

RESEARCH, INNOVATION
AND ENGAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



**Tshwane University
of Technology**

We empower people

#fromGood2Great



**Entrepreneuring
the Future Together**

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FOREWORD BY VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL

At Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), our vision as *a people's university that makes knowledge work* continues to guide our strategic direction. This vision calls us to embed engaged scholarship at the heart of the institution, ensuring that teaching, learning, research and community engagement are closely connected to the needs, realities and aspirations of society. The Research, Innovation and Engagement (RI&E) portfolio is central to advancing this mandate.

Through research excellence, innovation and purposeful partnerships, TUT contributes to national development priorities while strengthening its global relevance. Our approach is underpinned by inclusive and enabling stewardship, aligned with frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and South Africa's White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation.

The achievements reflected in this report demonstrate the dedication and resilience of our academic community. Growth in research outputs and per capita productivity underscores a strengthening research culture and TUT's role in knowledge generation across disciplines, including scientific, technological and creative domains.

Beyond performance indicators, our ambition is to ensure that research produces meaningful solutions that benefit communities, industry and the broader economy. We remain committed to developing futureready graduates, innovators, critical thinkers and socially conscious leaders who are equipped to shape a rapidly evolving world of work.

Through initiatives that recognise excellence and strengthen institutional support for researchers, TUT continues to foster collaboration, innovation and sustained research leadership. I extend sincere appreciation to our staff, students, partners and funders whose collective efforts enable the University to advance its research, innovation and engagement mission.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on consolidating TUT's position as a leading university of technology that delivers impactful research, drives innovation and contributes to societal transformation.



**Professor Tinyiko
Maluleke**

ViceChancellor and Principal

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE

The year 2025 represented an important milestone in advancing TUT's Research, Innovation and Engagement mandate, building on the strong momentum achieved in 2024. The portfolio was deliberately positioned to ensure that the University not only produces future-ready graduates but also generates research and innovation outputs that respond directly to societal challenges while advancing national and global development priorities.

TUT delivered a strong research performance with an increase in research publications outputs, improved per capita and increased creative research outputs awarded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). The University ranked 6th nationally in terms of creative research output units awarded by DHET; and hosted 16 Research Chairs, comprising seven (7) SARCHs funded through the DSTI-NRF, eight (8) Industry- SETA-supported and one (1) UNESCO. The University also supported research in three (3) research development platforms and seven (7) niche areas aligned to SDGs

The University further recorded an increase in NRF-rated researchers, enhancing research excellence and national competitiveness. A growth in external research funding, reinforcing research excellence and financial sustainability. Staff development initiatives resulted in an increase in academic staff holding doctoral qualifications. Postdoctoral capacity increased significantly by 37% from 155 in 2024 to 212 in 2025. Nineteen (19) interns were also hosted, supporting skills development and strengthening the institutional research and innovation pipeline. Total postgraduate enrolments stood at 2 634 students (1 890 master's and 744 doctoral) with a total of 427 postgraduate graduations (329 master's and 98 doctoral) recorded.

A total of seven (7) invention disclosures were received, resulting in two (2) provisional patents filed. Five (5) designs were registered, and six (6) patent applications were granted, reflecting progress across the commercialisation pipeline. Total of 64 creative research outputs submitted for recognition. The institutional innovation excellence was affirmed through national recognition, with the University winning two prestigious awards, namely the EDHE-ABSA Innovator of the Year 2025 and the Woman Innovator of the Year 2025.

The University strengthened its international partnerships and research capacity through key achievements, including participation in Erasmus+ Capacity Building initiatives and the award of the AfricanGerman Just Energy Transition Centre

Grant for the 2026 -- 2030 period. Faculty-level research excellence was further reinforced, with the Faculty of Science securing funding for the MASSTER Project, the Faculty of ICT awarded support for the ProCyD Cyber Security Project, and the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment continuing collaborative research under the UKRI/EPSCRC framework. These efforts contributed to sustained research visibility, which led to the University ranking 11th nationally in the SCImago Institutions Rankings.

The digital transformation of library services advanced through the integration of artificial intelligence and robotics, alongside the implementation of RFID tagging to enhance collection management and user experience. Digital scholarship outputs continued to grow, with 7 565 items added to the institutional repository (TUTDoR) and 171 scholarly articles approved for Open Access publishing. Access to research content strengthened through the implementation of advanced discovery tools, including LibKey and BrowZine, improving visibility, accessibility and usage of scholarly resources.



Dr Vathiswa Papu-Zamxaka

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research,
Innovation and Engagement



