

College of Education

Research focus areas for 2026

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT (DELM)

Research Focus Areas (2026)

- School governance and administration
- Education policy and law
- Management of politics in education
- Education and democracy
- Continuous professional development
- Quality assurance
- Participative management
- Managing diversity
- Personnel training and development
- Indigenous knowledge systems
- Gender and leadership/ female leadership
- Instructional leadership and school governance
- Educational inequality/reform
- The South African education system
- School and teacher effectiveness
- School improvement
- Open distance learning/e-Learning
- Teamwork and self-management
- Stress/conflict management
- Technology and learner support management
- Management of early childhood education centres
- Management of adult education centres
- Transformational leadership
- Distributed leadership/Shared leadership
- Rural educational leadership
- Research methodologies in education
- Change leadership/Change management
- Ethical leadership
- Student support
- Vocational education and training (TVET colleges)

Research projects that postgraduate students can participate in

Name of project	Brief description of the project	Project leader	No of available	No of available positions for
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			positions for MEd students for 2022	PhD students for 2023
TVET	Capacity building for TVET colleges lecturers	Prof SP Mokoena	36	50 TVET sponsored students (lecturers)

Focused M & D programmes

Name of programme	Qualification code	Curriculum
MEd in Education Management	98405	Research proposal module plus full research dissertation
MEd in Education Management	98420	4 Course work modules, a research proposal module and mini-dissertation
PhD in Education (Stream: Education Management - EDM)	90019	Research proposal module and full research thesis

Details of individual supervisors and their research interests or fields of expertise

Name of supervisor	Research interest / field of expertise	No of positions for MEd students available for 2024	No of positions for PhD students available for 2024
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Prof RJ Botha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education leadership • Education management • International education • Comparative education 	2	4
Prof SA Coetzee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education law and policy • Education and democracy • Labour Law in Education • Sexual misconduct • Education management and leadership • School governance and administration • Continuous professional development 	0	0
Prof N Grootboom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School violence • Gender issues in educational management • Educational leadership and management 	1	2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration and School Reform • Organisational and Administrative Behaviour • Student Support and Discipline • Research Methodologies in Education • Large scale research 		
Prof SS Khumalo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School improvement and effectiveness • Participative management • Transformational leadership • Social Justice Education • Organizational Development in Education • Open and Distance Education 	1	3
Dr T Lekalakala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education management • School governance and administration • Education policy and law • School and teacher effectiveness 	1	3
Prof M Lekhetho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational leadership and management • School governance • School effectiveness and improvement • Quality education • Quality assurance • Open and Distance Learning (ODL) • Sociology of Education 	1	3
Prof RI Lumadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School management • Quality assurance • Teaching practice in an ODL context • Education policy and law • School and teacher effectiveness • Learner discipline and management • Parental Involvement 	1	4

Mrs MR Mabusela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female leadership • School governance and administration • School improvement • School and teacher effectiveness • Instructional leadership and school governance 	2	1
Prof PR Machaisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education law • Comparative education • Educational leadership and management 	2	3
Prof VP Mahlangu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development • Quality assurance • Education policy and law • School governance and administration • Open distance learning/e-Learning • Gender and leadership/ female leadership • Managing diversity • Personnel training and development 	0	4
Prof ST Mampane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and school management • Education law and policy studies • School governance and administration • Managing diversity and inclusivity in education • Professional development • Distance Education in Higher Education • Continuous professional development • Quality assurance • Open distance learning/e-Learning • Management of early childhood education centres • Mentoring and coaching 	0	4

Dr MJ Masenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Change/Change Management • Transformation in Higher Education • Transformational Leadership 	0	0
Dr T Faleni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Leadership and Management • Management of policy implementation • Monitoring and evaluation • Redefining teaching and learning strategies in the post COVID era in the context of ODEL 	2	3
Mrs I Mojapelo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Leadership and Management • Organizational Management /School Management • Classroom Management • Educational Law 	0	0
Prof SP Mokoena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School effectiveness and improvement • Education management and leadership • School governance • Technology and learner support • Open distance e-Learning (ODEL) • Shared leadership/Distributed leadership • Instructional leadership • Vocational education and training (TVET Colleges) 	0	2
Dr MS Mataboge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Leadership and Management • Organizational Management /School Management • Classroom Management • School governance and administration 	2	3

Prof J Nyoni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open distance e-learning (ODEL) • Education law and policy • Multicultural education • Educational management • Decolonial education and politics in education • Research Methodologies in Education • Change Leadership • Ethical leadership 	1	3
Prof VJ Pitsoe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher professional development • Educational leadership and management • Educational policy • Open distance learning/e-Learning • Values education and democracy • Philosophy of education and • Indigenous knowledge systems 	1	4
Dr EK Prins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational leadership and management • School governance and administration • Teacher effectiveness in the classroom • Personnel training and development • Education policy and law 	1	0
Dr J Rapeta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education policy and law • Education and democracy • Management of politics in education • Safety in Schools • Educational stakeholders and labour issues. • Redeployment of Educators. • Educators Duty of Care • Learner discipline. 	1	3
Dr MS Sepeng	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School choice 	0	3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational leadership and management 		
Dr LL Toolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Development • Female Leadership • Socioeconomic Empowerment • Stakeholder Coordination in Education 	1	3
Prof VT Zengele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational policy • Educational leadership and management • Teacher unionism 	2	4

Models of supervision

The individual and co-supervision models are used. Co-supervision is mostly done for mentoring purposes and multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary (MIT) research. Some supervisors in the college supervise across departments. Students are therefore advised to study the lecturer profiles of other departments in the college when trying to identify a suitable supervisor.

Opportunities regarding external supervision

External supervisors will be considered if a suitable supervisor is not available in the department. However, this will depend on the financial viability of the Department.

Contact details of the department

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