



DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
INYUVESI YASETHEKWINI YEZOBUCHWEPHESHE

2026 QUARTER 2 ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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ENVISION2030

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During Quarter 2 of 2026, the Durban University of Technology (DUT) continued to advance the strategic objectives of ENVISION2030 through significant progress in research excellence, innovation, internationalisation, entrepreneurship, community engagement and institutional sustainability. Across its academic faculties, research institutes and strategic support units, the University strengthened its contribution to knowledge generation, graduate development and societal impact through collaborative partnerships with government, industry, civil society, communities and international higher education institutions.

Research excellence remained a defining institutional priority during the reporting period. The University strengthened its national research profile through the successful award of eight National Research Foundation (NRF) Decadal Plan Aligned Research Chairs for Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs), Universities of Technology (UoTs) and Emerging Universities, awarded during Quarter 1 of 2026 and advancing institutional research capacity during the current reporting period. Collectively, these Chairs secured approximately R16.74 million in competitive research funding, strengthening research capacity, postgraduate development, specialized research infrastructure and interdisciplinary scholarship. Faculties also secured additional competitive research grants, expanded international research collaborations and increased scholarly outputs, reinforcing DUT's contribution to knowledge generation, innovation and national development priorities.

Innovation, entrepreneurship and technology commercialisation continued to gain momentum across the institution. During the reporting period, 41 intellectual property disclosures were

submitted to the National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO), while technology commercialisation initiatives, business incubation programmes and entrepreneurship development activities strengthened pathways for translating research into commercially viable products, technologies and enterprises. Student entrepreneurs continued to achieve success in national and international competitions, demonstrating the University's growing innovation ecosystem and commitment to developing entrepreneurial graduates capable of contributing to economic growth and job creation.

The University further strengthened its international profile through expanded global partnerships, academic mobility and collaborative research. Nine Erasmus+ KA171 Inter-Institutional Agreements were submitted, while Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiatives, strategic international partnerships and participation in international higher education forums enhanced curriculum internationalisation, research collaboration and academic exchange. DUT also recorded a significant improvement





Professor Fulufhelo Nemavhola, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, and Dr Nomcebo Mthombeni, Interim Director: Research and Postgraduate Support, at the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, advancing its global standing from the 1001–1500+ band in 2025 to the 401–600 band in 2026. This achievement reinforces the University's growing international reputation and demonstrates the impact of its sustained commitment to research excellence, innovation, community engagement and the advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Community engagement continued to generate meaningful social impact through programmes that strengthened educational opportunity, community partnerships and engaged scholarship. The successful recruitment and orientation of UNI4ALL student volunteers expanded career guidance and university readiness support for learners from under-resourced schools. Literacy initiatives continued to strengthen reading and learning outcomes in partner schools, while the implementation of the Community Engagement Umbrella Ethics Framework and the Practice to Scholarship Programme enhanced institutional capacity for community-engaged research, ethical practice and scholarly knowledge production. These initiatives further reinforced DUT's commitment to reciprocal partnerships and measurable community impact.

Institutional sustainability was further strengthened through continued growth in third-stream income, externally funded research and strategic partnerships. Professional development programmes, commissioned research, competitive research grants, international collaborations and industry partnerships diversified institutional funding while expanding opportunities for research, innovation, student development and professional education. These investments continue to strengthen the University's capacity to respond to national priorities while enhancing long-term institutional resilience.

Overall, Quarter 2 reflects continued institutional progress in implementing ENVISION2030 through integrated teaching and learning, research, innovation, internationalisation, entrepreneurship and community engagement. More importantly, the reporting period demonstrates DUT's growing ability to translate academic knowledge into measurable social, economic and environmental impact through research excellence, strategic partnerships, innovation and engaged scholarship, further strengthening its position as a leading University of Technology committed to sustainable development and societal transformation.



1. INTRODUCTION

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) continues to advance its strategic vision of becoming a globally engaged University of Technology through the implementation of ENVISION2030, which positions research, innovation, teaching and learning, internationalisation, entrepreneurship and community engagement as mutually reinforcing drivers of institutional excellence and societal impact. Through collaborative partnerships with government, industry, civil society, communities and higher education institutions, the University continues to strengthen its contribution to knowledge generation, graduate development, economic growth and sustainable development.

This report presents a consolidated overview of the University's key achievements and institutional performance during Quarter 2 of 2026 across the Research, Innovation and Engagement. It highlights progress made by academic faculties, research institutes, strategic directorates and support units in advancing the University's strategic priorities through research excellence, international collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship, community engagement, student development and third-stream income generation. Collectively, these activities demonstrate the University's commitment to translating academic knowledge into practical solutions that respond to institutional, national and global priorities.

During the reporting period, the University continued to strengthen its research profile through increased research funding, expanded international collaboration, technology development and interdisciplinary scholarship. Significant progress was also achieved in advancing student success through experiential learning, entrepreneurship, international mobility and community-engaged learning, while strategic partnerships continued to strengthen innovation, research commercialisation and industry engagement. These initiatives collectively reinforce DUT's position

as an institution that integrates teaching, research, innovation and engagement to generate measurable social, economic and environmental impact.

The report further demonstrates the University's continued commitment to strengthening institutional sustainability through diversified funding, strategic partnerships, digital transformation and organizational development. It also highlights the contribution of academic faculties and strategic support units in advancing the University's national and international profile while responding to emerging societal challenges through collaborative, evidence-informed and impact-oriented initiatives.

Structured around the University's strategic priorities, the report provides an overview of research performance, research impact, internationalisation, innovation and entrepreneurship, community engagement, institutional achievements, third-stream income generation, strategic challenges and future priorities. Together, these sections provide an integrated account of how DUT continues to advance the objectives of ENVISION2030 while strengthening its contribution to higher education, research, innovation and sustainable societal development.





2. KEY FOCUS AREAS AND INITIATIVES

2.1 RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT

2.1.1 Highlights of Research Programmes, Grants, and Publications

Research excellence remained a strategic priority during Quarter 2 of 2026, with faculties and institutional research units continuing to strengthen the University's research profile through high-impact research programmes, competitive grant funding and quality scholarly publications. These activities demonstrate DUT's commitment to advancing knowledge, addressing complex societal challenges and strengthening research excellence in support of the University's strategic priorities. A significant institutional milestone during the reporting period was the implementation of the eight National Research Foundation (NRF) Decadal Plan Aligned Research Chairs for Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs), Universities of Technology (UoTs) and Emerging Universities, awarded during Quarter 1 of 2026. Collectively, these Chairs secured approximately R16.74 million in competitive research funding, significantly strengthening DUT's research capacity, postgraduate development, specialised research infrastructure and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Across the faculties, significant progress was made in expanding research programmes and strengthening research productivity. The Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) continued to advance multidisciplinary research addressing sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, smart manufacturing and spatial planning. Within the Faculty, the Department of Chemical Engineering emerged as the leading research contributor, recording 25 peer-reviewed publications, three active research projects, and collaborations with 11 research partners, reflecting the Faculty's continued commitment to applied research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

The Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) continued to strengthen its research excellence through competitive research funding, high-quality publications and postgraduate research development. The Department of Biotechnology and Food Science secured approximately R7.42 million in competitive research funding, produced 51 peer-reviewed publications, with almost 48% published in Q1-ranked journals, and supported a strong postgraduate research cohort of 90 Master's and PhD students. Across the Faculty, research programmes continued to advance food security,

renewable energy, chemistry, maritime studies, mathematics, horticulture and sustainable technologies through interdisciplinary and industry-linked research.

The Faculty of Arts and Design (FAD) continued to demonstrate outstanding research productivity, exceeding its institutional research target through the submission of 93.44 Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) research outputs. Research excellence was further strengthened through externally funded projects, creative scholarship and the continued development of strategic research programmes that support educational transformation and socially responsive scholarship.

The Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) continued to strengthen research impact through externally funded research programmes addressing health, environmental sustainability and climate resilience. The Faculty expanded postgraduate research capacity while securing competitive grant funding to advance community-responsive and interdisciplinary health research.

Institutional research units further enhanced DUT's research profile through specialised research programmes and high-impact scholarly outputs. The Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) published 11 peer-reviewed journal articles, with 70% appearing in Q1-ranked journals, while advancing internationally recognised research in water security, wastewater treatment, circular bio economy and environmental sustainability. The Faculty of Accounting and Informatics (FAI) strengthened institutional research capacity through a faculty-wide publication incubation programme, research ethics development and postgraduate research support, while advancing digital innovation research through the Government Data Lakehouse initiative and expanding international research collaboration.

Collectively, these achievements demonstrate a vibrant institutional research ecosystem characterised by high-quality research programmes, growing research productivity, competitive funding success and interdisciplinary collaboration. Through the combined contributions of faculties, academic departments and institutional research units, DUT continues to strengthen its national and international research profile while generating knowledge that contributes to innovation, sustainable development and measurable societal impact.



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2.2 RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

2.2.1 National Collaborations

National collaboration remained central to strengthening Durban University of Technology's research, innovation and engagement agenda during Quarter 2 of 2026. Across the faculties and institutional support units, strategic partnerships with higher education institutions, government departments, municipalities, professional bodies, research councils and industry organisations advanced collaborative research, research capacity development, innovation, knowledge exchange and community-responsive scholarship.

Across the faculties, national partnerships continued to strengthen research excellence and applied scholarship. The Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) maintained an extensive network of collaborations with universities, municipalities, government departments and professional bodies, supporting multidisciplinary research in sustainable infrastructure, water resources, renewable energy, environmental sustainability and spatial planning. The Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) further strengthened national partnerships through collaborative research, industry engagement and professional networks spanning biotechnology, chemistry, maritime studies, physics and mathematics. These collaborations supported competitive research funding, postgraduate development, work-integrated learning and industry-responsive research programmes. The Faculty of Accounting and Informatics (FAI) expanded national collaboration through digital innovation initiatives, including the presentation of the Government Data Lakehouse to the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, demonstrating the Faculty's contribution to evidence-based decision-making and digital transformation within the post-school education sector.

