



Tshwane University
of Technology
We empower people

INTERNATIONALISATION NEWSLETTER

Entrepreneuring the Future Together

Vol 2 | Issue 1 | 2026



Remarks by

Dr Vathiswa Papu-Zamxaka

Deputy Vice-Chancellor:

Research, Innovation and Engagement

This second edition of the Internationalisation Newsletter, covering the period November to mid-February 2026, demonstrates TUT's deliberate and expanding dedication to meaningful internationalisation, rooted in partnerships, impact, and relevance. Our collaboration with international partners from Haiti to Sweden and beyond, demonstrates how cooperation can advance research excellence, student mobility, and innovation, with tangible societal benefits. The improvement in our Webometrics ranking confirms our growing global visibility and the strength of our international digital presence.

Student exchanges, virtual programs, and the Internationalisation@Home initiatives remain integral to developing graduates with a global outlook. Through platforms such as SASUF and Erasmus+, TUT persistently collaborates with trusted partners to co-create knowledge and opportunities. These achievements indicate renewed momentum in establishing TUT as a globally engaged African university of technology. Collectively, we are fostering partnerships that propel inclusive development and shared global solutions. 🌍



Student Exchanges

The Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) showcased outstanding achievements in student mobility, exceeding its annual exchange targets.



A total of **87**
students participated in
mobility programs in
2025,



32
inbound exchanges.



32
outbound exchanges.



23
virtual exchanges.

These initiatives highlight TUT's commitment to developing globally skilled graduates and fostering international academic collaboration.



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



DVC: RI&E VISIT TO THE EMBASSY OF HAITI

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement, Dr Vathiswa Papu-Zamxaka, was hosted by His Excellency Jean Robert Pillard, Ambassador of Haiti to South Africa, at the Haitian Embassy in Pretoria on 5 February 2026. The engagement focused on exploring strategic partnership opportunities between higher education institutions in Haiti and TUT.

Discussions highlighted mutual interests in advancing collaboration in research and higher education. Priority areas identified for cooperation include artificial intelligence, agriculture, community health, youth development, and entrepreneurship. The parties also agreed to explore joint initiatives in sustainable and renewable energy. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to formalise collaboration frameworks to support innovation, capacity building, and socio-economic development in both regions.

TUT Webometrics Global Rankings 2026

The Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) has achieved a major milestone in the 2026 Webometrics rankings, demonstrating a robust recovery and a clear upward trajectory. Globally, the University rose 63 positions from its 2025 ranking to 1 732. This improvement reflects a 3.5% increase in visibility and research dissemination, placing TUT in the top 6% of the 32 000+ higher education institutions evaluated worldwide.

On the African continent, TUT's performance has been even more remarkable. The University leapt from 43rd place in 2025 to 38th in 2026 - an impressive 11.6% improvement. This surge highlights the University's strengthened research relevance and its increasingly dominant digital footprint across Africa. The data suggests that TUT's internationalisation agenda is yielding tangible results, making it a more competitive destination for scholars and students alike.

Despite these international gains, the national landscape remains highly competitive. TUT maintained a steady 12th-place ranking in South Africa for three consecutive years before a marginal shift to 13th in 2026. Analysts note that this does not indicate a decline in TUT's quality, but rather reflects the rapid pace of improvement among peer institutions. Staying within the top 15 ensures TUT remains ahead of 13 other traditional, research-intensive universities in the country.

Dr Papu-Zamxaka, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement, emphasised that these results are a testament to the University's strategic focus. "TUT's consistent placement among

the top 2 000 universities globally highlights its growing international digital presence and supports the University's internationalisation agenda, reflecting renewed momentum in global visibility and research dissemination," said Dr Papu-Zamxaka.

Looking ahead, the University's success is underpinned by gains in specific indicators like "Impact" (web visibility) and "Excellence" (high-impact citations). While the national ranking shift suggests that incremental progress is no longer enough to break into the top ten, the University's structural strength provides a solid foundation. TUT is now poised to implement a more focused strategy to maintain its momentum and further amplify its scholarly influence on the world stage.



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TUT - Malmö University (Sweden) Student Mobility Program

Through a partnership initiated by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Engagement at the 2024 SASUF Research and Innovation Week, TUT has secured funding for four (4) outbound student mobilities. Four (4) students from the Faculty of Arts and Design went to Sweden on 13 January 2026 and will be participating in a six-month student exchange programme.

