



University of Zululand

Department of Physics and Engineering



Mission and Vision

To provide globally competitive Physics graduates relevant to the human capital needs of the country, providing quality education which upholds high standard of research and academic excellency

History

The Physics Department was established in 1960 along with four other departments that constituted the Faculty of Science. The late Prof Friedrich-Karl Peters became the first Head of Department from 1961 – 1967. The late Prof Muzi Ndwandwe became the first Black Head of Department from 2005 – 2014.

The initial focus was Solid State Physics but with the arrival of Prof Bouke Spoelstra in 1969, Nuclear Physics became the second focus. In 2003, UNIZULU and UWC Physics Departments in collaboration with iThemba LABS entered into an agreement to establish MANUS/MATSCI postgraduate programme. Which has produce more than 200 Honours, Masters and PhD students and is now recognized as one of the best programmes in the country.

Conferences and Workshops

- In 2013 the department hosted SAIP conference.
- 2019 we hosted TASTE Conference.
- Over years our staff members have participated and published in conference proceedings.

Publications

Department has published 33 peer-reviewed papers since 2017

Programmes

BSc(Dual Majors)

Physics is offered as part of the BSc Dual Major program offered by the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at UNIZULU.

Postgraduate

1. Honours (Physics)
2. Masters (Physics)
3. PhD (Physics)

Research Facilities

Sputter, Gas Sensing, SEM, Pressure Reactor, HCP Electronic Lab, Positron Lab, Nuclear Physics Lab



Contact Details

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Staff Profile

All lecturing staff have PhD as the highest qualification. Most Lab staff have MSc as their highest qualification.

Community Engagement

The department participate in school outreach program and open days. We collaborate with the science centre to assist matric learners. SAIP national science week is another activity that promotes physics in schools.



Collaborations

- **MANUS/MATSCI**- A postgraduate training collaboration with UWC.
- **SA-CERN -UNIZULU** is an Associate member of the south African Institutions
- **SA-Sweden** research collaboration between UNIZULU and LUT
- **SA-Italy** research collaboration
- **iThemba LABS and CSIR**
- **TRUIIMP** - Canada
- **York University** - United Kingdom
- **Aalto University** - Helsinki, Finland