Institutional research and support units also continued to strengthen DUT's national collaborative footprint. The International Education and Partnerships (IEP) Directorate advanced national higher education collaboration through leadership of the African Partnerships Universities Alliance (APUA), coordination of collaborative research initiatives and active participation in national higher education networks supporting research capacity development and Africa-centred internationalisation. The Institute for Water and Wastewater Technology (IWWT) expanded strategic partnerships with water authorities, municipalities, research councils and public entities to advance research addressing water security, environmental sustainability and wastewater innovation. In addition, the Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Directorate strengthened national innovation partnerships through intellectual property management, research commercialisation initiatives and the successful launch of the Academic Research Commercialisation Fund, supporting the translation of research into technologies and products with measurable socio-economic impact.

Collectively, these collaborations demonstrate DUT's commitment to strengthening national research networks that integrate research excellence, innovation, capacity development and societal impact. Through sustained collaboration with government, higher education institutions, professional bodies, industry and public

entities, the University continues to expand opportunities for interdisciplinary research, knowledge exchange and innovation that contribute to South Africa's development priorities.

2.2.2 International Collaborations

International collaboration continued to strengthen DUT's global research and innovation profile during Quarter 2 of 2026, with faculties and institutional support units expanding strategic partnerships that advanced collaborative research, academic mobility, postgraduate development, innovation and knowledge exchange. These collaborations reinforce the University's commitment to internationalisation as a driver of research excellence and global engagement.

Across the faculties, international partnerships continued to create opportunities for collaborative research and scholarly exchange. FAS expanded its global research network through collaborative projects involving institutions across Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. Research collaborations in Chemistry, Biotechnology and Food Science, Mathematics, Physics, Sport Studies and Textile Science strengthened international publications, postgraduate supervision, staff mobility and joint research initiatives, while creating new opportunities for benchmarking, curriculum development and research funding. FAI further strengthened its international research profile through collaborative partnerships with institutions in India, Indonesia, the United States, Germany and Malaysia, supporting joint research, digital innovation and international conference development. EBE continued to expand international research engagement through collaborative research, academic exchange and benchmarking initiatives that supported engineering, environmental sustainability and the built environment.

Institutional internationalisation was further advanced through the work of IEP, which expanded DUT's global partnership portfolio by facilitating new and existing Memoranda of Understanding, Erasmus+ agreements, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiatives, benchmarking activities and strategic institutional engagements across Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. During the reporting period, the Directorate strengthened partnerships with universities and higher education organisations in Ghana, India, Zimbabwe, Finland, France, Greece, Thailand, Türkiye and Kenya, while supporting institutional participation in global initiatives including the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress and the FAUBAI Conference. These engagements created new opportunities for collaborative research, academic mobility, postgraduate development and institutional visibility.



Across the faculties, international partnerships continued to create opportunities for collaborative research and scholarly exchange.





Delegates on day two of the UNESCO-UNEVOC BILT Bridging Event.

The University's international innovation ecosystem was further strengthened through TTI, which expanded global collaboration through UNESCO-UNEVOC programmes and international partnerships promoting innovation, technology transfer and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Strategic engagements with international universities and innovation partners supported collaborative research, capacity development, intellectual property, entrepreneurship and innovation, further positioning DUT within global knowledge and innovation networks.

Collectively, these international collaborations demonstrate DUT's continued commitment to strengthening global partnerships that advance research excellence, innovation, academic mobility and institutional capacity. Through sustained collaboration with universities, international organisations and strategic partners, the University continues to expand its international footprint while creating opportunities that enhance research quality, global competitiveness and societal impact.

2.2.3 Research Impact

Research undertaken during Quarter 2 of 2026 continued to generate meaningful academic, societal and economic impact through interdisciplinary scholarship, innovation and collaborative research addressing national and global development priorities. Across the University, research initiatives translated knowledge into practical solutions that strengthened environmental sustainability, digital transformation, health, engineering innovation and community development, demonstrating DUT's commitment to research that delivers measurable benefits beyond academia.

Across the faculties, research continued to create impact through applied and solution-driven scholarship. EBE advanced research in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure and environmental

sustainability, with the Department of Chemical Engineering producing 25 peer-reviewed publications while strengthening research on wastewater treatment, waste-to-energy technologies and the circular economy. These initiatives continue to contribute to water security, green engineering and industrial innovation through research with practical application.

FAS continued to strengthen research impact through high-quality scientific research addressing food security, biotechnology, renewable energy and environmental sustainability. During the reporting period, the Department of Biotechnology and Food Science secured more than R7.4 million in competitive research funding while producing 51 peer-reviewed publications, strengthening postgraduate research capacity, scientific innovation and industry-responsive research. Across the Faculty, research in chemistry, mathematics, maritime studies, physics and textile science continued to generate new knowledge while informing professional practice and expanding international scientific collaboration.

FAD continued to demonstrate the impact of creative and socially responsive scholarship through research that informs educational transformation, design innovation and cultural preservation. The Faculty's submission of 93.44 DHET research outputs, together with initiatives such as the Billy Nair Archive Exhibition, reflects the growing influence of creative scholarship in preserving heritage, advancing interdisciplinary research and strengthening public engagement with knowledge.

FAI strengthened research impact through digital innovation and applied information systems research. A notable achievement during the quarter was the presentation of the Government Data Lakehouse to the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, showcasing a digital platform that integrates reporting across all 21 SETAs and



USAf and EDHE Student Empowerment and Innovation Workshop.

demonstrates how university research can support evidence-based planning and decision-making within the post-school education and training sector.

Institutional research impact was further strengthened through the work of IEP, which expanded opportunities for collaborative research and international knowledge exchange through initiatives such as the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) partnership with the University of Nairobi, the AfriExchange Erasmus+ proposal and the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) funding initiative. These engagements continue to enhance collaborative teaching, curriculum innovation and DUT's international research visibility.

Collectively, these achievements demonstrate that DUT's research extends beyond scholarly output to create practical solutions, influence policy and professional practice, strengthen industry and community partnerships, and contribute to sustainable development. Through impactful research programmes, strategic collaboration and innovation, the University continues to reinforce its position as a University of Technology that generates knowledge with tangible societal value.

2.2.4 ENVISION2030 Alignment

The research, innovation and partnership activities undertaken during Quarter 2 of 2026 collectively demonstrate continued progress towards the aspirations of ENVISION2030. Across the University, faculties and institutional units strengthened research excellence, expanded strategic partnerships, advanced innovation and entrepreneurship, enhanced internationalisation, and generated solutions that contribute to societal development. Rather than operating as isolated initiatives, these engagements collectively illustrate how DUT is translating its strategic vision into measurable institutional outcomes.

Advancing research excellence and academic innovation

The University continued to strengthen research excellence through high-impact research programmes, competitive grant funding and quality scholarly outputs. Significant achievements included FAD's submission of 93.44 DHET research outputs, FAS securing more than R7.4 million in competitive research funding through the Department of Biotechnology and Food Science, and EBE's continued leadership in applied engineering research, with the Department of Chemical Engineering producing 25 peer-reviewed publications focused on renewable energy, water security and the circular economy. Collectively, these achievements demonstrate DUT's commitment to generating new knowledge that addresses complex societal and environmental challenges while strengthening postgraduate development and interdisciplinary scholarship.

Strengthening partnerships and global engagement

Strategic collaboration continued to expand the University's national and international footprint through research partnerships, academic mobility and collaborative knowledge exchange. IEP strengthened DUT's international engagement through initiatives including Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), the AfriExchange Erasmus+ proposal, and new strategic partnerships supporting collaborative research and curriculum innovation. Across the faculties, partnerships with higher education institutions, government, industry and professional bodies created opportunities for joint research, postgraduate supervision, external funding and knowledge sharing, reinforcing DUT's position as a globally connected University of Technology.





Delegates at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Driving innovation, entrepreneurship and institutional sustainability

Innovation continued to strengthen the University's contribution to economic development and research translation. TTI expanded institutional support for intellectual property protection, research commercialisation and innovation funding, creating new pathways for translating research into technologies, products and enterprises. Complementing these efforts, FAI demonstrated the practical application of digital innovation through the Government Data Lakehouse, a platform supporting reporting across all 21 SETAs and showcasing how university-developed technologies can strengthen evidence-based decision-making within the post-school education sector. Together, these initiatives demonstrate the University's growing capacity to convert research excellence into sustainable socio-economic value.

Creating societal impact through research and engagement

Research undertaken across the University continued to generate tangible societal impact by responding directly to national priorities and community needs. Examples include EBE's research in sustainable infrastructure, wastewater treatment and renewable energy, FAS's advancements in food security, sustainable textile processing and renewable energy technologies, and the development of innovations such as the hydrogen-powered SiyaH2amba vessel and the prototype sanitary pad initiative, both of which demonstrate how research is being translated into practical solutions with environmental, industrial and social benefits. These initiatives reinforce DUT's commitment to producing knowledge that improves lives, supports sustainable development and contributes to national development priorities.

Collectively, these achievements demonstrate that ENVISION2030 is being realised through purposeful action across the University. By strengthening research excellence, expanding strategic partnerships, advancing innovation and entrepreneurship, and translating knowledge into measurable societal impact, DUT continues to build an institution that is globally engaged, innovation-driven and socially responsive.



Professor Thomas Dobbelsstein, Honorary Research Professor receiving the DHBW Sustainability Research Award in Germany.

2.3 RESEARCH EVENTS AND CONFERENCES HOSTED BY DUT

Research events and scholarly engagements hosted during Quarter 2 of 2026 continued to strengthen DUT's research culture by building research capacity, promoting knowledge exchange, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and expanding national and international scholarly networks. Through conferences, workshops, seminars and professional development initiatives, faculties and institutional units created platforms that supported research excellence, innovation, postgraduate development and the dissemination of new knowledge.