This exciting exchange is part of the Erasmus+ partnership between TUT and Malmö University (Sweden) for the Spring 2026 semester, providing our students with valuable international exposure, academic enrichment, and transformative cross-cultural learning opportunities. 🌍



What is SASUF?



South Africa
Sweden
University Forum

The South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF) is a strategic internationalisation project uniting 37 partner universities in South Africa and Sweden. The project was launched in 2017 to elevate the South African-Swedish relationship. This idea led several Vice-Chancellors from Swedish and South African universities to collaborate on an application and submit it to the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

SASUF became a three-year project that ran from 2018 to 2020, with the overall aim of strengthening ties between Sweden and South Africa in research, education, and innovation. During 2018-2020, SASUF engaged universities in Sweden and South Africa, along with embassies, civil society organisations, funding agencies and ministries in both countries. Since its inception, the collaboration has brought together more than 3 000 Swedish and South African researchers, teachers, students, and university leaders through workshops and seminars.

The methodology and approaches in SASUF have been internationally recognised as a highly successful model for building an equitable platform for international collaboration. For example, Norway and South Africa are currently exploring the establishment of a similar structure, using SASUF as a blueprint. 🌍

South Africa Sweden University Forum Work package 3:

Students as Gamechangers

The Internationalisation Office is pleased to announce that the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) has been officially selected as the South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) Work Package 3 Lead: Students as Gamechangers. After an overwhelmingly positive vote from our Swedish and South African partner institutions, this powerful vote of confidence recognises TUT's outstanding leadership and huge potential to create lasting impact.

As WP3 Lead, TUT will now co-design the future of this crucial work package together with our committed Swedish Co-Lead, Linköping University and the SASUF Student Network coordination team, a true model of co-ownership, inclusivity, and South Africa-Sweden partnership at its best. 🌍

INTERNATIONALISATION @HOME INITIATIVES

As the global higher education landscape continues to evolve, the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing international collaboration, staff development, and academic excellence. This is a purposeful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments. 🌍

Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University and Peter the Great Saint Petersburg Polytechnic University

Six (6) students from the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (FEBE) participated in a distinguished academic and cultural exchange programme set for November to December in the Russia Winter School. The Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod State University and the Peter the Great Saint Petersburg Polytechnic University hosted the students. They participated in intensive academic workshops, research collaborations, and cross-cultural learning experiences alongside peers from around the world.

Before leaving for Russia, Rose Sithole, a final-year Bachelor of Engineering Technology student, said she hopes to learn techniques to address local industrial challenges. "It's a chance to explore advanced engineering and gain international exposure that will broaden my understanding of sustainable innovation," she said. "This achievement reflects the high calibre of students within the FEBE and the quality of our academic programmes," said Prof Shongwe, the Executive Dean for FEBE. "Through opportunities like the Russia Winter School, students gain valuable international insights, build professional networks, and develop skills that prepare them for a rapidly evolving global engineering landscape." 🌐



VIRTUAL EXCHANGE: ICT IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

TUT's Educational Foundation Department, under the Faculty of Humanities, in collaboration with the Internationalisation Office, launched the Global Virtual Exchange Project, which attracted 24 first-year students from the Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme (PGCE). The collaboration is between the Tshwane University of Technology, the Malmö University (Sweden), and the University of Baltimore (USA). The virtual Exchange enhanced overall learning opportunities in the ICT in Education module.

Ayanda Hlatshwayo, one of the students who participated in the programme, mentioned that she is a differently abled (partially blind) student who was allowed to participate in the virtual exchange programme. The programme was highly educational and demonstrated the power of technology as participants interacted with peers in the USA and Sweden. "I encourage students to seize such opportunities and gain exposure to the international space".



