

SENIOR RESEARCHER/SENIOR LECTURER (Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Business Transformation)

WITS MIND INVESTEC CHAIR IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

WITS BUSINESS SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

JOB TITLE

Senior Researcher/Senior Lecturer: Wits MIND–Investec Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Business Transformation

LOCATION

Braamfontein, Johannesburg

ORGANISATION

Wits Business School / Wits MIND Institute

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Wits MIND Investec Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Business Transformation is a strategic research and engagement initiative located at Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand. The Chair advances research, teaching, executive education, public dialogue, and industry collaboration on the responsible integration of artificial intelligence into business and society, with a particular focus on sustainable transformation in African and emerging-market contexts.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Chair seeks to appoint an outstanding, research-active and institutionally minded Senior Researcher/Senior Lecturer to play a leading role in establishing one of Africa's emerging centres of excellence in artificial intelligence, business transformation, and sustainable development.

Working closely with the Founding Academic Lead, the successful candidate will contribute to the Chair's research programme, postgraduate talent development, executive education, industry partnerships, and thought leadership activities. This appointment offers an exceptional opportunity to help shape the strategic direction of the Chair while developing an internationally recognised research profile within a dynamic and interdisciplinary academic environment.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE:

RESEARCH

- Lead and contribute to high-quality interdisciplinary research.
- Publish in internationally recognised journals.
- Develop competitive research proposals.

TEACHING

- Teach postgraduate courses.
- Support executive education.
- Supervise postgraduate students.

ENGAGEMENT

- Develop industry partnerships.
- Organise conferences and seminars.
- Produce policy briefs.

CHAIR DEVELOPMENT

- Support reporting.
- Build collaborations.
- Mentor junior researchers.

The successful candidate will also be expected to develop their own research profile and contribute actively to the intellectual life of Wits Business School, Wits MIND, and the broader University.

SELECTION CRITERIA

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE:

- A PhD in artificial intelligence, digital business, information systems, informatics, information technology, computer science, management, economics, public policy, sustainability, data science, innovation studies, or a related field.
- Demonstrated expertise in one or more areas aligned to the Chair's research themes, including artificial intelligence, digital transformation, AI governance, responsible innovation, or digital business.
- Demonstrated publication record in internationally recognised peer-reviewed journals.
- Demonstrated ability, or clear potential, to contribute to externally funded research projects.
- Experience in producing academic, policy, or applied research outputs.
- Ability to translate research into practical insights for business, policy, and society.
- Experience in postgraduate teaching and supervision within a university environment.
- Strong project management, writing, editing, and research coordination skills.
- Ability to work with academic, industry, government, and civil society stakeholders.
- Experience working in interdisciplinary research teams and collaborative institutional environments.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The appointment will be made by the University of the Witwatersrand. The position is broadly equivalent to a university Senior Lecturer-level appointment, subject to Wits policies and appointment criteria.

The successful candidate will be based in Johannesburg and will play a central role in establishing and growing the Chair's research programme, postgraduate pipeline, executive education portfolio, partnership network, and public engagement activities.

This appointment offers an exceptional opportunity to shape one of Africa's emerging interdisciplinary AI research initiatives while developing an internationally recognised research profile.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Closing date: 7th August 2026

Applicants are invited to apply by registering their profile on the Wits i-Recruitment platform at <https://irec.wits.ac.za> and submitting their application through the portal.

Applications must include the following:

1. Full curriculum vitae, including a complete publication list.
2. Two academic referees
3. Certified copies of academic qualifications
4. Teaching portfolio (if applicable)
5. Contact details of three referees (rather than two) for a senior appointment

For further enquiries please contact Professor Rennie Naidoo on (Rennie.Naidoo@wits.ac.za).

The University is committed to employment equity. Preference may be given to appointable applicants from the underrepresented designated groups in terms of the relevant employment equity plans and policies of the University. The University retains the right not to make an appointment and to verify all information provided by candidates. Please note that correspondence will only be entered into with shortlisted candidates