MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Students are supported through one-on-one and small group consultation sessions to solve problems in mathematics (including problems in the mathematical and/or quantitative components of their courses), in physics and chemistry.

Students who consulted have reported improved performance in their continuous assessments.

## Communities of practice for staff teaching first-year students

Workshop title	Date workshop was conducted	Facilitator name	Number of attendances
Workshop on first year lecturers on student success	22 February 2023	D. Grayson	29
Workshop for first year lecturers on how to design courses on Blackboard	03 March 2023	S.Jongile	57
Workshop on engaging students online	10 March 2023	L. Oosthuizen	12
Workshop on the benefits of using videos as a teaching and learning tool	31 March 2023	C.Nyondo	33
How learning works and how to teach for that	02 May 2023	L. Oosthuizen	48
Emotional intelligence for teaching and learning	14 June 2023	Gloria	34
Introduction to effective instruction	15 August 2023	C.Nyondo	57
Blended Learning workshop	07 September 2023	S.Jongile	42
		Total attendees	312



# UCDP 2024 – 2026 Proposal

Project Title	Key activities	Project Leaders
<b>PROJECT 1</b> Improving undergraduate & student success at VUT	FYE; Appointment of Tutors, <b>SI</b> and Mentors (Physio support); Academic advising; STEM and Tutor Support; Language support; Student tracking, <b>Student Success Coordinator</b> ; Writing Lab and Academic Literacies.	Dr Moletsane  7 Activities
<b>PROJECT 2</b> Quality Teaching and Learning towards academic success	Teaching Development trainings for staff (Pedagogy and teaching skills development, license to teach); SoTL research; TL Conference and Excellence Awards; Licence to Teach; <b>TAU Participation</b> ; <b>Siyaphumelela Network subscription fee</b> ; <b>Leadership training programmes for staff</b> ; <b>Soft Skills training</b>	Ms Elize Heuer  11 Activities
<b>PROJECT 3</b> Increase Research Productivity	Research Capacity Development; Enrolment PG studies, Lecturer replacement; Focus area; Developing emerging and women researcher's programme.	Dr Burger 5 Activities
<b>PROJECT 4</b> Curriculum Review & Development	Blended Learning & Technology ; purchase of software, capacity development, Business simulation; E-learning staff plan and run awareness campaigns.	Ms Tisetso 4 Activities
<b>PROJECT 5</b> UCDP Management	Appointment of Grant Management staff; M & E, Meeting Attendance, Capacity Development.	Dr Chili 4 Activities

# Impediment to scaling the intervention



Most of the current intervention are targeted at first year students. Similar support for students in other levels of studies would undoubtedly enhance throughput rate



The major hurdle to scaling the initiative is paucity of fund. Scaling would require more tutors, mentors, Academic Advisors, devices and data for online consultations.

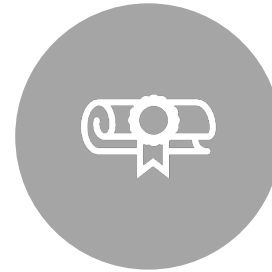
# 2024 Plan & Onwards

- Finalization of BQ to be part registration
- Implementation of ICAT
- Academic development and student success is a strategic initiative for VUT, and the plan is to scale the initiatives to all under-graduate other than focusing in the first-year students in the coming years (retention, success & throughput rates).
- Focused on high-impact modules
- Fully-engage staff through working groups
- Implement the strategic projects

# Machine Learning Project



Student Recruitment  
Models



Student Academic  
Performance Model-  
First Year students



Student Persistence  
Model-All UG Returning  
students



Student Advising  
Dashboards

*Thank you*