Research capacity development remained a central focus across the University. FHS, in collaboration with MDPI and the Institutional Research Ethics Committee (IREC), delivered a comprehensive programme of academic publishing and research ethics workshops for postgraduate students, researchers and supervisors. These initiatives strengthened academic writing, publication ethics, responsible research conduct and the effective use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in scholarly publishing. Similarly, EBE strengthened research capacity through initiatives such as the NRF Scholarship Workshop, while IWWT, in partnership with the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), hosted a specialised four-day Bioinformatics and Wastewater Genomics Analysis Training Programme, equipping researchers with advanced skills in bioinformatics, wastewater surveillance and public health research.

The University also expanded opportunities for scholarly dialogue and knowledge dissemination through conferences, exhibitions and

academic forums. FAD promoted creative scholarship through the Macbeth Slashed and Rendered exhibition and the launch of *The Great Gatsby Meets Alain Badiou*, creating an important platform for interdisciplinary dialogue between research, creative practice and the public. The University Library further supported institutional scholarship through the launch of academic publications, reinforcing the dissemination of research and intellectual engagement across the University community.

International scholarly engagement continued to strengthen DUT's global research profile. IEP advanced the University's internationalisation agenda through a structured programme of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) training, professional development workshops and strategic partnership engagements that enhanced academics' capacity to develop internationally collaborative teaching and research projects. In addition, FAI continued preparations for the International DataScientia Symposium, the Second Biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on Business and Information Management (BICONBIM) and the 10th International ICTAS IEEE Conference, further positioning DUT as a host of internationally recognised scholarly platforms.

Research engagement with industry and professional communities further strengthened the University's contribution to innovation and socio-economic development. Innobiz DUT participated in the Youth in Maritime Business Seminar, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and industry collaboration among emerging entrepreneurs, while departments across FAS continued participating in specialised professional seminars and preparing to host major disciplinary conferences, including the Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS) Conference. These initiatives



Professor Wibke Heidig, Honorary and Professor at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, at the Academy of Marketing Science World Marketing Congress (AMS WMC 2026) in Vilnius, Lithuania.



expanded opportunities for professional networking, research dissemination and collaboration between academia, industry and professional bodies.

Collectively, these research events and conferences demonstrate DUT's commitment to creating an enabling research environment that extends beyond the production of research outputs. By investing in research capacity, scholarly exchange, international collaboration and professional engagement, the University continues to strengthen its research ecosystem thereby strengthening DUT's position as a research-intensive University of Technology that advances knowledge, innovation and societal impact through scholarly engagement.

2.4 INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

2.4.1 Collaborations with Industry Leaders and Organizations

Industry collaboration continued to strengthen DUT's teaching, learning, research and innovation agenda during Quarter 2 of 2026. Through strategic partnerships with industry leaders, professional bodies, government agencies and employers, the University expanded opportunities for experiential learning, applied research, technology development and graduate employability. These collaborations continue to ensure that academic programmes remain responsive to industry needs while supporting innovation and sustainable socio-economic development.

A strong emphasis was placed on strengthening industry-informed teaching and student development. Across the University, faculties expanded experiential learning opportunities through partnerships that connected students with professional practice and emerging technologies. Notable initiatives included the launch of the Samsung Innovation Campus Programme, equipping students with skills in coding, artificial intelligence and digital technologies; TRANSNET's support for Work-Integrated Learning placements for Maritime Studies students; and industry collaborations led by FAD with organisations such as RAW Media TV and Cartoon Network, providing students with professional auditions, technical workshops and industry-based learning experiences. FHS further strengthened experiential learning through partnerships with CANSA and ICON Oncology, enabling students to participate in health promotion and community awareness initiatives.

Industry partnerships also continued to strengthen applied research and innovation across the University. EBE advanced collaboration with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) providers, municipalities and planning agencies to support sustainable infrastructure, spatial planning and environmental management. Within FAS, the Department of Textile Science and Apparel Technology expanded industry-linked postgraduate research through partnerships with Resource Link Coatings, M&S Colorchem and the National Braiding Institute, while the Institute for Energy and Electronic Technology Research (IEETR) strengthened strategic partnerships with organisations including Air Products and ElectroMechanica to advance the University's flagship SiyaH2amba Hydrogen Boat and SiyaHamba AI Boat projects. These initiatives demonstrate how industry collaboration continues to translate research into practical technologies and sustainable solutions.

Professional engagement and sector collaboration further enhanced the University's academic relevance and industry responsiveness. Strategic engagements with the French Ministry of Education, participation in the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress, and partnerships with organisations such as SASRI, SALI, SAGIC, PANSA and the Nutrition Society of South Africa strengthened curriculum development, professional networking, research dissemination and knowledge exchange. These collaborations created opportunities for curriculum benchmarking, staff development, work-integrated learning, graduate employment and future collaborative research.

DUT also continued to strengthen its innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem through collaborative engagement with industry and innovation partners. Initiatives such as the Indigenous Language Innovation Week Hackathon and the showcasing of postgraduate innovations addressing artificial intelligence, engineering, food science and sustainable technologies demonstrated the University's commitment to translating research into solutions that respond to industry challenges and societal needs while promoting entrepreneurship and technological innovation.

These collaborations demonstrate DUT's growing ability to integrate industry engagement across teaching, research, innovation and student development. By working closely with industry leaders, professional bodies and strategic partners, the University continues to strengthen graduate employability, accelerate research translation, promote technological innovation and contribute to sustainable economic and societal development.

2.4.2 Industry-Specific Projects and Research

Industry-specific projects undertaken during Quarter 2 of 2026 demonstrate how DUT continues to integrate teaching, research and innovation to address real-world challenges. Across the University, collaborative projects with industry, government and community partners strengthened experiential learning, advanced applied research and translated academic knowledge into practical solutions that support economic development, technological innovation and professional practice.

A strong emphasis was placed on industry-integrated teaching and learning, ensuring that students develop workplace-ready skills through authentic industry engagement. EBE strengthened project-based learning through the Department of Architecture's Re-imagining the Police Station as a Nexus of Community Safety project, where students worked alongside the South African Police Service and industry professionals to develop community-centred architectural solutions. Similarly, FAD expanded industry exposure through professional theatre productions and participation in the National Arts Festival, providing students with valuable experience in performance, technical production and the creative industries. Within FAS, the Departments of Consumer Sciences and Sport Studies further strengthened experiential learning through industry-sponsored projects with Mayo Macs, PepsiCo (FUTURELIFE) and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) programme, enabling students to apply disciplinary knowledge within professional environments and strengthen graduate employability.

Applied research continued to address industry and societal needs through collaborative innovation. EBE strengthened industry-linked

research through partnerships with Illovo Sugar, uMngeni-uThukela Water, Beiers Group and FFS Refinery, integrating industry expertise into curriculum development, postgraduate supervision and applied engineering research. Within FAS, the Department of Textile Science and Apparel Technology collaborated with Dyefin Textiles to improve textile manufacturing processes through applied research, while the Department of Chemistry expanded partnerships supporting hydrogen storage technologies, innovation projects and work-integrated learning. The Department of Physics further strengthened institutional collaboration through specialised research supporting fire science and thermal engineering. These initiatives demonstrate how industry partnerships continue to improve research quality while addressing practical challenges facing key economic sectors.

Innovation and entrepreneurship remained central to translating research into socio-economic impact. Innobiz strengthened student entrepreneurship through participation in the 2026 KMUTNB Leadership Camp in Thailand, strategic engagements with JAMK University of Applied Sciences in Finland and collaborative innovation discussions with George Mason University. These initiatives expanded international innovation networks, strengthened entrepreneurial leadership and created new opportunities for collaborative technology development. In addition, FAI showcased South Africa's first Government Data Lakehouse, demonstrating how university-led digital innovation can strengthen evidence-based planning and decision-making across the post-school education sector.

These industry-specific projects demonstrate DUT's commitment to translating knowledge into practical application through collaborative research, innovation and experiential learning. By integrating industry expertise into teaching, research and entrepreneurship, the University continues to strengthen graduate employability, accelerate research translation and develop solutions that respond to industry needs while contributing to sustainable economic and societal development.

2.4.3 Knowledge Transfer and Technology Commercialization efforts

Knowledge transfer and technology commercialisation continued to strengthen DUT's contribution to innovation, research translation and socio-economic development during Quarter 2 of 2026. Through strategic partnerships, innovation support programmes and industry engagement, the University expanded opportunities to transform research outputs into practical technologies, strengthen intellectual property development and build institutional capacity for commercialisation.

The University continued to invest in building institutional innovation capability through professional development and innovation awareness initiatives. IEP strengthened international knowledge exchange through the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) training series and the GLOBUS Project, enhancing academics' capacity to deliver internationally collaborative teaching and research. Similarly, FHS strengthened

innovation awareness through participation in the TTI Roadshow and World Intellectual Property Day, resulting in new intellectual property opportunities and increased staff and student engagement with research commercialisation.

Significant progress was made in translating research into commercial innovation. Within EBE, the Department of Chemical Engineering secured support through the TTI Academic Research Commercialisation Fund, enabling the continued development of technologies with commercial potential. FAI further strengthened its innovation ecosystem by securing R500,000 through the same funding programme to establish a faculty-based commercialisation unit and accelerate the development of innovative products and services. Within FAS, the Department of Chemistry continued advancing the development of environmentally sustainable sanitary pads manufactured from banana fibres and hydrogel, while the Department of Textile Science and Apparel Technology explored the commercial application of sustainable textile technologies and natural dye innovations in collaboration with industry partners. These initiatives demonstrate the University's growing capacity to convert research into innovations with commercial and societal value.