RESEARCH SUPPORT



1. RESEARCH SUPPORT

Research Outputs

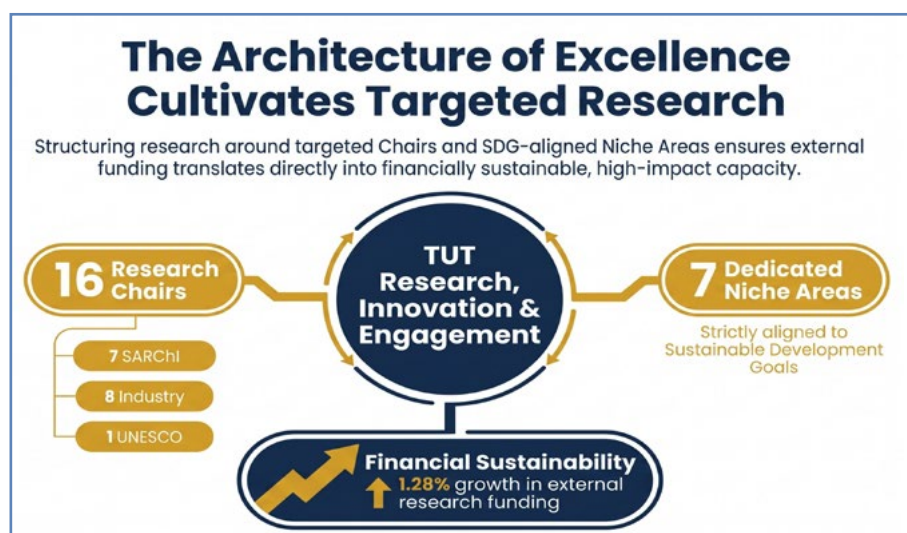
The Tshwane University of Technology continues to demonstrate strong returns on investment in research capacity while advancing its global research competitiveness. In alignment with DHET requirements for publications-based subsidy allocation, the University exceeded the 2024 DHET performance target of 428 units, achieving an impressive 601 DHET-accredited publication units in 2024. This performance reflects both increased research activity and improved efficiency, with per capita output rising from 0.54 in 2023 to 0.72 in 2024, though not so close to the national average of 1.24, but it is a notable 33.3% improvement.



Figure 1: Research outputs units awarded to TUT since 2021

Figure 1 illustrates a clear and sustained upward trajectory in accredited research output units from 2021 to 2024. Starting from a baseline of 274 units in 2021, output surged by 65.3% to 453 units in 2022, reflecting a significant leap in research productivity. Growth moderated to 461 units in 2023, a consolidation phase rather than a plateau, before reaching a record high of 601 units in 2024, representing a further 30.4% increase. Over the four-year period, the total output grew by 97%, underscoring the institution's strong and accelerating research performance.

Research Chairs and Niche Areas



Strengthened research capacity by expanding to 16 Research Chairs was supported through diverse funding streams including DSTI-NRF SARCHIs, SETAs, industry and international partnerships. These Chairs, together with the seven niche areas across five faculties (43% women-led), advanced inclusive and SDG-aligned research with strong local relevance and global competitiveness; and strengthened interdisciplinary research, global collaborations and innovation leadership. Collectively, these initiatives position TUT as a growing hub of research excellence, postgraduate training and impactful innovation.

External Research Funding

A total of R176 million in research and innovation funding was secured in 2025, which reflected a diversified and resilient funding portfolio supported by DHET, NRF, CITSIs, and other external partners. Over the 2021-2025 period, research income demonstrates a steady upward trajectory, driven primarily by strong growth in CITSIs and NRF funding, signalling enhanced external collaboration and national competitiveness.

Funding from the DHET Research Outputs shows consistent gains, aligned with improved research productivity, while Research Development Grant (RDG) / University Capacity Development Grant (UCDG) funding remains stable, providing sustained institutional support. Although Other External Income fluctuates, it reflects ongoing efforts to diversify funding streams.

Notably, NRF funding increased to R59.10 million in 2025, from R48.04 million in 2024, underscoring TUT's growing success in securing competitive national funding. Overall, these trends highlight maturing research funding ecosystem, reinforcing TUT's commitment to research excellence, financial sustainability, and its role as a leading contributor in the higher education sector.

In addition, the University secured R11.6 million in international research and mobility funding from globally recognised partners, including Erasmus+, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). These investments support strategic research collaborations, innovation and international capacity-building across multiple faculties.

Rated Researchers

The NRF-rated researchers are central to strengthening research excellence, driving high-quality outputs, and enhancing postgraduate training and international collaboration at TUT.

