

DUT RETAIL AND LEADERSHIP CHAIR

RESEARCH AGENDA

2018

1. Introduction

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA) is one of the statutory bodies that have been re-established by the Minister of Higher Education and Training in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998 to enable its stakeholders to advance the national and global position of the Wholesale and Retail sector. As guided by its mandate, the W&RSETA develops and implements the sector skills plan within the framework of the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS); promotes and facilitates skills development in the Wholesale and Retail Sector.

To develop a credible and quality SSP in accordance with DHET SSP framework, the W&RSETA has a mandate to undertake research activities which will or feed into the SSP. Research is also conducted to inform the W&RSETA strategy and annual performance plan as a guide informed by sector needs and trends.

For the W&RSETA to achieve the desired outcome as mentioned above, we have to partner with various relevant institutions such as HETs, Research Houses, Government Departments, and any other related institutions that have a focus on Research. The W&RSETA has signed an MOU with DUT to establish a Retail Leadership Chair which aims to further the W&RSETA Research efforts to benefit the Wholesale and Retail Sector. This document is a Research Agenda for the DUT Retail Leadership Chair. It aims to outline all the research topics that have been approved in the overall W&RSETA Research Agenda.

2. Research topics.

Topic	Address
1. How to design and harness the value of workplace learning in Wholesale and Retail.	Determine the methods to design and harness the value of workplace learning in Wholesale and Retail
2. Towards sustainable Financial Governance: better budgeting, integrated reporting and cash flow management skills especially for SME and Informal traders in rural and urban South Africa.	Address financial management skills for small and micro enterprises.
3. The Pros and cons of franchising for Chain stores and Franchisees.	Determine what has worked what hasn't and what the international and local lessons and trends.
4. W&RSETA Learner tracer studies.	Conduct learner tracer study of the beneficiaries of W&RSETA Learning Programmes.
5. Ethnography – the study of people, cultures, customs, habits, and differences can be a power competitive advantage for retailers. How should retailers approach these topics?	Ethnography – the study of people, cultures, customs, habits, and differences can be a power competitive advantage for retailers. How should retailers approach these topics?
6. Explore and propose optimal Tenant Mix Models for Shopping Centres, in a transforming South Africa, towards achievement of National Development Plan: Vision 2030 objectives. (Bringing retailing closer to the poor, while maximising opportunities and efficiency).	Alignment of retail sector strategic interventions towards achieving National Development Plan Goals.
7. W&RSETA Customer survey.	Determine the extent of customer survey with W&RSETA service delivery within the sector.