

National Science Week 2023

Transforming lives through the evidence-based science

The Road to Mthatha 2023

The Faculty of Science will be hosting the National Science Week 2023 (NSW 2023) under the theme: *Transforming lives through the evidence-based science*, and sub-theme: *The role of scientific communication in a post-truth era*.

This year Nelson Mandela University's Faculty of Science will be participating in NSW 2023 by hosting events in Gqeberha, Mthatha (Eastern Cape), as well as in George (Southern Cape).

National Science Week (NSW) is an annual event aiming to exhibit and communicate awareness in science. It is an initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), a countrywide celebration of science connecting various stakeholders and role players conducting science-based activities during the week, an annual celebration of the role and value of science and technology in people's daily lives.

The NSW was established in 2000 and has developed over years towards national coverage. The countrywide celebration of science is coordinated by NRF/SAASTA and takes place at various sites, in all 9 provinces.

As part of the National Science Week programme, Nelson Mandela University will be kickstarting the pre-launch activities of NSW2023 on Tuesday, 18 July with a symposium under the theme, *The role of scientific communication in a post-truth era*. The pre-NSW2023 science activities will continue until Friday, 28 July. This will be followed by a focus week of activities which will run from Monday, 31 July – 4 August.



The Faculty of Science will be travelling to Mthatha on the 30th of July to present NSW2023 science activities for two days ,31 July-01 August.

Table 1: NSW2023 Programme Outline

DATE	ACTIVITIES
18 July	Symposium: <i>The role of scientific communication in a post-truth era.</i>
19 -28 July	Pre-NSW2023 science activities in Gqeberha and George campuses.
29 July	Mandela delegation to participate at the National launch by DSI Minister (science demonstrations, Computer coding, and career guidance, and student recruitment).
30 July	Travelling to Mthatha to set up for NSW2023 2-days science festival.
31 July – 1 August	Science activities at St John’s College, Mthatha: science exhibitions, role modelling & motivational talks, career guidance & student recruitment, fun game, computer coding, university application guidance, public lectures, and teachers workshops.
2 – 4 August	NSW2023 science activities continue in Gqeberha, and George.

The objectives of celebrating the NSW2023 under the aforementioned theme are to:

- a) to popularize science to the broader South African society,



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- b) to serve as a vehicle for showcasing local innovations in science and technology, and the leadership role of the DSI and other government departments in enabling research, development and innovation,
- c) to make STEMI appealing to learners, such that they consider science, engineering and technology (SET) as preferable career options, and
- d) to familiarize targeted participants with the science linked to areas in which South Africa has knowledge and/or geographic advantage so as to contribute in making them informed and critically engaged citizens.

The Nelson Mandela University NSW2023 will include activities such as scientific exhibitions, demonstrations, lab tours, career guidance, university application guidance and student recruitment, role modelling/motivational talks, computer coding, public lectures, and webinars on various topics related to the theme of IYBSSD such as energy security, food security and water security.

The NSW2023 is a mass participation initiative within the Faculty of Science Engagement Strategy:

- To popularise science, engineering, technology and innovation as attractive, relevant, and accessible to enhance scientific literacy and awaken interest in relevant careers,
- To attract and retain students in STEMI disciplines along the full length of the educational pipeline,
- To develop a critical public that actively engages and participate in the national discourse of science and technology to the benefit of society,
- To inform, engage and inspire the public by sharing the faculty's mission, research, challenges and results,
- To promote science communication that will enhance science engagement in South Africa,
- To profile the Faculty of Science, its science and science achievements nationally and internationally, demonstrating our contribution to national development and global science, thereby enhancing our academic and public standing,



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- To engage the public in the faculty's science activities by providing new pathways for participation.

Keeping up with the practice of recognizing the United Nations (UN) international observances, the NSW2023 will incorporate activities to celebrate the UN's International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development 2022/2023.

You are hereby invited to take part in the Mandela University NSW2023 science festivities by submitting your activity form that includes description of activities, date(s) and time(s), targeted audience and expected numbers by **Monday, 5 June 2023 before 16h00**. Submitting by due date will ensure publication of your activities nationally and internationally.

For more information on NSW2023 email: science.marketing@mandela.ac.za phone: 041 481 4853 or visit our faculty website: Mandela Uni Faculty of Science and follow us on social media:

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