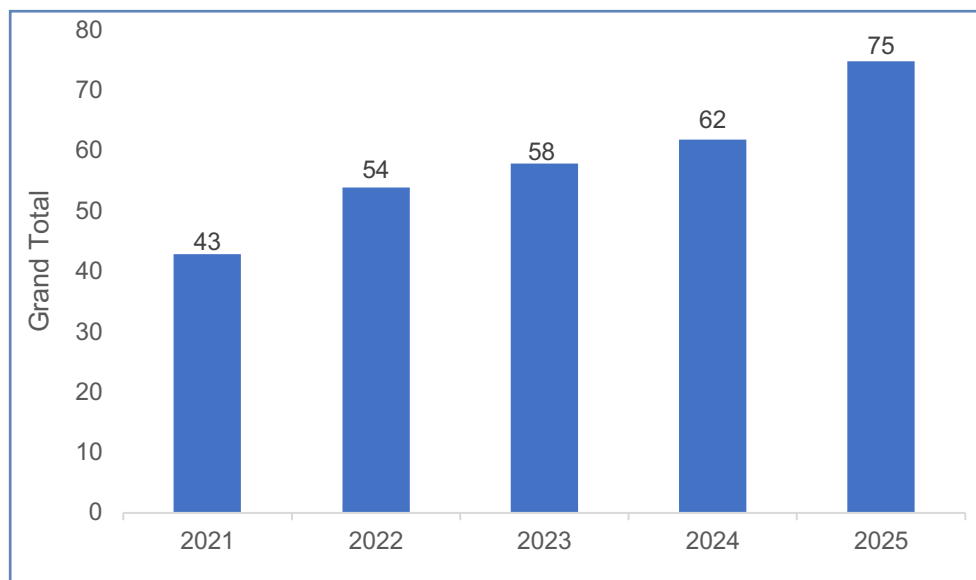


Figure 3: Summary of National Rated Researchers

As presented in Figure 3, the TUT's NRF-rated researcher cohort increased from 62 in 2024 (which constituted 22% of the 287 rated researchers based at the universities of technology (UoTs) and only 1,3% of 4728 nationally) to 75 in 2025 (up by 21%), reflecting strong investment in research excellence and leadership. Led predominantly by C-rated researchers (77%) and supported by a growing pipeline of early-career scholars, these researchers hold key leadership roles that drive postgraduate training, innovation and global collaboration.

Staff Development

TUT continued to strengthen its research capacity in 2025, with most academic staff holding advanced degrees.

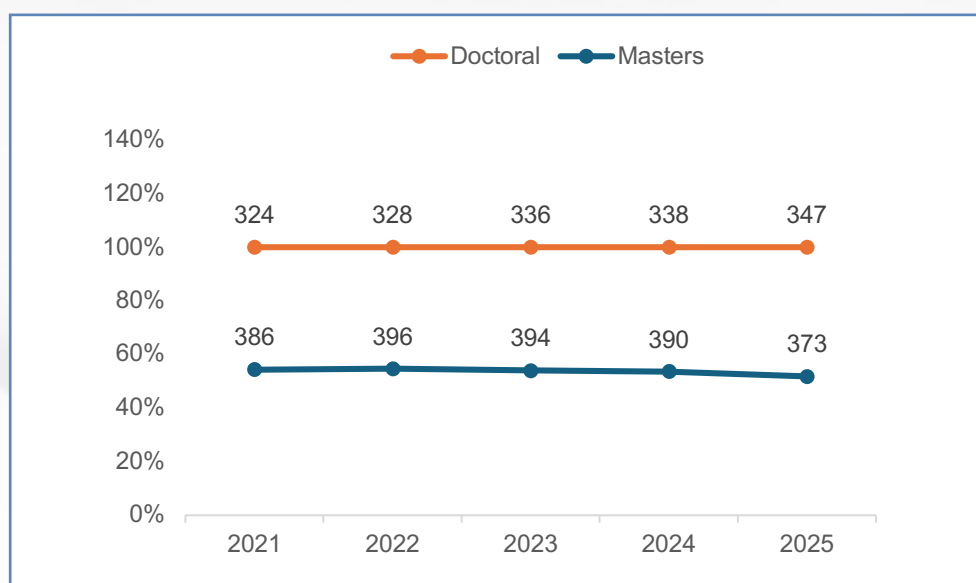


Figure 4: Staff with Master's and Doctoral Degrees

Figure 4 shows a steady increase in staff with doctoral degrees, from 324 in 2021 to 347 in 2025, while staff with master's degrees declined slightly from 386 to 373 over the same period. This trend suggests progress in upgrading staff qualifications and strengthening the institution's research and supervision capacity.

Academic Excellence Awards

Institutional Excellence Recognition

The TUT's 2025 Academic Excellence Awards honoured 94 researchers for outstanding performance, including new and upgraded NRF-rated academics, reflecting the University's strong commitment to advancing research excellence, leadership and global competitiveness.

2025 Research and Innovation Institutional Awards

Impactful CITSIs



Showcasing TUT's leading research impact across three CITSIs, Artificial Intelligence Hub driving water security and mobility, and the Centre for Energy and Electric Power advancing smart renewable solutions, and Cannabis and Hemp Research Hub pioneering biotechnology and socio-economic innovation.

Individual Excellence Awards



2024 Newsmaker of the Year:
TUT-CSIR Cannabis and Hemp
Research Hub,
Faculty of Science



Emerging Researcher of the Year:
Prof NA Kubayi,
Faculty of Science



**Research Capacity Builder
of the Year:**
Dr ME Khalabai,
Faculty of Humanities



The 2025 Academic Excellence Winners

Postdoctoral Fellows

Postdoctoral fellows are central to TUT's research excellence, strengthening scholarly output, postgraduate mentorship and academic vitality. By attracting fellows from across Africa, TUT continued to increase the number of postdoctoral fellows hosted over the past five years to position itself as a continental hub for knowledge creation and impactful research