Knowledge transfer also continued to strengthen collaboration between academia, industry and communities. EBE expanded industry engagement through partnerships supporting postgraduate supervision, curriculum development and applied engineering research, while the Department of Town and Regional Planning strengthened digital skills and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacity within traditional councils and local communities. The Civil Engineering Department further demonstrated applied knowledge transfer through collaborative waste management initiatives with uMsunduzi Municipality and uMgungundlovu TVET College, supporting sustainable community development and evidence-based problem-solving.

The University also continued to develop innovation-ready graduates by integrating commercialisation into postgraduate education and student innovation. Within FHS, two master's students secured TTI funding and entered the TTI Incubator Programme, receiving structured mentorship to develop research-based innovations into commercially viable products. Across the University, industry partnerships, innovation funding and incubation support continued to strengthen entrepreneurial capability while creating pathways for students and researchers to translate knowledge into practical solutions with economic and societal impact.

These knowledge transfer and technology commercialisation efforts demonstrate DUT's growing capacity to transform research into innovation, strengthen industry collaboration and generate solutions that create value beyond the University. By supporting intellectual property development, commercialisation, entrepreneurship and applied research, the University continues to advance an innovation ecosystem that contributes to sustainable economic development, societal wellbeing and the aspirations of ENVISION2030.



2.5 COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

2.5.1 Community Outreach and Development Programmes

Community engagement remained a defining feature of DUT's contribution to society during Quarter 2 of 2026, strengthening educational opportunity, community wellbeing, social innovation and sustainable development through mutually beneficial partnerships. Across the University, faculties, support units and community partners worked collaboratively to address local challenges while creating opportunities for students and staff to integrate teaching, learning, research and innovation with meaningful community impact. These initiatives demonstrate DUT's commitment to generating knowledge that is co-created with communities and translated into measurable social value.

Educational access and learner development continued to be a major focus of the University's community engagement agenda. Flagship initiatives including the Uni4All Programme, the Bergville Literacy Programme, the Regional Bookathon and the Video Technology Career Exposure Programme expanded access to higher education, strengthened literacy development and introduced learners to future career pathways. Through partnerships with IkusasaLentsha NPO, the DUT Library, the Writing Centre, schools and community organisations, learners participated in reading programmes, debating, poetry, career guidance, television production and university application support. Collectively, these initiatives reached learners across rural and peri-urban communities, strengthening educational aspiration, literacy, communication skills and informed career decision-making.

DUT continued to strengthen its institutional model for community-engaged scholarship through initiatives that intentionally connect community engagement with teaching, learning and research. The Practice to Scholarship Programme equipped students to transform their community engagement experiences into scholarly outputs through reflective practice, critical inquiry and evidence-based knowledge generation. Complementing this work, the Umbrella Ethics Framework Workshop strengthened ethical governance across community-engaged research by supporting academics and project leaders to integrate scholarship, ethical practice and community partnership into their engagement activities. Together, these initiatives position community engagement not only as a service activity but as a recognised scholarly approach that contributes to research excellence, student learning and institutional impact.

Community engagement also strengthened health promotion, social wellbeing and inclusive development through collaborative outreach initiatives. FHS supported communities through health screenings, career guidance, health education, wellness campaigns and interdisciplinary outreach programmes delivered in partnership with organisations including the Denis Hurley Centre, eThekweni Municipality, schools and community organisations. Staff and students contributed to public health initiatives during the Comrades Marathon, World Kidney Day, career expos and community wellness programmes, while long-term engagement with the William Clarke Child and Youth Care Centre continued



DUT Student and Learner during the Science Week 2026.

to provide educational support, life skills development and interdisciplinary community learning. These initiatives demonstrate how community engagement contributes directly to improved wellbeing while strengthening students' professional competence and civic responsibility.

The University continued to inspire future generations through community-engaged STEM education and innovation outreach. FAS, FAI and the Community Engagement Office collaborated with schools and communities through initiatives including Mahlabathini Science Week, biotechnology demonstrations, AI for Educators, 4IR and STEM workshops, mathematics support programmes and laboratory-based learning experiences. These engagements enabled learners to experience science, technology and innovation in practical ways while expanding awareness of career opportunities in engineering, health sciences, information technology and the applied sciences. Through sustained partnerships with schools, educators and district stakeholders, DUT continues to strengthen the STEM pipeline and encourage greater participation in scarce and critical skills disciplines.

Community engagement further strengthened social cohesion, creativity and inclusive community development through arts, culture and innovation. FAD expanded youth participation in the Shakespeare Schools Festival South Africa while establishing new community partnerships through educational theatre initiatives at the William Clarke Children's Home. Across the University, initiatives supporting international students, Indigenous Knowledge Systems,

community entrepreneurship and student innovation promoted intercultural dialogue, inclusion and collaborative problem-solving. These engagements demonstrate how creative practice and social innovation contribute to stronger, more connected and resilient communities.

Sustainable development remained central to DUT's community engagement agenda through projects that addressed environmental sustainability, digital inclusion and local development. EBE strengthened community capacity through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) training and tourism planning initiatives, while FAS advanced socially responsive innovation through projects such as the development of sensory weighted blankets manufactured from recycled textile materials for neurodivergent children. Community engagement also extended to Indigenous Knowledge Systems, digital literacy, environmental awareness and science outreach, demonstrating the University's commitment to co-developing practical solutions with communities that contribute to sustainable livelihoods and local development.

These community engagement initiatives demonstrate DUT's commitment to creating lasting social impact through reciprocal partnerships that integrate teaching, learning, research and innovation. By expanding educational opportunity, strengthening community-engaged scholarship, promoting health and wellbeing, advancing STEM education and supporting sustainable development, the University continues to realize its vision of an engaged University of Technology that works alongside communities to co-create knowledge, address societal challenges and improve lives.

2.5.2 Social Responsibility Projects

DUT continued to demonstrate its commitment to social responsibility during Quarter 2 of 2026 through initiatives that promoted educational opportunity, community wellbeing, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and resilience. Working alongside schools, government departments, civil society organisations and community partners, the University implemented initiatives that responded to societal needs while contributing to long-term community development and improving quality of life.

The University continued to strengthen equitable access to education by identifying opportunities to repurpose institutional resources for the benefit of under-resourced communities. During the reporting period, refurbished ICT equipment was made available through a coordinated institutional initiative to enhance digital learning environments and expand access to technology for learners. This approach reflects DUT's commitment to responsible institutional stewardship, ensuring that valuable resources continue to create educational and social value beyond the University. FAI further promoted digital inclusion through initiatives including AI for Palliative Care, Tech for the Elderly, and participation in the Eskom Teaching Event, strengthening digital literacy and technology awareness across diverse community groups.

Improving community health and wellbeing remained central to the University's social responsibility agenda. FHS continued to support communities through health promotion, preventative screening, caregiver support, wellness campaigns and community outreach delivered in collaboration with organisations including CANSA, ICON Oncology, SAPS, eThekweni Municipality, healthcare

institutions and community organisations. Students and staff also contributed to long-standing initiatives supporting vulnerable groups, including people living with Parkinson's disease and members of the homeless community. The Faculty further strengthened its contribution to public health through participation in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial HIV Cure Consultation, bringing together researchers, government, healthcare institutions, civil society and affected communities to advance collaborative dialogue on HIV cure research, ethics, implementation and community readiness. These initiatives demonstrate DUT's commitment to improving community wellbeing while strengthening research-informed public health practice.

Environmental stewardship continued to underpin the University's contribution to sustainable development. EBE promoted responsible environmental management through community-based initiatives including Water Week activities, environmental awareness campaigns and projects supporting sustainable planning and digital governance. FAS further advanced socially responsive innovation through the continued development of the sensory weighted blanket initiative, which combines recycled textile materials with inclusive product design to improve the wellbeing of neurodivergent children while promoting circular economy principles. The University's sustainability agenda was further strengthened through ongoing investment in renewable energy infrastructure, reinforcing DUT's commitment to environmental responsibility and climate resilience.

The University continued to promote social inclusion and community cohesion through creative, cultural and community-based initiatives. FAD utilized the performing arts to support fundraising initiatives benefiting vulnerable groups while creating opportunities for students to engage communities through creative expression and cultural participation. Community resilience was further strengthened through technology-enabled disaster preparedness initiatives that promoted emergency awareness and supported vulnerable communities through practical risk reduction interventions. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how creativity, innovation and civic engagement contribute to more inclusive, connected and resilient communities.

These social responsibility initiatives reflect DUT's commitment to creating positive and lasting societal impact beyond its core academic mission. By promoting educational opportunity, improving health and wellbeing, advancing environmental sustainability and strengthening social inclusion, the University continues to demonstrate how responsible institutional citizenship contributes to more resilient communities and supports the broader aspirations of ENVISION2030.

2.5.3 Partnerships with Local Communities and Organizations

Strategic partnerships remained central to DUT's community engagement approach during Quarter 2 of 2026, strengthening the University's ability to co-create sustainable solutions with schools, traditional authorities, government departments, community organisations, industry and civil society. Through these collaborative relationships, the University continued to expand educational opportunity, strengthen community capacity, support



local development and create meaningful experiential learning opportunities for students while addressing shared societal challenges.

The University continued to strengthen partnerships with schools, traditional leadership and community organisations to expand educational opportunity and improve access to higher education. A notable example was the collaborative career guidance and university readiness initiative delivered through the partnership between DUT, the Mnkwanyana Traditional Authority and multiple University faculties and support units. The initiative strengthened awareness of higher education pathways, career opportunities and university admission processes among learners, parents and community leaders while reinforcing the University's commitment to widening participation in higher education. Complementing these efforts, the Short Course Unit (SCU) expanded its partnership with NEMISA, enabling community members and students to develop digital literacy and digital entrepreneurship skills that strengthen employability and support enterprise development.

