

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Masterclass (13-15 June 2022) and Winter School (8-12 August 2022) for Southern Africa

Achieving water, energy and food (WEF) security is a priority for southern Africa, especially under unfavourable climate change, increasing urbanisation, population growth, and advanced ecosystems degradation. Achieving WEF securities will require a collaborative and inclusive approach, which considers the interconnections and interdependencies between the three sectors. Since 2011, when the WEF nexus first came to prominence, various southern African actors have been championing it at various levels. There has been

progress in building a shared understanding of the WEF nexus concept, using it to facilitate discourse through various dialogues, and recently developing frameworks and analytical models/tools.

The WEF Nexus Masterclass and Winter School are capacity-building initiatives to support early career researchers, postgraduate students, managers, and practitioners in understanding nexus thinking, particularly the WEF nexus, as a transformative approach to sustainable natural resources management and socio-economic development. As the field of nexus research is relatively recent, participants will be exposed to this rapidly developing and critically important way of thinking. Participants will improve their knowledge of the WEF nexus and get acquainted with the concepts, how to facilitate discourse and new frameworks, tools and methods for analysing the WEF nexus. The online WEF Nexus Masterclass is a feeder and preparation for the face to face WinterSchool.

What to expect:

WEF Nexus Masterclass

The Masterclass is designed as a 3-day online introductory course to the WEF Nexus. The objective of the WEF Nexus Masterclass is to provide an introduction and foundation to the WEF nexus concept, analytical tools and their application in facilitating discourse, with a focus to introduce participants to systems thinking and some of the approaches that underpin the WEF nexus and serves as a foundational course and prerequisite for the in-person Winter School.

WEF Nexus Winter School

The objective of the WEF Nexus Winter School is to build on the understanding of the WEF nexus (from the Masterclass) to improve evidence-based decision-making capacities of early career researchers (< 5 years post PhD), postgraduates (Master and PhD), managers and practitioners towards (i) achieving simultaneous WEF securities, (ii) sustainable natural resources management, (iii) socio-economic developments, (iv) understanding WEF trade-offs and synergies, (v) innovating through the WEF nexus for job and wealth creation, and (v) linking science to informing policy and decision-making in their respective countries. Particular emphasis is set on developing transdisciplinary professional competencies to prepare participants to address complex grand challenges through transformative approaches.

Therefore, the winter school will focus on:

- Improving the ability to conceptualise the WEF Nexus linkages and potential impact on resource management and regional policies;
- Strengthening skills and knowledge about tools and methods for WEF Nexus assessments, planning, monitoring and evaluation; and
- Networking and mentoring, i.e., improving international communication between practitioners, postgraduates, early career researchers, senior researchers, and experts to build and consolidate a WEF network in southern Africa.

Upon completion of the winter school, participants will be issued a Certificate of Attendance.

Who should apply?

Early career researchers, postgraduates, managers, practitioners (NGOs, Government, River Basin Organisations), and stakeholders conducting research and development related to the WEF nexus and related fields such as agriculture, forestry, water, energy, engineering, climate change, ecosystems, and environment. Applicants must demonstrate an advanced (C1) English level (please, see the application form).

Where

The WEF Nexus Masterclass will be delivered online from 13-15 June 2022.

The WEF Nexus Winter School will be held at Future Africa, University of Pretoria, Hillcrest Campus, Pretoria South Africa

<https://www.futureafrica.science/index.php/campus/conference-facilities> from 8 to 12 August 2022. There is no opportunity for online participation. The venue has accommodation facilities <https://www.futureafrica.science/index.php/campus/accommodation> and you are encouraged to book your accommodation on time (check-in 7 August & check out 13 August 2022).

The winter school organisers will closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic situation and timeously communicate any changes via email and the website: <https://wef-tools.un-ihe.org/news>.



Program Cost:

There is no fee associated with participation in the online WEF Nexus Masterclass. However, a fee is associated with the in-person WEF Nexus Winter School. The program fee is USD1000 per participant. The fee includes registration, lunch and teas during the Winter School and the field trip. Participants are responsible for their accommodation, flights, airport transfers and meals outside the Winter School hours. A limited number of full and partial sponsorships are available to financially needy candidates from SADC countries who meet the criteria to participate in the WEF Nexus Winter School (see application form for details).

To Apply

Visit this [link](#) to download the application form and learn more about the WEF Nexus Masterclass and Winter School for Southern Africa. Submit your applications to waternet@waternetonline.org with the subject WEF Nexus Masterclass and Winter School. When applying, participants should indicate whether they wish to be considered for the Masterclass and Winter School or to participate in either. **Applicants should participate in the Masterclass to be accepted for the Winter School. This can be waived if participants previously attended the Masterclass in 2021.** You may also use that email for enquiries.

Kindly note that the University of KwaZulu-Natal (“the University”) is required to process any Personal Information (as defined by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 “POPIA”) submitted by candidates when applying for positions at the University. The provision of Personal Information is a requirement in terms of the University's recruitment and selection process. The retention of any personal information is a consequence of the University being bound by legislative requirements and / or good governance practices and record-keeping for statistical purposes. The University will endeavour to ensure that the appropriate security measures are in place and implemented for electronic and paper-based formats used to process the personal information recorded through this recruitment and selection process.

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS
30 APRIL 2022**

(Late and incomplete applications will not be considered)