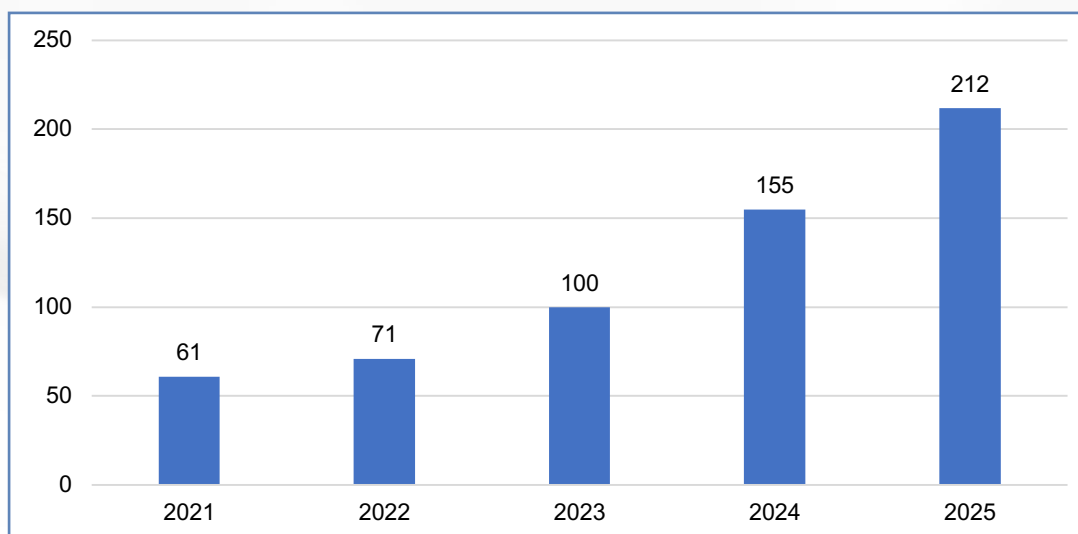


Figure 5: Number of Postdoctoral Fellows between 2021-2026

In 2025, TUT hosted 212 postdoctoral fellows, as seen in Figure 5, a significant increase by 37% from 155 in 2024, reflecting strong growth in the programme and the University's rising attractiveness as a research destination. Strategic co-hosting partnerships with leading institutions, including Wits University and the University of Johannesburg, have further expanded opportunities and strengthened collaborative research networks. This growth underscores the vital role of postdoctoral fellows in advancing institutional impact, strengthening the research pipeline, and enhancing Africa's presence in the global knowledge economy.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES



2. POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Enrolments

Postgraduate enrolments increased from 2 323 in 2024 to 2 634 in 2025 (up by 13%). This was driven by a significant increase in both master's (1 890 which is 15% higher than in 2024) and doctoral enrolments (744, which is 10% improvement than in 2024), reinforcing a robust and expanding research pipeline.

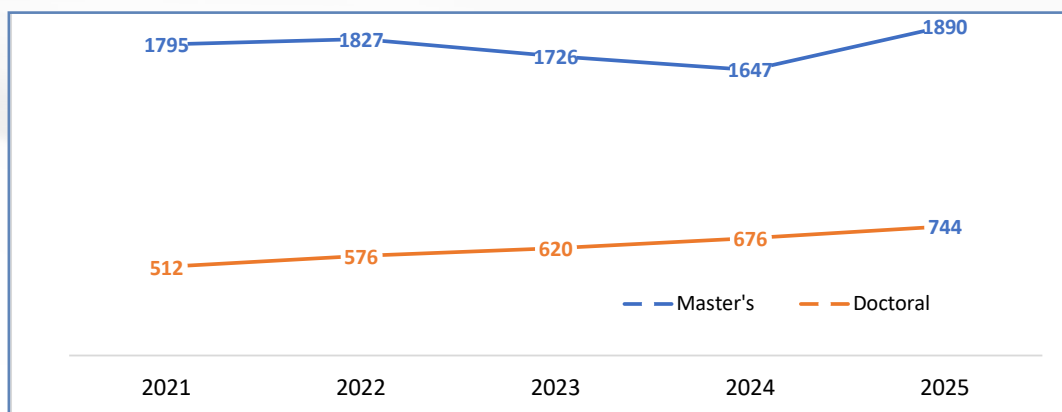


Figure 6: Master's and doctoral enrolments for period 2021-2025

Graduates

Postgraduate graduations totalled 427 in 2025, with 329 master's and 98 doctoral, which is a slight decrease from 2024 at both levels, reflecting a fluctuating graduation pipeline over the period. Figure 7 presents the progression over a five-year period.

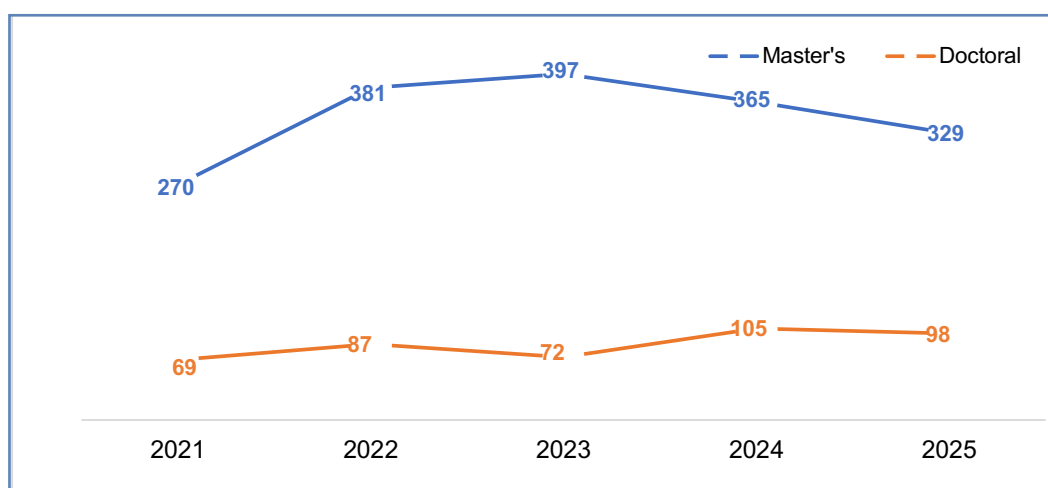


Figure 7: Master's and doctoral graduations for period 2021-2025

Internships

In 2025, TUT participated in the national HSRC-DSI-NSF internship programme, hosting 19 interns across research, innovation and science-related disciplines. The cohort included interns supported by both DSTIHSRC and NSFHSRC, with a combination of new placements and continuing interns from the 2024 intake. The programme enhanced graduate employability, research productivity and knowledge transfer, while reinforcing TUT's role in national skills development and its commitment to producing future-ready graduates aligned with research and industry needs.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER HIGHLIGHTS