The students were awarded certificates of completion for the Virtual Exchange. Prof Mnisi championed the project in collaboration with the Department of Educational Foundation and the Internationalisation Office. 🌐



FUNDING AWARDS

Erasmus + Capacity-Building and Creative Industries (Faculty of Arts and Design)



Erasmus+

The Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) continues to enhance its global research and innovation profile through international collaborations. Under the Erasmus+ Programme, TUT has secured a R7,6 million South African Music Technology and Innovation Capacity-Building grant, in partnership with three South African and two European universities. TUT functions as the primary coordinator, with a direct allocation of R3,6 million (EUR 160,435). In 2025, a total of R5,068,827.15 was allocated and received. 🌐

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING AWARD

Dr Christiaan Oosthuizen, Sectional Head of Mechanical Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, was awarded £4,600.00 from the Royal Academy of Engineering under the Transforming Systems through Partnership - India Xchange and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. 🌐



INTERNATIONALISATION EVENTS

PANEL SPEAKERS - Beyond Bilateralism: Exploring Multilateral Partnerships for African Higher Education through the SASUF Experience (Student Perspective)



Philangezwi Mbatha
University of the Witwatersrand
Student Representative



Nokwanda Khumalo
Tshwane University of Technology
Student Representative

Where and When?

27 November, 11:10 - 12:40
Pretoria, CSIR
The Amethyst room

Moderators:

Helin Beckman Kartal (SASUF+) and Michael Nxumalo (NRF)



TUT Internationalisation at

The Science Forum South Africa

The Science Forum South Africa was held from 24 to 28 November 2025 at the [CSIR International Convention Centre](#) in Pretoria, South Africa. The Forum serves as a large, open, public platform for debating the interface between science and society. The theme was "Igniting Conversations about Science - Placing Science, Technology and Innovation at the Centre of Government, Education, Industry and Society".

Mr Motadi, the TUT SASUF Coordinator, presented SASUF+ Work Package 3 at the official launch of SASUF+. Nokwanda Khumalo, the TUT SASUF Student Network Chairperson, participated in a panel discussion on "Exploring multilateral partnerships for African higher education through the SASUF experience" 🌐

High-Level Panel Discussion on Science Diplomacy at Science Forum South Africa

Mr Caiphus Motadi, Manager for Internationalisation, participated in a high-level panel discussion hosted by the Embassy of Tunisia during the Science Forum South Africa, under the theme “*The Role of Science Diplomacy in Boosting Inter-African Cooperation.*” The panel brought together policymakers, diplomats, academics, and science leaders to examine how science, technology, and innovation can be leveraged as strategic tools to strengthen collaboration, integration, and sustainable development across Africa.

In his contribution, Mr Motadi emphasised the importance of positioning universities and research institutions as active agents of science diplomacy, particularly in translating diplomatic agreements into tangible research partnerships, postgraduate training, innovation ecosystems, and community-impact projects. Drawing on the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and STISA-2024, the discussion highlighted how science diplomacy offers a neutral, inclusive platform to overcome historical, linguistic, and geopolitical barriers, while enhancing Africa’s collective capacity to address shared challenges such as climate change, health crises, digital transformation, and the energy transition. As noted during the session, “*science diplomacy strengthens Africa’s ability to solve common problems through evidence-based collaboration rather than political alignment alone.*”

The panel further underscored the value of **multi-stakeholder inclusion**, with governments, foreign missions, universities, industry, and civil society

jointly advancing inter-African cooperation. The role of institutions such as the Tshwane University of Technology in renewable energy, health technologies, and digital education was highlighted as an example of how higher education can operationalise diplomacy through applied research and innovation. The engagement reaffirmed the Embassy of Tunisia’s commitment to deepening scientific and academic collaboration with South Africa and other African partners, positioning science diplomacy as a key driver of continental integration and sustainable development. 🌍

The poster features the Embassy of Tunisia logo and the event title: “The Role of Science Diplomacy on Boosting Inter-African Cooperation” on 27 November 2025, 11.00-12.30, ICC Pretoria. It lists eight participants with their photos and titles: Ms. Hasna Tizaoui (Moderator), HE. Karima BARDAOUI (Ambassador of Tunisia), HE. Ali ACHOUJ (Ambassador of Algeria), H. E. Ambassador Reyad AL-AKBARI (Head of the Mission of the League of Arab States), Prof. Fethi BEN HAMOUDA (National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia), Ms. Anisa KHAN (University of JHB), Mr. Caiphus MOTADI (Tshwane University of Technology), and Ms. Massara REJEB (Tunisian Investor in South Africa). Logos for INRAE, University of JHB, Tshwane University of Technology, and UPYA are also shown.

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