Community partnerships continued to enrich teaching and learning by creating authentic environments where students could apply disciplinary knowledge while responding to community needs. EBE strengthened community-engaged learning through the Department of Architecture's Re-Imagining Umbilo Park project, where approximately 140 students worked alongside a local school community to develop sustainable design solutions informed by stakeholder participation and evidence-based planning. The Department of Civil Engineering further promoted engineering awareness through outreach activities introducing learners to civil engineering technologies and career pathways, while the Department of Town and Regional Planning expanded partnerships with traditional councils, tourism organisations, youth groups and ward committees to support inclusive planning and sustainable local development. These initiatives demonstrate how community partnerships strengthen both student learning and community development.

Partnerships with healthcare institutions, community organisations and civil society continued to improve community wellbeing while providing valuable experiential learning opportunities for students. FHS strengthened its collaboration with Serenity Subacute Hospital through problem-based learning in palliative care, while the Department of Radiography continued long-standing partnerships supporting health promotion and academic support for vulnerable children. Across the University, partnerships enabled students to develop professional competence within authentic community settings while improving access to health services, educational support and community wellbeing programmes.

The University further strengthened partnerships that promote innovation, sustainability and community-led development. Through TTI, DUT collaborated with UNISA, JET Education Services and UNESCO-UNEVOC to strengthen innovation and industry partnerships within the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. Community-based initiatives such as the Thuso Garden Project, delivered in partnership with the Green Campus Initiative, demonstrated how experiential learning can contribute to food security, environmental awareness and entrepreneurship. FAS further strengthened partnerships through

the Beyond Limits collaboration supporting the sensory weighted blanket project and the Department of Horticulture's sustainable landscaping initiative at a special needs school. These partnerships demonstrate how collaborative innovation creates practical solutions that respond directly to community priorities while enriching student learning.

These partnerships illustrate DUT's commitment to building long-term relationships that create shared value for the University and the communities it serves. By working collaboratively with schools, traditional authorities, government, civil society, industry and community organisations, the University continues to strengthen educational opportunity, community capacity, innovation and sustainable development while ensuring that teaching, learning and research remain responsive to societal needs.

2.6 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

2.6.1 Collaborative Agreements with International Universities and Institutions

International partnerships continued to strengthen DUT's global engagement during Quarter 2 of 2026 by expanding collaborative research, academic mobility, international knowledge exchange and institutional visibility. Building on established global networks while cultivating new strategic relationships, the University continued to strengthen its internationalisation agenda through partnerships that enhance teaching, research, innovation and postgraduate development.

DUT continued to broaden its international partnership portfolio through new and emerging collaborations with universities, research organisations and international agencies. The University explored the establishment of a King Sejong Korean Institute, recognising its strategic potential to strengthen language education, cultural exchange and academic collaboration, particularly in support of Maritime Studies and the creative disciplines. Additional partnership discussions involving Uskudar University (Türkiye) and the University of Lubumbashi further created opportunities to expand collaborative teaching, research, student mobility and international funding. These engagements demonstrate the University's continued commitment to building sustainable global partnerships that support long-term institutional growth.

International partnerships continued to advance collaborative research and scholarly excellence across the University. EBE strengthened its global research profile through partnerships spanning Spain, India, Australia, Ghana, Egypt and the United Kingdom, supporting joint research, postgraduate supervision, academic exchange and internationally co-authored publications. Within FAS, the Departments of Physics and Chemistry further expanded collaborative research through partnerships with institutions in Germany, La Réunion and the Democratic Republic of Congo, reinforcing the University's contribution to internationally relevant research and scientific innovation. IWWT continued to strengthen its international reputation through active participation in global research networks, including the BRICS Network University, the International Water Association and the Global Water Microbiome





The DUT delegation engaged with international higher education leaders and institutions, held discussions on collaboration, innovation, sustainable development, while establishing and formalising new international partnerships. (L-R) Interim Director Research and Postgraduate Support Dr Nomcebo Mthombeni, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Innovation and Engagement and Principal Professor Fulufhelo Nemavhola and representatives from Universities Brawijaya, Indonesia.

Consortium, supporting collaborative research, innovation and knowledge exchange on water sustainability.

International collaboration continued to expand opportunities for staff and student mobility while strengthening postgraduate development and academic exchange. EBE supported postgraduate research mobility through the Erasmus+ Programme, enabling master's students to undertake international research placements while expanding doctoral opportunities through the Fulbright Programme and collaboration with the University of Waterloo. FHS further strengthened international engagement through collaboration with George Mason University, creating opportunities for joint research, academic partnerships and future staff and student exchanges. These initiatives continue to strengthen global learning experiences while enhancing the international competitiveness of DUT graduates and researchers.

The University continued to strengthen its international reputation through active participation in global higher education and professional networks. Participation in the Global Sustainable Development Congress coincided with the release of the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, in which DUT improved its global standing from the 1001–1500+ band in 2025 to the 401–600 band in 2026. This significant improvement reflects the University's growing international reputation and demonstrates the impact of its sustained commitment to research excellence, innovation, community engagement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Regional engagement was also strengthened through participation in the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) programme in Kenya, expanding collaboration within Africa's Blue Economy while

creating opportunities for curriculum development, professional networking and future partnership development.

These international partnerships continue to position DUT as a globally connected University of Technology that leverages collaboration to strengthen research excellence, innovation and academic development. Through sustained engagement with international universities, research institutions and global networks, the University is expanding opportunities for collaborative scholarship, postgraduate development and international knowledge exchange while reinforcing its contribution to addressing global challenges through education, research and innovation.

2.6.2 Student and Faculty Exchange Programmes

Student and staff mobility continued to strengthen DUT's internationalisation agenda during Quarter 2 of 2026 by expanding opportunities for global learning, academic collaboration and intercultural exchange. Through strategic mobility programmes and international partnerships, the University enhanced student development, strengthened academic networks and created opportunities for collaborative teaching, research and professional development that contribute to globally relevant education and institutional excellence.

The University continued to broaden international learning opportunities for students through both inbound and outbound mobility programmes. During the reporting period, DUT welcomed a new cohort of international exchange students while expanding opportunities for outbound study through



partnerships with Fulda University of Applied Sciences, DHBW Ravensburg and the Erasmus+ KA171 Programme. These initiatives enabled undergraduate and postgraduate students to participate in semester exchanges, research placements and international academic experiences that strengthened intercultural competence, academic development and global citizenship. Student mobility was further enhanced through the UNESCO Global Skills Academy (GSA) and POCY Group Scholarship Programme, which enabled DUT students to undertake fully funded specialist training in China in disciplines including nursing, industrial robotics and e-commerce, preparing graduates for an increasingly interconnected and technology-driven world.

Staff mobility remained central to strengthening institutional partnerships and expanding opportunities for collaborative teaching and research. Academic engagements in India, Brazil and Germany enabled DUT staff to deepen relationships with existing international partners while establishing new opportunities for joint research, postgraduate supervision and academic exchange. Participation in international platforms, including the FAUBAI Conference and the DHBW International Partnership Week, further strengthened DUT's global engagement by expanding institutional networks and identifying new opportunities for collaboration across Europe, Latin America and Asia.

International mobility continued to be supported through the expansion of strategic institutional partnerships. During the reporting period, DUT advanced several new Erasmus+ KA171 inter-institutional agreements, creating additional opportunities for future staff and student exchange, collaborative research and academic cooperation. High-level engagements with partner universities in Germany, Türkiye and Finland further strengthened the University's international partnership portfolio while laying the foundation for future collaboration in teaching, research, innovation and postgraduate development.

Across the University, mobility programmes also contributed to developing globally competent graduates and internationally connected academics. EBE strengthened postgraduate development through research exchanges in Spain, doctoral opportunities linked to the Fulbright Programme, and collaboration with the University of Waterloo in Canada. These opportunities were complemented by innovation and research development initiatives coordinated through TTI, encouraging academics and students to translate international exposure into research excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship and community impact. Together, these initiatives continue to strengthen the University's capacity to prepare graduates and researchers who are able to contribute confidently within international academic, professional and innovation environments.

These mobility initiatives continue to strengthen DUT's position as a globally engaged University of Technology by creating meaningful opportunities for international learning, research collaboration and academic exchange. Through sustained investment in student and staff mobility, the University is developing graduates and scholars with the knowledge, skills and global perspectives required to contribute to research excellence, innovation and sustainable development within South Africa and beyond.

2.6.3 Global Research Initiatives and International Conferences

International engagement continued to strengthen DUT's global research profile during Quarter 2 of 2026 through participation in international conferences, strategic research networks and collaborative knowledge exchange platforms. These engagements provided opportunities to showcase the University's research strengths, strengthen international collaboration, and contribute to global discussions addressing sustainability, innovation and societal development.



Pan African Students Forum (PASF), during the 2026 Pan-African Students Summit.

The University actively participated in several high-profile international forums that strengthened research collaboration and institutional visibility. Participation in the FAUBAI 2026 Conference in Brazil enabled DUT to consolidate existing international partnerships while identifying new opportunities for collaborative teaching and research. As the lead institution within the African Partnerships Universities Alliance (APUA), DUT further reinforced its continental leadership by co-hosting the UJ-APUA Partnering Fair, creating opportunities for African universities to strengthen collaboration in Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies, artificial intelligence, research and innovation. The University also showcased its expertise in COIL during the Finland Spring Forum for Higher Education International Affairs, demonstrating innovative approaches to virtual internationalisation and collaborative teaching.

The University's contribution to international knowledge exchange continued to expand through active participation in global research dialogues and sustainability initiatives. Engagements including the SASUF Webinar on Indigenous Knowledge, Science and Sustainability and the UNITAFRICA Project Closing Conference strengthened opportunities for collaborative research, academic exchange and future international cooperation. These engagements continue to position DUT as an active contributor to international discussions addressing global and regional development challenges.