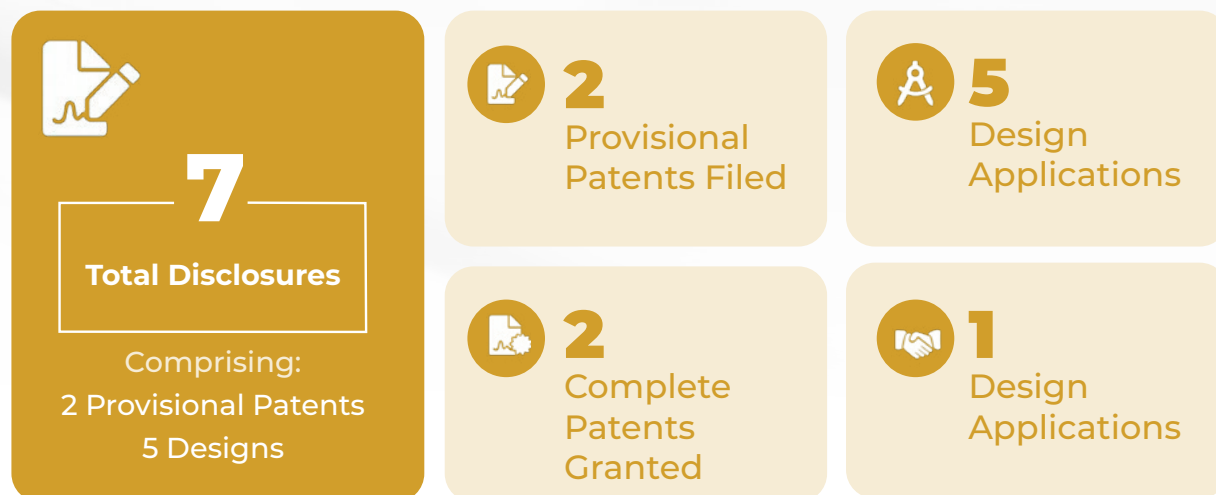


3. INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER HIGHLIGHTS

Performance of Innovation and Technology Transfer

The Innovation and Technology Transfer Office (ITTO) strengthened TUT's innovation ecosystem by supporting IP protection, commercialisation, advocacy and creative outputs. In 2025, seven invention disclosures were recorded, two provisional patents filed, five design registrations secured, and six patents granted.

Disclosures



Creative Outputs Performance

The University has been steadily increasing its creative research output units awarded by DHET since 2021 as presented in Figure 8. It maintained the Top 10 position among the 26 publicly funded universities.

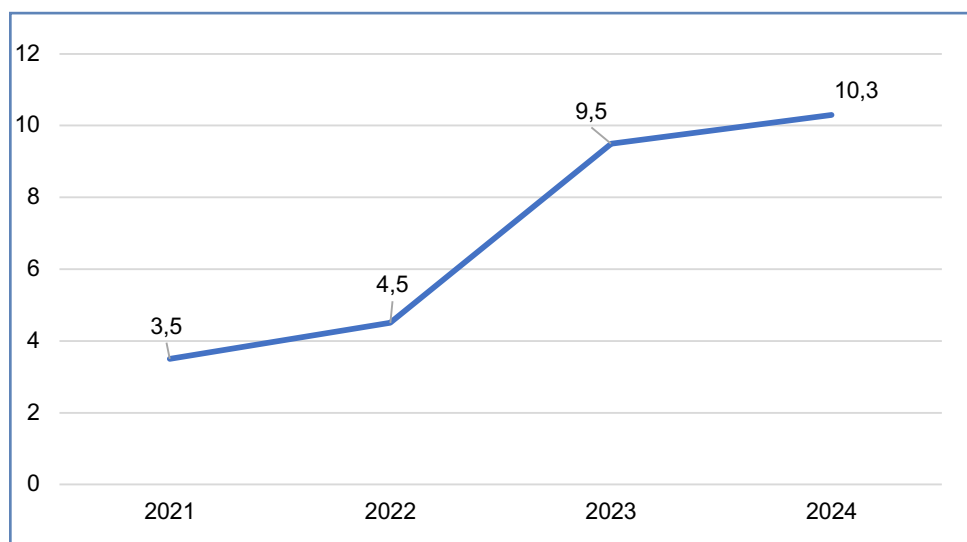


Figure 8: Creative outputs awarded between 2021-2024

Inventors Forum 2025

The Inventors Forum 2025, held on 8 May 2025, focused on the commercialisation of publicly funded IP. The programme featured the TEP Prize Giving Ceremony, NIPMO inventor recognition, and a keynote by Mr Wayne Stocks (University Technology Fund) on commercialising public innovation.

