



Strengthening Commercialisation Skills (SCS) programme

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1. About the *Strengthening Commercialization Skills (SCS) programme*

Against the backdrop of high unemployment rates, especially for young South Africans, universities in South Africa have an opportunity to contribute to economic growth and positively influence change in youth employment levels by preparing and equipping their students and graduates to develop businesses, services, and products. In addition to the translation of academic research outputs for the benefit of the wider society, commercialisation of research presents a pathway to economic growth in South Africa e.g., through setting up new businesses, therefore providing employment opportunities which maximizes the impact of research outputs.

The British Council, University South Africa (USAf) and Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) have joined forces to launch the pilot phase of the Strengthening Commercialisation Skills (SCS) programme, a collaborative capacity strengthening initiative that was developed as a response to the recommendations from the report: 2020-2021 South Africa University Innovation Ecosystem research project of the Universities' South Africa- Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme, which was supported by the British Council.

The initiative aligns with the British Council's Innovation for African Universities (IAU) programme which focusses on fostering the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within universities in Sub-Saharan Africa as part of the Going Global Partnerships programme. In this first cohort, the programme has focussed on maximising the outputs from Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, with the view to including Science Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) aspects in subsequent phases. The SCS programme has been designed and delivered by Oxentia, an innovation management and technology commercialisation consultancy that started in 2004 as an operating division within Oxford University Innovation Ltd, the world leading technology transfer company of the University of Oxford.

Oxentia has been a convener and leader in the field of social sciences, arts & humanities innovation, and commercialisation since 2016, currently programme managing the Aspect network and supporting universities and researchers globally, through a variety of projects, in developing skills and awareness of the impact that can be generated from these research areas.

The long term aims of this project are to upskill academics and technology transfer professionals in the commercialisation of research outputs, and to raise awareness about the different possible pathways to generate impact from these disciplines, to increase research commercialisation outputs in the sector and unlock new opportunities for collaboration for both UK and SA universities.

2. Cohort 1 components

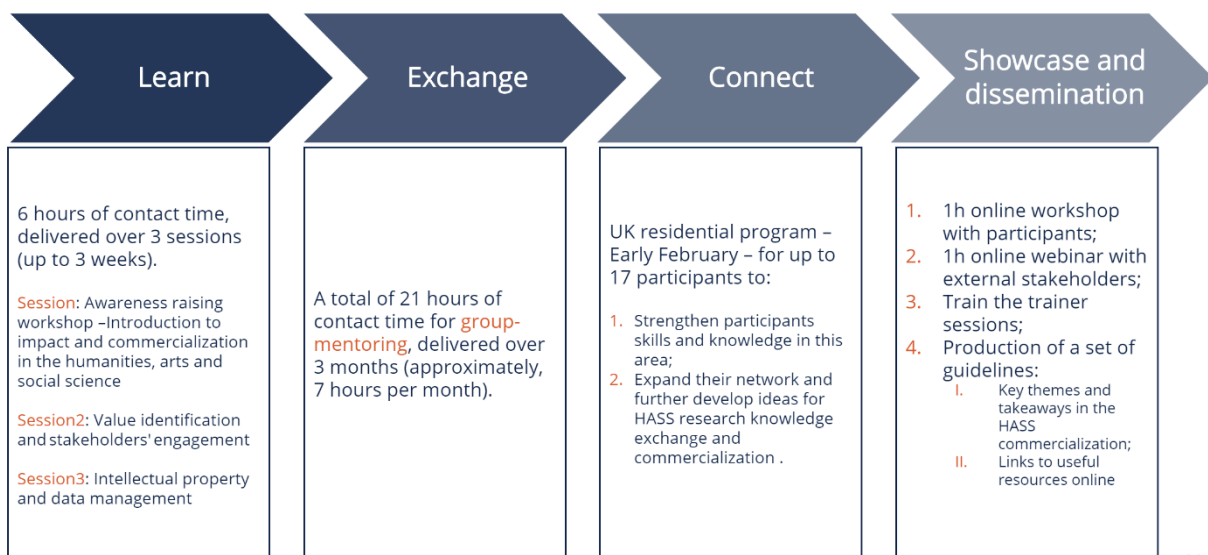
Key objectives

The key objectives of this programme focusing on Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities are the following:

1. To deliver an interactive training programme focusing on “impact generation through research commercialisation” for a selected group of South Africans academics and Technology Transfer professionals.
2. To foster and encourage a culture that embraces research commercialisation for South African and UK universities participating in the project.
3. To create meaningful and mutually beneficial connections and partnerships between South African and UK institutions through a residential programme aiming to exchange and discuss ideas, share best practice in social science, arts and humanities research commercialization and generate learnings which can be taken back and disseminated as part of the South Africa university train-the-trainer events.

The four key components are:

1. **Learn:** online training workshops;
2. **Exchange:** Group peer-peer mentorship;
3. **Connect:** UK residential programme;
4. **Showcase and dissemination:** online follow-up workshop, train the trainer workshops across South African Universities and production of a set of guidelines.