DUT further enhanced its international research reputation through participation in the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Congress provided an important platform for engagement with global higher

education leaders while facilitating the exchange of best practices in sustainability, research and institutional development. The release of the 2026 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, in which DUT recorded significant improvements across several Sustainable Development Goals, further reflects the University's growing international recognition for research excellence, sustainability and societal impact.

International scholarly engagement also continued to expand across the faculties. FAD strengthened its international research profile through scholarly presentations at international conferences in the fields of performance studies, design and decolonial practice, contributing to global academic discourse and creative scholarship. FHS further demonstrated international research leadership through its contribution to the AFREHealth Conference, with academic staff serving on the organising committee and participating in the peer review of conference abstracts. These contributions strengthen continental research collaboration, promote research quality and reinforce DUT's role in advancing health sciences and interdisciplinary scholarship across Africa.

Through sustained participation in international research initiatives and scholarly forums, DUT continues to strengthen its global academic presence and expand opportunities for collaborative knowledge creation. These engagements reinforce the University's commitment to research excellence, international partnership, innovation and sustainable development while positioning DUT as an active contributor to addressing regional and global challenges through scholarship and collaboration.



Professor Rendani Maladzhi, the National Research Foundation (NRF) South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair in Smart and Sustainable Manufacturing Technologies.





Young entrepreneurs supported by CSERI

2.7 INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

2.7.1 Innovation Hubs and Startup Incubators

Innovation and entrepreneurship continued to strengthen DUT's contribution to economic development, research translation and graduate employability during Quarter 2 of 2026. Through its innovation hubs, business incubators and strategic partnerships, the University continued to cultivate an enabling ecosystem that supports innovators, researchers and student entrepreneurs in transforming ideas into sustainable enterprises with societal and commercial value.

The University continued to strengthen innovation capacity through institutional programmes that promote entrepreneurship, commercialisation and industry collaboration. International partnerships supported this agenda through initiatives such as the GLOBUS Project, which continued to foster innovation in teaching and learning while expanding opportunities for international academic collaboration. Within EBE, entrepreneurship was further strengthened through technology development and startup incubation initiatives supported by the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and the National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative (NRF-SARCHI), enabling researchers and students to translate innovative technologies into commercially viable solutions. FAD and FHS also expanded entrepreneurial pathways by connecting students and graduates with business incubation, mentorship and commercialisation support through Innobiz, reinforcing the University's commitment to developing innovation-driven graduates.

Innovation continued to be translated into practical technologies and commercially relevant solutions across the University. The development of a patent-pending algal-based wastewater remediation technology demonstrated DUT's growing capacity to address environmental challenges through research-driven innovation, while the Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) Directorate expanded institutional support through the Alumni Innovation Fund (AIF) and the inaugural Academic Research Commercialisation (ARC) Fund. Together, these initiatives increased the University's active portfolio of innovators and research commercialisation projects, strengthening pathways for intellectual property development, technology transfer and sustainable enterprise creation.

Entrepreneurship development remained a central focus of the University's innovation ecosystem. CSERI strengthened enterprise development through its flagship incubation programme, inducting a diverse cohort of entrepreneurs into a structured business support programme that provides mentorship, compliance guidance, networking opportunities and strategic business development. This support was complemented by a series of capacity-building initiatives focusing on leadership development, design thinking, business validation, market positioning, investment readiness and innovation management, equipping entrepreneurs with the skills required to establish sustainable and competitive enterprises.

Student entrepreneurship continued to flourish through a wide range of innovation platforms that encouraged creativity, collaboration and enterprise development. Innobiz strengthened entrepreneurial capability through hackathons, funding readiness workshops, innovation bootcamps and mentorship programmes



2026 KMUTNB Leadership Camp: Technopreneur Skills for Global Innovators – Thailand.

that enabled students to refine business ideas and prepare for incubation. Student innovators also gained national recognition through exceptional performances at the KwaZulu-Natal Tech Horizons Hackathon, participation in entrepreneurship exhibitions and continued support for startups progressing towards commercialisation. Partnerships with organisations including SEDFA, USAf, Nedbank, Enactus and industry stakeholders further expanded opportunities for mentorship, investment readiness, networking and entrepreneurial growth, reinforcing the University's commitment to developing graduates who are equipped to create employment and contribute to South Africa's innovation economy.

Through its innovation hubs and startup incubators, DUT continues to strengthen an entrepreneurial ecosystem that enables research, innovation and creativity to generate sustainable economic and societal value. By supporting innovators from concept development through incubation and commercialisation, the University is expanding opportunities for enterprise creation, graduate employability and technology transfer while reinforcing its role as an innovation-driven University of Technology.

2.7.2 Entrepreneurship Programmes and Competitions

Entrepreneurship continued to play an important role in strengthening graduate employability, innovation and enterprise development during Quarter 2 of 2026. Through entrepreneurship development programmes, national and international competitions, incubation support and strategic industry partnerships, DUT provided students and emerging entrepreneurs with opportunities to develop innovative business ideas, strengthen entrepreneurial

capability and gain exposure to investment, mentorship and commercialisation opportunities.

The University continued to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity through structured development programmes that equipped aspiring entrepreneurs with practical business knowledge and innovation skills. CSERI expanded youth entrepreneurship through its Youth in Business Bootcamp, providing participants with intensive training in business ideation, market validation, financial literacy, funding readiness and business strategy. Complementing these initiatives, Innobiz and TTI continued to support innovation-driven entrepreneurship through business incubation, commercialisation support and research translation, enabling innovators to progress from concept development towards sustainable enterprise creation.

Student entrepreneurs continued to gain national and international recognition through participation in prestigious entrepreneurship competitions and innovation platforms. DUT students advanced to the semi-finals of the Global Innovation and Startup Competition for Urban Innovation (GISU) and achieved outstanding success at the Green Youth Indaba Green Innovators' Pitch Competition, where student-led enterprises addressing public transport innovation and sustainable agriculture received national recognition. The University's entrepreneurial talent was further showcased through participation in the EDHE Absa Entrepreneurship InterVarsity Competition, the Hult Prize South Africa SDG Olympiad, and the MTN Summer Action Challenge, providing students with valuable opportunities to benchmark their innovations, strengthen commercial readiness and engage with investors, industry leaders and entrepreneurship support organisations.



Entrepreneurship development also continued to be embedded within academic programmes across the University. FAD strengthened graduate employability by creating opportunities for students to engage directly with industry through professional competitions and auditions. FHS, FAS and Maritime Studies further integrated entrepreneurship into student development through participation in innovation competitions, enterprise development programmes and sustainability-focused challenges that encouraged students to apply disciplinary knowledge to real-world business opportunities. These initiatives enabled students to develop entrepreneurial thinking, innovation capability and practical business skills alongside their academic studies.

Market access and enterprise growth remained central to the University's entrepreneurship ecosystem. Student entrepreneurs expanded their commercial exposure through participation in exhibitions, industry engagement platforms and incubation programmes that connected emerging enterprises with customers, investors and strategic partners. Ongoing support through Innobiz, TTI, the Durban Textile and Leather Incubator, and industry-led innovation challenges continued to strengthen product development, market readiness, commercialisation and business sustainability, creating pathways for student ventures to grow beyond the University environment.

These entrepreneurship programmes and competitions demonstrate DUT's commitment to developing graduates who are equipped to create employment, drive innovation and contribute to inclusive economic growth. Through sustained investment in entrepreneurial development, incubation and commercialisation, the University continues to strengthen an innovation ecosystem that empowers students and researchers to transform ideas into sustainable enterprises with meaningful societal and economic impact.

2.7.3 Technological Advancements and Patents

Technological innovation continued to strengthen DUT's research and innovation agenda during Quarter 2 of 2026 through the development of new technologies, intellectual property generation and research commercialisation. By supporting innovations across the full technology development pipeline, the University continued to strengthen its capacity to translate research into commercially relevant products, processes and technologies that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.

The University continued to strengthen technology development by supporting researchers and postgraduate students as they progressed innovative concepts towards commercial application. Within FHS, two master's students from the Department of Somatology participated in the Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) programme, receiving structured support to develop their research concepts into functional prototypes. These initiatives demonstrate the University's commitment to nurturing innovation at postgraduate level while creating pathways for research translation, entrepreneurship and future commercialisation.

Institutional support for innovation was further strengthened through the University's structured technology commercialisation framework. During the reporting period, TTI continued to manage a diverse portfolio of innovations progressing through the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) framework, comprising 12 innovations at TRLs 1–3, nine at TRL 4, nine at TRL 5, five at TRL 6, five at TRL 7 and two at TRL 8. This balanced innovation pipeline demonstrates the University's sustained investment in advancing technologies from early-stage research and proof of concept through prototype development and commercial readiness, ensuring that promising research progresses towards practical application and market impact.

The University's intellectual property portfolio continued to expand through ongoing patent protection and commercialisation activities. Technologies progressing through the innovation pipeline were supported by appropriate intellectual property protection processes, including patents and other forms of registered intellectual property, ensuring that promising innovations are appropriately protected while creating opportunities for licensing, commercial partnerships and future enterprise development. These activities reinforce DUT's commitment to strengthening research commercialisation and maximizing the societal and economic value of its research outputs.

Through continued investment in technology development, intellectual property protection and research commercialisation, DUT is strengthening an innovation ecosystem that transforms research excellence into technologies capable of addressing real-world challenges. By supporting innovators from early-stage discovery through commercial readiness, the University continues to enhance its contribution to technological advancement, sustainable economic development and national innovation priorities.

“ Ongoing support through Innobiz, TTI, the Durban Textile and Leather Incubator, and industry-led innovation challenges continued to strengthen product development, market readiness, commercialisation and business sustainability, creating pathways for student ventures to grow beyond the University environment. ”



3. THIRD-STREAM INCOME

DUT continued to strengthen its third-stream income portfolio during Quarter 2 of 2026 through professional short courses, externally funded research, commissioned services, strategic industry partnerships and international collaborations. These initiatives diversified institutional revenue while strengthening research excellence, professional development, innovation, industry engagement and institutional sustainability. Together, they demonstrate the University's continued ability to leverage its academic expertise, research capability and strategic partnerships to generate value beyond traditional tuition income.