World Intellectual Property Day 2025

World IP Day was hosted on 29 May 2025 under the theme “*IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP.*” The event attracted 92 participants and featured presentations by Mr Stephen Hollis, Mr Mandla Maseko and Ms Rorisang Sechele, with live performances by Dr Rostislava PashkevitchNgobeni and Prof. Karen Devroop.

Women in Innovation and Leadership Dialogue 2025

The WILD 2025 dialogue, held on 27 August 2025, convened 250 women leaders under the theme “*AI and Reimagining Global Change.*” Keynote addresses explored women’s leadership, responsible AI and innovation for socioeconomic transformation.



Leadership remarks by the City of Tshwane, TUT Executive, and a message from Hon. Baleka Mbete reinforced the role of technology in women’s empowerment. The event concluded with cultural performances and strengthening partnerships with MTN, Science Diplomacy Capital for Africa and Lovisa.

Tshwane Varsity Hackathon 2025

The 7th Tshwane Varsity Hackathon (21-23 Sept 2025) attracted 937 registrations and 126 participants, achieving gender parity. Students competed in a 48hour innovation sprint, with finalists presenting at the Pretoria Campus awards ceremony.



Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education

The EDHE Bootcamp equipped students with entrepreneurial and pitching skills. An engagement with entrepreneur, Florence (Flo) Ndlovu, strengthened mentorship, networking and realworld entrepreneurial exposure.

EDHE National Achievements

The Pinnacle of Excellence: National Innovators



Celebrating Ms Mpho Kotlolo

Crowned the **EDHE-ABSA Innovator of the Year AND Woman Innovator of the Year** at the **2025 National Finals**.

The Innovation:

Pharmakids (a revolutionary paediatric ARV innovation).

The Impact:

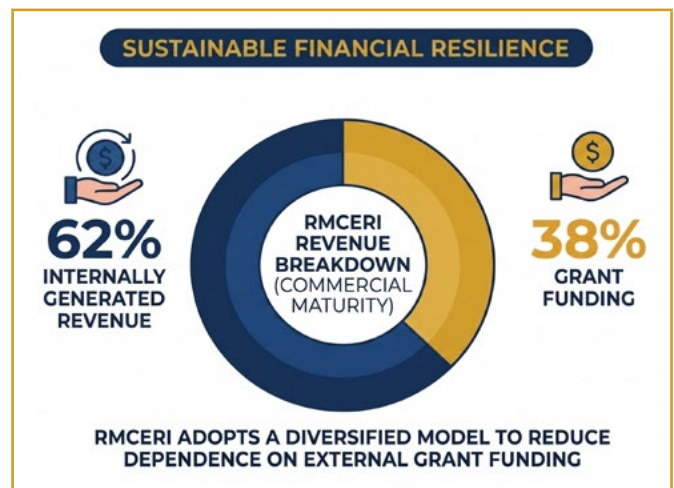
Secured R500,000 in funding and presented the concept to national investors.



Centres, Institutes, Technology Stations, Hubs and Incubators



Tshwane University of Technology recorded notable achievements that strengthened the University's innovation, research and entrepreneurial impact. Technology stations collectively secured R23 million in funding from the Technology Innovation Agency, benefiting the Technology Station in Chemicals, the Technology Station in Electronics, and the Institute for Advanced Tooling, and significantly enhancing applied research and industry collaboration capacity.



The Rail Manufacturing Centre for Entrepreneurship Rapid Incubator (RMCERI), which adopts a more sustainable funding approach. The centre's financial structure comprises 38% grant funding and 62% internally generated revenue, clearly indicating that the majority of its income is derived from self-generated sources. This balanced and diversified model reduces dependence on external funding and strengthens resilience against financial uncertainty. As a result, RMCERI demonstrates greater operational independence, enhanced capacity for reinvestment, and improved long-term growth prospects. The significant share of internally-generated income further reflects strong commercial alignment and organisational maturity, driven by strategic industry partnerships, incubation and enterprise development initiatives, and revenue-generating services and innovation outputs.



Centre for Energy and Electrical Power



Solar PV Monitoring System Launch

Implemented at Tshwaraganang Children's Home to enable real-time research data generation.

Global Research Representation

Professor OM Popoola represented the university at the World Energy Engineering Congress, USA.

The Centre for Energy and Electrical Power successfully implemented a Solar PV Monitoring System at Tshwaraganang Children's Home, enabling realtime data generation for research, while Professor OM Popoola represented TUT at the World Energy Engineering Congress in the United States.



Institute for Nano Engineering Research

TIA Seed Funding Secured

Received financial backing from the Technology Innovation Agency to advance research capabilities.

National Innovation Showcase

Invited to present at the World Technology and Innovation Platform launch event.



Institute for Nano Engineering Research secured Technology Innovation Agency seed funding and was invited to showcase its innovations at the World Technology and Innovation Platform launch, reflecting growing national recognition of its advanced research capabilities.

ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGIC GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS



COLLABORATIONS TO EMPOWER INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Centre for Entrepreneurship Development expanded TUT's entrepreneurial footprint through strategic partnerships with VISA, Brand South Africa, UN Women, WRSETA and the Global Entrepreneurship Network, and by cohosting the G12 Global Conference, reinforcing the University's leadership in inclusive entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment.

