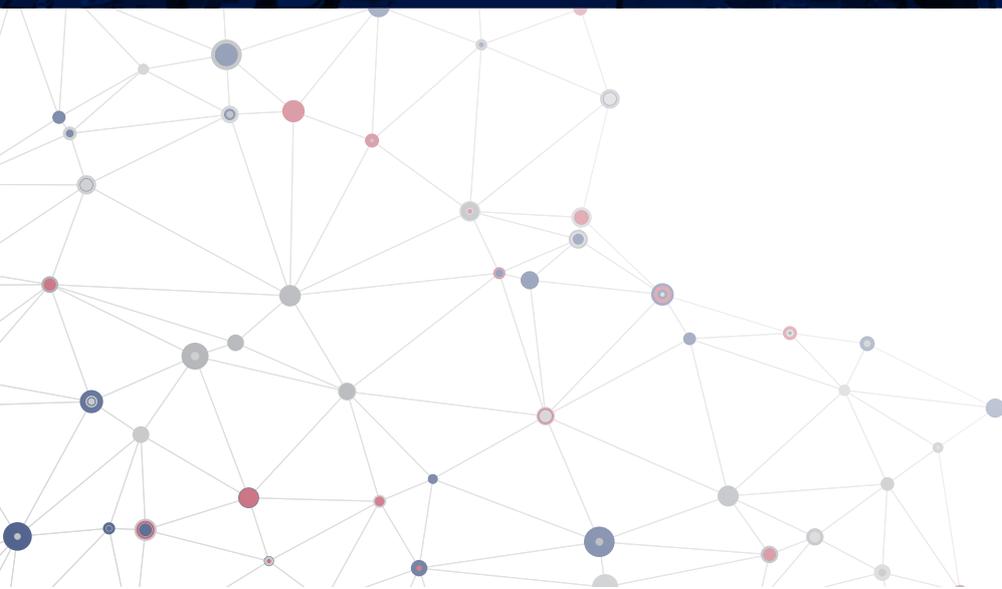




# URBAN AND REGIONAL ECONOMICS IN AFRICA



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CHAIR IN  
CITY-REGION  
ECONOMIES

VISION **130**  
Renew and Reimagine  
for 2034

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MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

## PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME

This Short Learning Programme aims to equip participants with the knowledge, awareness, and practical skills to analyse and engage with African urban economies for sustainable and inclusive development. It explores the economic forces shaping urbanisation across the continent and provides the conceptual, analytical, and methodological tools needed to understand and influence Africa's urban future.

Participants will gain fresh insights into the continent's urban transition – including the role of informality – and will be introduced to innovative research methods and data techniques such as big data, artificial intelligence, satellite imagery, and official statistics.

## PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of urbanisation processes and their diverse socio-economic outcomes across African cities.
- Analyse and evaluate the complex relationship between urbanisation, informality and economic development within the African context.
- Critically engage with and apply contemporary urban economic theories and scholarly debates to the analysis of African city economies.
- Understand appropriate research methodologies to investigate key economic development challenges and opportunities in African cities, including industrialisation, employment, poverty reduction, housing, land use, transport, municipal finance, and infrastructure.
- Critically assess and compare existing policy approaches to urban economic governance across African cities and develop evidence-based recommendations to enhance policy effectiveness.
- Evaluate emerging methods and technologies to the analysis and interpretation of urban economic data in African contexts.
- Demonstrate advanced problem-solving capabilities, independent critical thinking, and the ability to work collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams.
- Communicate complex urban economic concepts and findings effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences, using appropriate academic and professional formats.

## THIS PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED FOR

**Policymakers and government officials** at national, provincial, and local levels involved in urban planning, economic development, housing, infrastructure, transport, and finance.

Professionals and practitioners from the **private sector, civil society, and donor organisations** working on urbanisation in Africa.

**Academics, students, and researchers** focusing on African cities and related urban studies.



### Price: R 26 000 per participant

Includes learning material



### Mode of delivery: Online

Complemented by Virtual Classroom Sessions



### Duration: 18 weeks

May vary slightly depending on scheduling and public holidays



### Start date

14 April 2026

Schedule available on request



### Applications closes

20 March 2026



### Full payment due

27 March 2026

*Subject to a minimum number registrations received*

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

### **Urbanisation and Economic Development in Africa**

- Historical perspectives on urbanisation in the Global North and South
- Africa's unique urbanisation and development experience
- Policy approaches to support sustainable urban growth

### **Data and Methodologies**

- Using urban data for economic development
- AI, big data, and innovative analytical tools
- Co-production and citizen engagement

### **Agglomeration Economies in Africa**

- Theories of agglomeration and industrial clustering
- Industrialisation and structural transformation
- Economic growth strategies for African cities

### **Urban Labour Markets, Migration and Skills**

- Cities as integrated labour markets
- Migration, skills, and social mobility
- Entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology

### **Housing and Economic Development**

- Land and property development dynamics
- Housing and the urban premium
- Rethinking housing policy and practice

### **Transport and Urban Mobility**

- Urban integration, transport, and mobility
- Coordinating land-use and transport planning
- Urban connectivity and freight logistics

### **Public Finance and Infrastructure Provision**

- Financing urban infrastructure and services
- Municipal finance and property taxation
- Land-based financing and value capture

### **Urban Public Services**

- Urban water, sanitation, and energy supply
- Solid waste management and recycling



### Professors

Lochner Marais  
Abraham R Matamanda  
Genius Murwirapachena  
Andreas Scheba  
Ivan Turok  
Justin Visagie



### Assessment Strategy

The programme includes eight assessments – four formative and four summative – consisting of:

- 2 practical exercises
- 2 reading summaries
- 2 verbal presentations
- 2 written tests



### Admission requirements

A relevant Bachelor's degree in Economics, Urban Planning, Geography, Development Studies, Data Science, etc OR 5 years of professional experience in the relevant industry



### Endorsement

- After the successful completion of the programme, a participant will receive a certificate issued and endorsed by the UFS
- Academic level: 7
- Learning hours: 66 hours



### Enquiries

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[www.ufs.ac.za/execedu](http://www.ufs.ac.za/execedu)

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