Table 1: Third-Stream Income and Research Funding Secured During Quarter 2, 2026

Funding / Income Source	Amount (R)	Purpose / Strategic Contribution
New Service Level Agreements (SLAs)	5,593,899	Professional development partnerships and future income generation
Short Course Income	3,153,765	Continuing professional education and skills development
Accounting and Informatics Bridging Course	2,100,000	Student access and academic development
ETDP SETA Artificial Intelligence Programme	1,400,000	Artificial Intelligence capacity development
Samsung Artificial Intelligence Programme	1,200,000	Industry-aligned professional development
NRF SARCHI Programme	4,150,000	Research excellence and postgraduate development
CSIR Research Grant	880,000	Applied research and innovation
Junior Research Fellowship	900,000	Research capacity development
Africa-Japan Collaborative Research (AJ-CORE)	680,000	International collaborative research
NRF Marine and Coastal Research Programme	650,000	Marine and coastal research
NRF Competitive Funding	645,000	Research capacity strengthening
NRF BRICS STI Programme	300,000	International collaborative research
Biotechnology Commissioned Testing and Research Services	186,070	Industry-linked research and technical services
Eskom TESP Programme	60,000	Skills development and training
NRF Decadal Plan Aligned Research Chairs	16,740,000	Research capacity, postgraduate development and specialised research infrastructure
TOTAL		37,438,734

Note: The table reflects third-stream income and research funding reported by faculties and units during Quarter 2 of 2026. Values represent income generated or funding secured during the reporting period and should not be interpreted as cumulative institutional third-stream income.

Professional development programmes continued to make a significant contribution to third-stream income generation through industry-responsive short courses and specialized training. The Short Course Unit expanded its external partnership portfolio through new service level agreements, while faculties strengthened continuing professional education in areas including artificial intelligence, healthcare, accounting and specialized technical disciplines. These initiatives not only generated institutional income but also responded to workforce development needs and strengthened lifelong learning opportunities for professionals across multiple sectors.

Competitive research funding continued to strengthen the University's research and innovation capacity. Funding secured through organisations including the National Research Foundation (NRF), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Africa-Japan Collaborative Research (AJ-CORE) Programme and other strategic funding initiatives supported postgraduate development, interdisciplinary research, international collaboration and innovation aligned with national development priorities. These investments enhance the University's ability to generate new knowledge, strengthen research capability and translate research into practical societal and economic benefits.



International partnerships further contributed to the University's funding pipeline through externally funded mobility programmes, collaborative research initiatives and competitive grant applications. Initiatives supported through programmes such as Erasmus+, UNIPID GLOBUS, SANORD, SASUF, the University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP) and the AfriExchange Erasmus+ proposal continue to expand opportunities for staff and student mobility, international research collaboration and institutional capacity development, while positioning DUT to secure additional external funding.

Industry engagement also remained an important contributor to third-stream income and institutional sustainability. Across the University, faculties strengthened partnerships through commissioned research, specialized technical services, Geographic

Information Systems (GIS) projects, maritime training initiatives and industry-focused professional development programmes. These collaborations demonstrate how the University's academic expertise and research capability continue to create value for industry while supporting innovation, knowledge transfer and socio-economic development.

These initiatives demonstrate DUT's continued success in diversifying its third-stream income through education, research, innovation and strategic partnerships. Beyond generating additional revenue, these investments strengthen institutional sustainability, expand research and innovation capacity, enhance student and staff development, and reinforce the University's contribution to economic growth and societal development.

“ Across the University, faculties strengthened partnerships through commissioned research, specialized technical services, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects, maritime training initiatives and industry-focused professional development programmes. These collaborations demonstrate how the University's academic expertise and research capability continue to create value for industry while supporting innovation, knowledge transfer and socio-economic development. ”





4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

Quarter 2 of 2026 marked a period of significant institutional progress as the Durban University of Technology continued to strengthen its contribution to research excellence, innovation, internationalisation, student development and community impact. Across the University, achievements reflected the successful implementation of ENVISION2030 through strategic partnerships, engaged scholarship, technology development and initiatives that continue to position DUT as a responsive and globally connected University of Technology.

The University continued to strengthen its research profile through several significant milestones that enhanced national and international recognition. A major institutional achievement was the successful implementation of eight NRF Decadal Plan Aligned Research Chairs, strengthening DUT's research leadership while securing approximately R16.74 million in competitive research funding. Research excellence was further recognized through international accolades awarded to DUT researchers, increased publication outputs across several faculties, and the continued growth of competitive research funding,

reinforcing the University's contribution to knowledge generation and innovation.

DUT also strengthened its international profile through expanded global partnerships, increased academic mobility and participation in internationally recognized higher education platforms. The University also significantly strengthened its international reputation by improving from the 1001–1500+ band to the 401–600 band in the 2026 THE Impact Rankings, reflecting the growing global recognition of DUT's contribution to sustainable development.



Engagements at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia, with Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Innovation and Engagement, Prof Fulufhelo Nemaqhola.



The improved performance in the 2026 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, participation in global research and sustainability forums, the expansion of international mobility opportunities and the continued development of collaborative research partnerships collectively enhanced the University's international visibility while creating new opportunities for teaching, research and knowledge exchange.

Innovation and entrepreneurship continued to emerge as key institutional strengths during the reporting period. Student entrepreneurs and incubated enterprises achieved national and international recognition through innovation competitions, entrepreneurship awards and business incubation programmes, while the University expanded support for technology commercialisation, startup development and research translation. Progress across the Technology Transfer and Innovation ecosystem, CSERI and Innobiz demonstrated the University's growing ability to transform research and student innovation into commercially and socially relevant enterprises that contribute to economic development and job creation.

Community engagement continued to generate meaningful social impact through initiatives that strengthened educational access, engaged scholarship and community partnerships. Milestones included the successful recruitment of the UNI4ALL student volunteer cohort, continued expansion of literacy and career guidance programmes, implementation of the Community Engagement Umbrella Ethics Framework and the Practice to Scholarship Programme, as well as sustained partnerships supporting science education, digital inclusion and youth development. These initiatives further strengthened the University's commitment

to reciprocal community engagement and the generation of measurable social impact through teaching, research and service.

The University also continued to invest in developing future-ready graduates through academic excellence, postgraduate development and experiential learning opportunities. Significant postgraduate achievements, student participation in international exchange programmes, professional recognition of graduates and success in national competitions demonstrate DUT's continued commitment to producing adaptive graduates equipped to contribute meaningfully within local, national and global contexts.

Institutional progress was further reflected in initiatives supporting sustainability, industry collaboration and third-stream income generation. Investments in renewable energy, technology innovation, commissioned research, professional development programmes and externally funded projects strengthened the University's financial sustainability while expanding opportunities for collaborative research, innovation and industry engagement. These achievements reinforce DUT's growing contribution to sustainable development and its ability to translate academic expertise into practical solutions that respond to societal and economic needs.

Collectively, these achievements demonstrate the University's continued progress in advancing the strategic priorities of ENVISION2030 through excellence in research, teaching and learning, innovation, internationalization, entrepreneurship and community engagement. More importantly, they reflect DUT's growing ability to translate knowledge into measurable societal impact through strategic partnerships, engaged scholarship and innovation that responds to national priorities and global challenges.



Delegates at the Entrepreneurship Round-table Session



5. IMPACT AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The activities undertaken during Quarter 2 of 2026 collectively strengthened DUT's contribution to research excellence, student success, innovation, internationalisation and sustainable community development. Through strategic partnerships, engaged scholarship and interdisciplinary collaboration, the University continued to translate its teaching, research and innovation into measurable benefits for students, industry, communities and society, demonstrating the practical implementation of the University's ENVISION2030 strategy.

The University's continued investment in research excellence strengthened its contribution to knowledge generation, postgraduate development and national research priorities. Competitive research funding, increased scholarly outputs, the expansion of international research collaborations and the appointment of additional National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs reinforced DUT's research capacity while creating new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation and research translation. These achievements further strengthened the University's national and international research profile and its ability to contribute evidence-based solutions to complex societal and environmental challenges.

International engagement continued to expand the University's global reach through strengthened partnerships, academic mobility and collaborative knowledge exchange. Participation in international research networks, global higher education forums and staff and student mobility programmes enhanced curriculum internationalisation, strengthened institutional partnerships and increased opportunities for collaborative teaching, research and innovation. These initiatives not only enhanced DUT's international reputation but also created sustainable pathways for future research funding, academic exchange and global collaboration.



DUT Student, Lulwazi Jali, secured a second place and R75 000 at the 11th Annual Green Youth Indaba Green Innovators Pitch competition.





Innovation and entrepreneurship continued to make a meaningful contribution to economic development by strengthening enterprise creation, research commercialisation and graduate employability. Through business incubation, technology transfer, innovation support and entrepreneurship development programmes, the University enabled students, researchers and entrepreneurs to develop commercially viable innovations, establish sustainable enterprises and create employment opportunities. These initiatives strengthened the University's contribution to South Africa's innovation ecosystem while demonstrating the value of translating research and creativity into practical economic and societal outcomes.

The University's commitment to community engagement continued to generate measurable social impact by expanding educational opportunity, strengthening community partnerships and supporting community-engaged scholarship. Initiatives promoting literacy, STEM education, career guidance, digital inclusion, health and wellbeing, and ethical community-engaged research contributed to improved educational access, strengthened institutional-community relationships and enhanced opportunities for student experiential learning. Through reciprocal partnerships with schools, communities, government, industry and civil society,

DUT continued to demonstrate the transformative role of higher education in addressing societal challenges and advancing sustainable development.