3. Residential agenda

Day 0 Sunday 12 Feb	Day 1 Monday 13 Feb	Day 2 Tuesday 14 Feb	Day 3 Wednesday 15 Feb	Day 4 Thursday 16 Feb	Day 5 Friday 17 Feb
Arrival in the UK and transportation to Oxford	AM: Welcome & introduction to the residential programme	AM: visit to <i>Cambridge Enterprise</i>	AM: ASPECT network event in London	AM: Mentoring and consolidation of learnings from day visits	AM: Main takeaways reflection and action plans discussion
	Lunch in the Oxentia office	Lunch & Walking tour in Cambridge	Lunch at LSE	Lunch in the Oxentia office	
	PM: visit to <i>Oxford University Innovation (OUI)</i>	PM: visit to <i>Cambridge Enterprise</i>	PM: ASPECT network event in London	PM: Ashmolean and Natural History Museum Oxford	PM: Departure and travel back to South Africa
	Welcome Dinner	Free evening	Free evening	Optional – pub night	

Residential detailed agenda

Monday: Oxford ecosystem

09:30-10:00: Oxentia’s office, official welcome and introduction to the residential programme: Dr Steve Cleverly, Oxentia CEO, and Dr Alexandra Bush, Head of HEI services

10:00-10:30: Official welcome remarks from

- British Council South Africa: Meeckness Lunga, Senior Regional Programme Lead: Higher Education (Sub-Saharan Africa)

- University South Africa: Dr Norah Clarke, Director: Entrepreneurship

- Human Sciences Research Council: Dr Palesa Sekhejane, Director: Strategic Partnerships & Dr Michael Gastrow, Director: Science in Society

10:30-12:30: surgery sessions on selected topics informed by the mentoring and the training phases

12:30-13:30: Lunch break

13:30-16:00: Visit at Oxford University Innovation, Jaci Barnett, Head of Consulting Services at Oxford University Innovation

16:00-17:00: South African case studies showcase (roughly 10 min each)

18:30: Dinner in St Anne’s College (smart casual dress code)

Tuesday: Cambridge ecosystem

08:00-10:30: Travel to Cambridge

10:30-11:00 Introduction to the Cambridge ecosystem with Dr Emma Salgård Cunha, Commercialisation Manager (AHSS) at Cambridge Enterprise

11:00 – 12:00 Lessons from Cambridge AHSS: Building the opportunity
12:00-13:30 Lunch & Walking tour
13:30 - 14:00 South African case studies showcase (roughly 10 min each)
14:00-15:00 Workshop: Pipeline creation and case studies
15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break
15:30-15:45 South African case studies showcase (roughly 10 min each)
15:45 –17:00 Cambridge's voice in AHSS commercialisation – funders, networks, initiatives

Wednesday: ASPECT event in London at London School of Economics

08:00-10:00: Travel to London
10:00-10:30: Introduction to ASPECT network, Britta Wyatt, Managing Consultant, Oxentia
10:30 -12:45: Presentation about ASPECT network (confirmed speakers: David Ai, Head of Innovation, LSE; Chris Fellingham, Senior Licensing & Ventures Manager at Oxford University Innovation)
12:45-14:00: Networking lunch
14:00-14:30: South African case studies showcase (roughly 10 min each)
14:30-16:30: Best practices and challenges in HASS commercialisation design thinking workshop with Madeleine Kessler, Co-curator, British Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2021 & Visiting Professor KIT
16:30 - 18:00: pub in London
18:00: Return to Oxford

Thursday: Oxford

09:00 -11:00: Mentoring and consolidation of learnings from Phase 1, 2 & the residential programme (including coffee break) in Oxentia's offices in Oxford
11:00-13:00: Social impact
13:00-14:00: lunch break
14:00 – 17:00 Visit to the Ashmolean and Natural History Museum
19:30: Pub in Oxford

Friday: Oxford

09:30-12:00: HASS commercialisation guidelines co-creation session
12:00-12:30: Official conclusion and main takeaways
- Dr Alexandra Bush, Head of HEI services
- British Council South Africa: Meekness Lunga, Senior Regional Programme Lead: Higher Education (Sub-Saharan Africa)
- University South Africa: Dr Norah Clarke, Director: Entrepreneurship
- Human Sciences Research Council: Dr Palesa Sekhejane, Director: Strategic Partnerships & Dr Michael Gastrow, Director: Science in Society
12:30-13:30: Lunch break
13:30: Departure from Oxford

4. List of participants and partners

Participants:

Institution	Name	Last name	Job title
The University of Cape Town (UCT)	Kurt	Campbell	Director: Michaelis School of Fine Art University of Cape Town
	Niall	Naidoo	New Venture Support Manager
Durban University of Technology	Vaneshree	Govender	Research Postgraduate support
	Keolebogile	Motaung	Director: Technology Transfer & Innovation
Stellenbosch University	Phillip	Jordaan	Researcher and junior lecturer
	Ncebakazi	Galada	Technology Transfer Manager
University of Fort Hare	Ulene	Schiller	Deputy Dean Teaching Learning and Community Engagement
	Athenkosi	Matshini	IP & Innovation Manager
North-West University	Henk	Louw	Senior Lecturer
	Mesuli	Mbanjwa	Commercialisation Manager
University of Johannesburg	Farieda	Nazier	Head of Department & Senior Lecturer
	Rosemary	Wolson	Director: TTO
University of South Africa	Azwihangwisi Helen	Mavhandu-Mudzusi	Head of Research and Graduate Studies
	Phumelele	Mokoena	Manager Incubation and Enterprise Development

Delivery Partners:

Institution	Name	Last name	Job title
Universities South Africa (USAf)	Norah	Clarke	Director Entrepreneurship
Human Sciences Research Council	Michael	Gastrow	Director: Science in Society
	Palesa	Sekhejane	Director: Strategic Partnerships