

Post Doctoral Research Fellowship

Research Group Workshop
15 to 16 August 2012
DUT, Steve Biko Campus

Prof F.A.O Otieno

Host of Post Doc Fellowship

DVC: Technology, Innovation and Partnerships at DUT



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UNIVERSITY of
TECHNOLOGY

Making Knowledge Useful



Background

- Host of Post Doctoral Fellowship
 - What does it mean?



Presentation outline

- Academic meetings relevant to students
- Supervisor-Student relationship
- Cluster research and responsible teamwork
- Networking
- Acknowledgements



Academic meetings relevant to students

- Informal meetings with peers, other researchers and your supervisors
- DRC and FRC meetings where student outputs are discussed for progress
- Meetings to discuss thesis results for graduation
- Experiences as a Supervisor
- [Experiences from the position of Dean (TUT) and DVC (DUT)]



Contd.

- DRC meetings
 - These should take place at least once a month and it helps to follow what issues are being discussed there that may affect student work



Contd.

- DRC meetings
 - Critical meetings are those that approve student proposal, discuss submission of thesis for examination, and approve outcome of that examination



Contd.

- DRC meetings
 - In some cases, where there are many and strong postgraduates in the departments, they could have their representative at the DRC
 - but when matters that they are conflicted with are discussed, they should recuse themselves



Contd.

- FRC meetings
 - Essentially similar to the DRC except that they are at the Faculty Level



Contd.

- Meetings to discuss thesis results for graduation
 - Essentially starts at the DRC, then FRC and finally at the Higher Degrees Committee (HDC)



Contd.

- Research plan should be drawn minding these meetings whose dates the student cannot change
- The Plan should have clearly identified achievable milestones



Contd.

- Thesis submission and **target date for graduation** should mind marking, correction and defense processes



Supervisor-Student relationship

- It's two-way traffic
- Effective communication is critical
- Supervisor as a mentor
- Supervisor as a counselor



Contd.

- Openness where challenges occur in order to support progress
- Do not run away from your supervisor even if you have not done what you should have done



Contd.

- Progress meetings with Supervisor
- These meetings should be regular and diarised well in advance to avoid clashes



Contd.

- Nobody knows everything, so its really sharing and being advised by your supervisors
- Where an e-mail just doesn't cut it
- It helps to maintain a good working relationship



Cluster research and responsible teamwork

- **Advantages**

- ✓ Shared resources (supervision expertise, collaboration, inputs and outputs, infrastructure)



Contd.

- **Responsible Team Work**

- ✓ Meeting deadlines for the **Cluster** and for the **Individual** researcher
- ✓ Feeding into the overall Cluster Outputs
- ✓ Achieving the Overall Goal



Contd.

- ✓ Post Doc Fellowship runs on set **deadlines** and committed outputs
- ✓ Wich may mean not meeting these if team members fail to meet their own **deadlines**



Contd.

- ✓ **Other postgraduate students need to also outline their expected outputs**
 - e.g. for masters, one Journal paper
 - for doctoral, two journal papers before graduation



Networking

- For academic achievements
 - Conferences as requirements for graduation
 - Journal papers as a requirement for graduation
- In order to fulfill Institutional/ departmental requests
 - E.g. WRC workshops, Writing for publication seminars, etc.



Contd.

- For personal and Professional growth
 - E.g. being a member and attending meetings for academic associations like WISA, SACI, SASM, ECSA



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THANK
YOU