Institutional sustainability was further strengthened through the diversification of third-stream income, strategic industry collaboration and increased external funding. Professional development programmes, commissioned research, research grants and international funding opportunities expanded the University's resource base while strengthening research capability, innovation, professional education and long-term institutional resilience. These investments continue to create opportunities for future growth while enhancing the University's capacity to deliver high-quality teaching, research and community engagement.

Collectively, the contributions realized during Quarter 2 demonstrate DUT's growing ability to create value beyond the University through research excellence, innovation, international collaboration, entrepreneurship and community engagement. More importantly, they reflect an institution that is increasingly translating knowledge into measurable social, economic and environmental impact, while strengthening its contribution to national development priorities and the aspirations of ENVISION2030.



6. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Despite the significant achievements realised during Quarter 2 of 2026, several strategic challenges continue to influence the University's ability to expand its impact across research, teaching and learning, innovation, internationalisation and community engagement. At the same time, the reporting period highlighted important opportunities that position DUT to strengthen institutional performance through strategic investment, partnership development, digital transformation and enhanced organisational capacity. Table 3 summarises the key institutional challenges and corresponding opportunities emerging across the University during the reporting period.

Table 2: Key Institutional Challenges and Opportunities – Quarter 2, 2026

Strategic Area	Key Challenges	Emerging Opportunities
Research and Innovation	Growing demand for research commercialisation funding, technology maturation, specialist expertise and research infrastructure.	Expand technology commercialisation, strengthen industry collaboration, increase intellectual property generation, secure competitive research funding and accelerate research translation.
Internationalisation	System instability, organisational capacity constraints and inconsistent institutional processes affecting international engagement.	Expand global partnerships, Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), staff and student mobility, and Africa-centred research collaboration.
Teaching and Learning	Staff shortages, workload pressures, ageing infrastructure, limited teaching space and competing academic priorities.	Strengthen postgraduate development, curriculum innovation, digital learning and professional development programmes.
Industry Partnerships and Third-Stream Income	Limited resources to expand commissioned research, professional services and industry engagement.	Diversify revenue through short courses, commissioned research, professional services and strategic industry partnerships.
Digital Transformation and Institutional Systems	Network instability, fragmented systems and administrative inefficiencies affecting operational effectiveness.	Implement integrated digital management systems to strengthen governance, reporting, workflow automation and evidence-based decision-making.
Infrastructure and Institutional Capacity	Infrastructure constraints, laboratory limitations, delayed appointments and limited specialist capacity.	Strategic investment in infrastructure, laboratory development, permanent staffing and research facilities to support institutional growth.
Community Engagement and Social Impact	Growing demand for community programmes exceeds available financial, human and logistical resources, while limited ICT infrastructure and resources within partner communities constrain programme expansion.	Expand successful engagement programmes through strengthened partnerships with government, industry, civil society and communities, while embedding community-engaged scholarship, impact evaluation and knowledge dissemination to enhance measurable societal impact.

Most institutional challenges identified during Quarter 2 relate to organizational capacity rather than institutional ambition. Across academic and support portfolios, increasing demand for research, innovation, internationalisation, teaching and community engagement has outpaced available financial resources, staffing capacity, infrastructure and digital systems. Addressing these capacity constraints will be essential to sustaining institutional growth and maintaining the quality and impact of the University's programmes.

The reporting period also demonstrated significant opportunities to strengthen institutional performance through expanded strategic partnerships, competitive research funding, international collaboration, entrepreneurship and technology commercialisation. Continued



investment in these areas will enhance the University's ability to generate new knowledge, diversify income streams, strengthen graduate development and expand its contribution to national and international development priorities.

Digital transformation emerged as a recurring institutional priority across several portfolios. Planned improvements to institutional management systems, innovation platforms, international engagement processes and digital infrastructure provide opportunities to strengthen governance, improve operational efficiency and support evidence-informed decision-making. These developments will further enhance collaboration across research, teaching and learning, innovation, internationalisation and community engagement.

The challenges identified during Quarter 2 reflect the increasing scale, complexity and ambition of a University that continues to expand its research, innovation and societal impact. More importantly, the opportunities emerging across the institution provide a clear pathway for strengthening organizational capacity, deepening strategic partnerships and enhancing institutional sustainability. By addressing these priorities, DUT is well positioned to further advance the objectives of ENVISION2030 while reinforcing its contribution to research excellence, innovation, graduate success and meaningful societal development.





7. FUTURE OUTLOOK

Building on the progress achieved during Quarter 2 of 2026, DUT will continue to advance the strategic priorities of ENVISION2030 by strengthening research excellence, innovation, internationalisation, entrepreneurship and community engagement. The University's focus for the next reporting period will be on consolidating existing achievements while expanding strategic partnerships, increasing institutional capacity and accelerating the translation of research and innovation into measurable societal and economic impact.

Research excellence will remain a strategic priority as the University continues to expand competitive research funding, strengthen postgraduate development, increase high-impact research outputs and support interdisciplinary collaboration. Particular attention will be given to enhancing research commercialisation, accelerating technology development and strengthening partnerships with government, industry and international collaborators to increase research impact and institutional sustainability.

The University will continue to strengthen its international profile through the implementation of key internationalisation initiatives, including International Week 2026, expanded staff and student mobility, new Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) partnerships and strengthened collaboration through strategic international networks. Ongoing engagement with global partners will focus on converting existing partnerships into sustainable collaborative projects that enhance research, teaching and innovation while expanding opportunities for international funding and academic exchange.

Innovation and entrepreneurship will continue to receive focused institutional investment through the expansion of technology commercialisation, intellectual property development, business incubation and enterprise support programmes. Continued collaboration between TTI, CSERI, Innobiz and academic faculties will strengthen the University's innovation ecosystem by supporting researchers, students and entrepreneurs to develop commercially viable technologies, sustainable enterprises and innovative solutions that contribute to economic development and job creation.

Teaching, learning and community engagement will continue to be strengthened through the expansion of flagship programmes that improve educational access, student success and community development. The University will continue to advance engaged scholarship by strengthening partnerships with schools, communities, government, industry and civil society while embedding monitoring, evaluation and scholarly dissemination within community-engaged initiatives. These efforts will further enhance experiential learning, graduate development and the University's contribution to addressing societal challenges through collaborative knowledge creation.

Institutional sustainability will remain an important area of focus during the next reporting period. Continued investment in digital transformation, organizational capacity, infrastructure development, third-stream income generation and strategic partnerships will strengthen institutional resilience while improving operational efficiency and evidence-informed decision-making. These priorities will support the University's ability to respond effectively to emerging opportunities and maintain its trajectory of growth and innovation.

Looking ahead, DUT is well positioned to build on the momentum established during Quarter 2 by deepening strategic partnerships, strengthening research and innovation, expanding international engagement and enhancing community impact. Through sustained implementation of ENVISION2030, the University will continue to position itself as a globally engaged University of Technology that generates knowledge, develops adaptive graduates and creates meaningful social, economic and environmental value for South Africa and the broader global community.



The University will continue to strengthen its international profile through the implementation of key internationalisation initiatives, including International Week 2026, expanded staff and student mobility, new Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) partnerships and strengthened collaboration through strategic international networks.





8. CONCLUSION

Quarter 2 of 2026 reflects the Durban University of Technology's continued progress in advancing the strategic objectives of ENVISION2030 through research excellence, innovation, internationalisation, entrepreneurship, community engagement and institutional sustainability. The achievements reported during the period demonstrate the University's growing ability to integrate teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community engagement to generate measurable social, economic and environmental value through strategic partnerships and engaged scholarship.

The reporting period was characterized by significant institutional achievements that strengthened the University's national and international profile. These included the successful implementation of eight National Research Foundation (NRF) Decadal Plan Aligned Research Chairs for Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs), Universities of Technology (UoTs) and Emerging Universities, securing approximately R16.74 million in competitive research funding, improved performance in the 2026 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, increased competitive research funding, expanded international collaboration, continued growth in technology commercialisation and entrepreneurship, and strengthened community-engaged scholarship. Collectively, these achievements demonstrate the University's continued investment in research excellence, innovation and societal impact.

The report further illustrates the value of strategic partnerships in advancing the University's mission. Collaboration with government, industry, higher education institutions, civil society organisations and communities continued to strengthen research, student development, innovation, internationalisation and community engagement. These partnerships not only enhanced institutional capacity but also created opportunities for knowledge exchange, research translation, graduate development and sustainable socio-economic development.

Equally significant is the University's continued commitment to translating academic knowledge into practical solutions that respond to societal needs. Across its faculties, research institutes and strategic support units, DUT demonstrated how research, innovation, entrepreneurship and community engagement can

be integrated to improve educational opportunity, strengthen community wellbeing, support environmental sustainability, promote technological innovation and contribute to national development priorities. These initiatives reinforce the University's identity as an engaged University of Technology that creates value beyond the campus through reciprocal partnerships and evidence-informed practice.

While the report identifies several strategic challenges relating to organizational capacity, infrastructure, digital transformation and resource constraints, it also highlights significant opportunities to strengthen institutional performance through continued investment in research, innovation, internationalisation, entrepreneurship and community engagement. Building on the momentum established during Quarter 2, the University is well positioned to deepen strategic partnerships, expand research capacity, diversify funding opportunities and further enhance its contribution to sustainable development.

Overall, the achievements, impact and opportunities presented in this report demonstrate a University that continues to strengthen its national and international standing while remaining firmly committed to its core purpose of generating knowledge, developing adaptive graduates, fostering innovation and creating meaningful societal impact. Through the continued implementation of ENVISION2030, DUT is well positioned to build on these achievements and further consolidate its role as a globally engaged University of Technology that contributes to a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous society.



Overall, the achievements, impact and opportunities presented in this report demonstrate a University that continues to strengthen its national and international standing while remaining firmly committed to its core purpose of generating knowledge, developing adaptive graduates, fostering innovation and creating meaningful societal impact.



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