

VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu in partnership with the W&RSETA, invites applications for the position of **Wholesale and Retail Research Leadership Chair: Eastern Cape**.

The **iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu** in partnership with the **Wholesale and Retail SETA (W&RSETA)**, invites applications for the position of **Wholesale and Retail Research Leadership Chair: Eastern Cape**.

This position is aligned to the W&RSETA Research Leadership Chair Model, which seeks to strengthen research capacity, foster collaboration across the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system, and drive sector-relevant research that responds to the Wholesale and Retail Sector Skills Plan (SSP) priorities.

Nature of Appointment

This is a secondment-based appointment. The successful candidate must be a full-time employee of iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu, and the University is required submit a minimum of two CVs for consideration and recommendations by the W&RSETA.

Purpose of the Research Leadership Chair

The Research Leadership Chair will provide strategic and academic leadership in advancing a specialised research agenda within the wholesale and retail sector, with a strong focus on:

- Entrepreneurship;
- Rural and township business transformation;
- Sector skills development and labour market responsiveness.

The Chair will play a central role in building a sustainable research ecosystem that contributes to regional development in the Eastern Cape, while addressing national socio-economic priorities.

Key Responsibilities

The appointed Chair will be responsible for:

- Leading and implementing a programme-based research agenda aligned to SSP priorities, with a focus on entrepreneurship and rural and township economies;
- Facilitating collaboration between iYunivesithi Walter Sisulu, TVET colleges, CET colleges, and industry stakeholders within the Eastern Cape;
- Driving research that supports;
 - Development and sustainability of SMMEs and cooperatives
 - Growth of township and rural retail economies
 - Youth employment and entrepreneurial pathways
 - Inclusive economic participation and community development
- Building and leading a multidisciplinary research team, including postdoctoral fellows and emerging researchers;
- Supervising postgraduate students (Master's and Doctoral levels) and supporting research capacity development;
- Supporting curriculum development informed by research and industry needs;
- Establishing and maintaining strategic partnerships with industry, government, and community stakeholders;
- Facilitating research dissemination through publications, conferences, and knowledge-sharing platforms;
- Supporting the development of a learner tracking system and sector research database;
- Promoting international research collaboration and exchange programmes;
- Mobilising additional funding to ensure sustainability beyond SETA funding.

Minimum Requirements

- A relevant doctoral qualification;
- A strong research track record, including publications in accredited journals;
- Experience in leading research programmes and managing research teams;
- Demonstrated ability to supervise postgraduate students;
- Experience in stakeholder engagement and partnership development;
- Proven experience or strong understanding of entrepreneurship and rural/township economic development;
- Proven ability to attract research funding will be advantageous;
- Strong leadership, organisational, and communication skills.

Applications

- A comprehensive CV;
- Full contact details of at least three traceable referees;
- A certified copy of the highest academic qualification.

Applicants who meet the minimum requirements for this role should apply by forwarding their CVs for attention to **Itebogeng Masibigiri** at Leadershipchair@wrseta.org.za. The closing date for applications is **15 May 2026** at **17:00**.

Enquiries

For further information, please contact: **Thabang Motsoeneng**, Senior Specialist: Research and Innovation on TMotsoeneng@wrseta.org.za