

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE OF JSAA:

Postgraduate student affairs in Africa and beyond

Guest editors: Dr Thierry M. Luescher & Dr Silence Chomunorwa

Researcher Development Academy

University of Cape Town

Higher education systems across Africa and the Global South are experiencing rapid growth in postgraduate enrolments, including honours, master's and doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows. At the same time, universities are increasingly recognising that postgraduate success depends not only on academic training and supervision, but also on the broader ecosystem of support, development, engagement, wellbeing and belonging that surrounds postgraduate and postdoctoral scholars.

Questions relating to postgraduate funding, inclusion, wellbeing, identity development, governance, transitions into, through and out of postgraduate studies, postgraduate attributes, local and international mobility, digital learning and institutional support structures for research education and researcher development are all becoming increasingly important.

This special issue of the *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa* (JSAA) will advance student affairs scholarship, policy and professional practice by examining how universities in Africa and beyond support postgraduate and postdoctoral scholars and how postgraduate student affairs can contribute to equitable student access, wellbeing, and success. The guest editors welcome contributions from emerging and established researchers, student affairs practitioners, graduate school leaders and professionals involved in postgraduate support, as well as from postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows from Africa and beyond.

NB. Recognising international differences in terminology, this special issue uses "postgraduate" as an umbrella term for study beyond a first degree (e.g. a bachelor's degree). It refers to students enrolled in postgraduate diploma, honours, master's and doctoral programmes (and postdoctoral fellows, where appropriate).

Scope of the issue

- Student experience of postgraduate studies, doctoral education, and postdoctoral experience
- Policy, leadership and organisation of postgraduate student affairs and services
- Models of postgraduate support, graduate schools, postgraduate centres, and specialised units
- Transitions into, through and out of postgraduate/postdoctoral studies
- Career development, career services, and employability of postgraduate students
- Institutional alumni tracking, alumni networks, and alumni development of postgraduates

- Developing postgraduate and postdoctoral research cultures and institutional environments
- Researcher identity development, novice and emerging research education programmes
- Postgraduate and postdoctoral publishing cultures, publishing demands, metric anxiety
- Postgraduate and postdoctoral funding, scholarships/fellowships and financial precarity
- Postgraduate work-study programmes, assistantships, on-campus work
- Adult learners, mature students and balancing study, work, family and caregiving
- Postgraduate student wellbeing, student mental health and flourishing
- Postgraduate mentoring and advising, supervision and supervision models, and peer support
- Belonging, engagement and community-building among postgraduate/postdoctoral scholars
- Postgraduate student politics, governance, activism, leadership, organisation and representation
- Student residences, accommodation and living-learning environments and programmes for postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Internationalisation, international postgraduate programmes, graduate student mobility
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice in postgraduate education
- Postgraduate students with special needs experiences and support
- Digital technologies, online, hybrid and blended postgraduate support models
- Research integrity, research ethics, and AI in postgraduate and postdoctoral research
- Indigenous knowledge and approaches in postgraduate student development
- Comparative and international perspectives on postgraduate student affairs

For all author submission guidelines, please consult the Journal website at www.jsaa.ac.za

Important dates

Call for papers issued:	July 2026
Abstract submission (300 words):	31 October 2026
Invitation of full papers:	31 November 2026
Full manuscript submission:	28 February 2027
Editorial screening and peer review:	March – April 2027
Author revision period:	May – July 2027
Final manuscripts due:	31 August 2027
Expected publication:	December 2027 (JSAA Volume 15, Issue 2)

The JSAA is a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary, diamond open-access scholarly journal dedicated to advancing knowledge of student affairs theory, policy and practice in African

higher education. The journal publishes original research, reflective practitioner accounts, scholarly discussions and book reviews. JSAA is indexed in major international databases and is accredited by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). It is co-hosted by SCIELO, AJOL and DOAJ. There are no APC or page fees.

Abstract submission process

To be considered for publication in this prestigious issue of JSAA, prospective authors must submit a structured abstract of 300 words outlining: type of article (research article or reflective practice account); title of the article; author(s) and institutional affiliation(s); research/practice problem, purpose, objectives, research questions of the study/background to an intervention; methodology or approach; key argument or anticipated findings; relevance to the special issue; and five keywords.

Abstracts should be submitted by 31 October 2026 to:

Corresponding guest editor: Dr Silence Chomunorwa, University of Cape Town

Email: silence.chomunorwa@uct.ac.za