INTERNATIONALISATION



4. INTERNATIONALISATION

R11.6 Million in International Funding

Secured from major global players including Erasmus+ and UK Research and Innovation

8 New MoUs

Expanding presence in five continents

150 Virtual Digital Mobility

Student exchanges enabling broad access, paired with 36 outbound and 18 inbound students

SASUF Work Package 3 -

South Africa-Sweden University Forum - Students as Gamechangers Co-Lead

Global Prominence: TUT 2025 Global Rankings

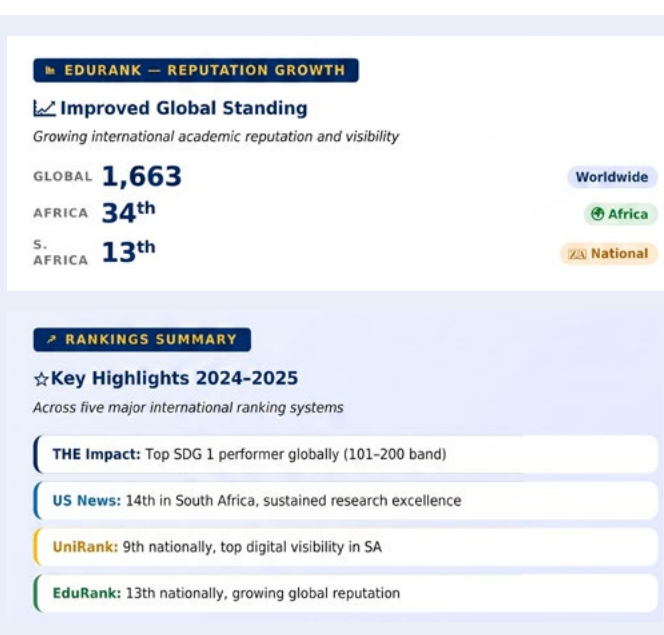
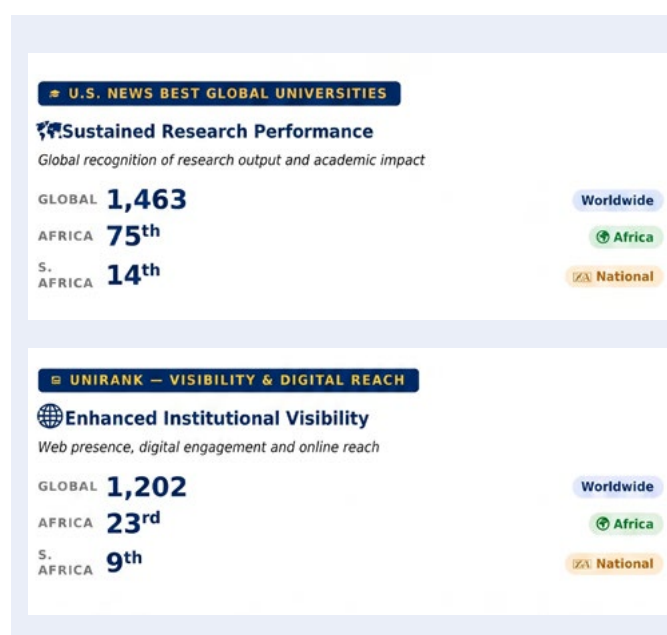


During the 2025 academic year, TUT featured various rankings focusing on academic excellence, research, engagement, innovation and alumni relations. In alignment with the Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP) 2020 to 2025, university rankings are identified as a strategic mechanism for benchmarking, enhancing the University's reputation, visibility and global standing. TUT maintained its standing in

major global rankings, including the U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings and the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, while recording notable improvements in the EduRank, UniRank and Webometrics rankings.

In the U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings, the University retained its global ranking of 1 463, 75th in Africa, and 14th nationally, reflecting sustained research performance. TUT also improved its standing in the EduRank Rankings, reaching 1 663 globally, 34th in Africa, and 13th in South Africa, while the UniRank Rankings placed the University 9th nationally, 23rd in Africa, and 1 202nd globally, highlighting enhanced institutional visibility and digital presence.

The University's digital footprint also continued to improve through the Webometrics Rankings, where TUT ranked 1 795 globally in the January 2025 edition and 2 139 globally in



WEBOMETRICS — DIGITAL FOOTPRINT TRACKING

Consistent Positioning Among Leading South African Universities

Global web presence measured bi-annually — January & July 2025

JANUARY 2025

1,795

Global Ranking

JULY 2025

2,139

Global Ranking

Both rankings confirm TUT's consistent digital presence and web impact among South Africa's leading universities

the July 2025 edition, maintaining its position among the leading universities in South Africa. Collectively, these results demonstrate continued progress towards strengthening

TUT's global reputation and support the objectives of the ISP 2020 to 2025 to enhance international competitiveness and institutional excellence.

