



# ANNUAL SANRC FYE CONFERENCE

19-21 MAY 2021

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Understanding the First-Year Experience and the COVID-19 Pandemic  
amidst a Changed Higher Education Landscape

# Understanding the First-Year Experience and the COVID-19 Pandemic amidst a Changed Higher Education Landscape

Of the many academic responses regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the higher education sector, only a few have focused critically and thoughtfully on the impact of this pandemic on the first-year student population.

Toward this end, the annual SANRC FYE Conference is about unpacking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on first-year students, discussing both challenges and opportunities of the pandemic and reflecting on the future of the changed higher education landscape for first-year students.

## Many pressing questions will be addressed during the conference:

- ❖ How has online learning worked for first-year students, in the context of their earliest and most formative introduction to academic learning?
- ❖ What are the medium and long-term implications of the rapid shift to online learning?
- ❖ How can universities' provision of support services be described, and what more can be done to further support first-year students?
- ❖ How do universities ensure that targeted support reaches the most vulnerable groups of students, such as those without resources, those who may have learning challenges and/or disabilities, and those who rely on their institutions for accommodation, food, and a sense of community?
- ❖ What are likely to be the long-term impacts of the pandemic on institutional capacity to support first-year students?
- ❖ Most importantly, how do we work to sustain the core values of the First-Year Experience during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**We will be actively searching for solutions and strategies to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students. This means addressing the question of how to strategically manage the pandemic in the best interests of all students and making sure that our efforts are focused on keeping students engaged, connected and fully supported in their studies.**

**You are invited to submit abstracts for consideration to the SANRC in line with the following sub-themes:**

---

- ❖ Transformation Through Technology
- ❖ Understanding Good FYE Practice
- ❖ Effective Support Systems for First-Year Students
- ❖ Critical Perspectives on the FYE from Students
- ❖ FYE in the Classroom: Developing Teaching Skills for First-Year Students
- ❖ Advancing FYE Theory

**We accept abstract submissions in the following formats:**

---

- ❖ Full Critical Academic Papers (40-45 mins)
- ❖ Reflective Practitioner Papers (40-45 mins)
- ❖ Student Papers: Research Done by Students (40-45 mins)
- ❖ Work-in-Progress Reports or Proposals for Future Research (40-45 mins)
- ❖ Facilitated Dialogue Sessions (60 mins)

---

**Criteria for submission**

All submissions should link to the overall conference theme as well as sub-themes. Abstracts will be subject to a blind peer review process. Abstracts should be double-spaced written in Arial Font, size 11. Abstracts should also be limited to 250-300 words.

---

**Submission process**

Please submit your proposals in a Word format to both [celinem@uj.ac.za](mailto:celinem@uj.ac.za) and [anyar@uj.ac.za](mailto:anyar@uj.ac.za) by latest 26 March 2021.

---

**Registration**

We will notify you when registration opens on the SANRC website from early 2021.

---

**Costs**

Full Conference Registration	R 3 300.00
Registration for NGOs	R 3000.00

*Thank you!*