Future-Ready Graduates through Student Exchange Programmes

TUT advanced its commitment to developing future-ready graduates by expanding international student mobility opportunities across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. A total of 204 students participated in mobility programmes, comprising 150 virtual exchange participants, 36 outbound and 18 inbound students. Through strategic partnerships with

Erasmus+ and leading international universities and research institutions in countries including France, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Italy, Russia, the United States, China, India and Algeria, the University provided students with valuable global learning experiences.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Enabling Institutions & Frameworks



GRADUATE OUTCOMES & COMPETENCIES

Skills & Capabilities Developed



Empowering Future Leaders: TUT's Commitment to Global Collaboration and Sustainability

TUT strengthened its global leadership in higher education through its appointment as Co-Lead of Work Package 3 (WP3): Students as Game Changers under the South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF), in partnership with Linköping University, Sweden. This prestigious leadership role recognises TUT's contribution to advancing international collaboration, student development and sustainable innovation. Through WP3, the University led the implementation of a Virtual Leadership Training Programme to develop future-ready graduates with the intercultural competencies, leadership capabilities and global perspectives required to address complex societal challenges. TUT also spearheaded the planning of the Hackathon for Sustainable Solutions, bringing

together students from South Africa and Sweden to co-design innovative solutions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition, TUT played a pivotal role in strengthening the SASUF Student Network by facilitating collaborative engagement, supporting student-led initiatives, and participating in SASUF activities that promote cross-cultural learning and knowledge exchange. These achievements have expanded international opportunities for TUT students, enhanced the University's global visibility, and reinforced its reputation as a leading institution committed to developing future-ready graduates and advancing sustainable international partnerships.

Erasmus+ Initiatives: Empowering Collaboration

In 2025, TUT strengthened its internationalisation agenda and leadership within the Erasmus+ Programme through several significant achievements. It hosted the Erasmus+ National Information Day, bringing together higher education institutions, TVET colleges, government representatives, and international partners to promote collaboration, academic mobility, capacity building, digital transformation and innovation in higher education. The event reinforced TUT's role as a national leader in advancing South Africa's participation in the European Union's flagship education programme. A major milestone during the year was TUT's successful award of the South Africa-Music Technology and Innovation Capacity-building (SAMTIC) project under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) programme. As the Project Coordinator, TUT leads a consortium of South African and European universities to modernise music technology education through curriculum renewal, digital transformation, infrastructure development, staff capacity building and international research collaboration. International partnerships and research capacity through key achievements include participation in Erasmus+ Capacity Building initiatives and the award of the AfricanGerman Just Energy Transition Centre grant for the 2026-2030.

Day 1 spotlighted Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE), showcasing pathways for international cooperation, mobility and academic innovation. Case studies of successful Erasmus+ partnerships illustrated how institutions have expanded capacity, enriched academic exchange and advanced collaborative research.

Day 2 shifted focus to TVET partnerships, emphasising the alignment of skills development with labour market demands. Discussions highlighted the transformative potential of digitalisation, green initiatives, and stronger industry linkages through Erasmus+ projects.

The University also continued to implement the MASSTER

(Managing South Africa and Senegal Sustainability Targets through Economic Diversification of Rural Areas) project, which strengthens institutional capacity in sustainable agriculture, rural development, and entrepreneurship, while remaining an active partner in the ProCyD (Modular Higher Education System in Data Protection and Cybersecurity) project, aimed at enhancing higher education programmes in cybersecurity and data protection to support digital transformation in South Africa and Mozambique.

These Erasmus+-funded initiatives have expanded TUT's international partnerships across Europe and Africa, enhanced research and innovation, strengthened institutional capacity and created new opportunities for staff and student mobility



The poster features a blue background with a circular inset image of a smiling Black man with dreadlocks wearing a denim jacket. At the top left is the ENFP National Focal Points logo. The main text reads 'Erasmus+ Information session for South Africa' followed by the dates '16-17 October 2025' and 'Tshwane University of Technology'. A large 'REGISTER NOW!' button is prominently displayed. At the bottom, it says 'Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds' with the '2021-2027' period in a rounded box. The footer includes the URL 'ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus' and the 'EUROPEAN UNION' logo.

ENFP National Focal Points

Erasmus+ Information session for South Africa

16-17 October 2025

Tshwane University of Technology

REGISTER NOW !

Erasmus+ Enriching lives, opening minds

2021-2027

ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus

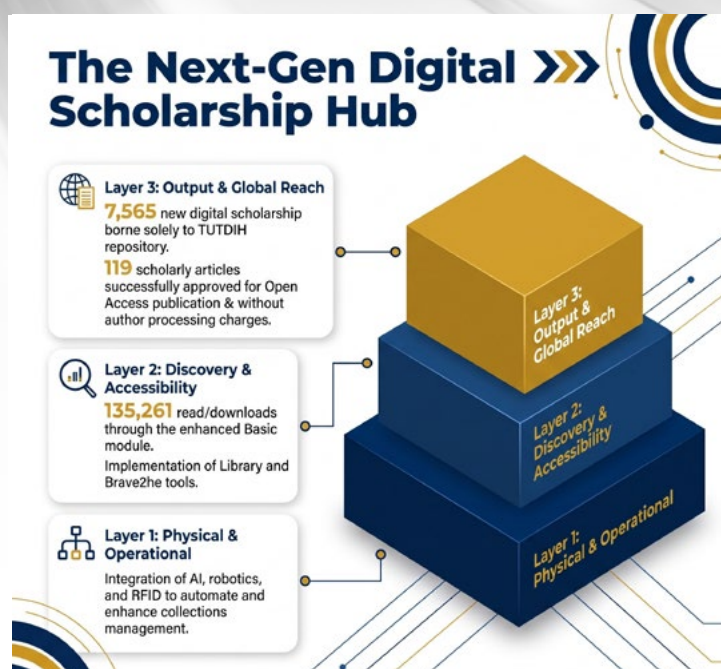
EUROPEAN UNION

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES



5. LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Key Highlights in 2025

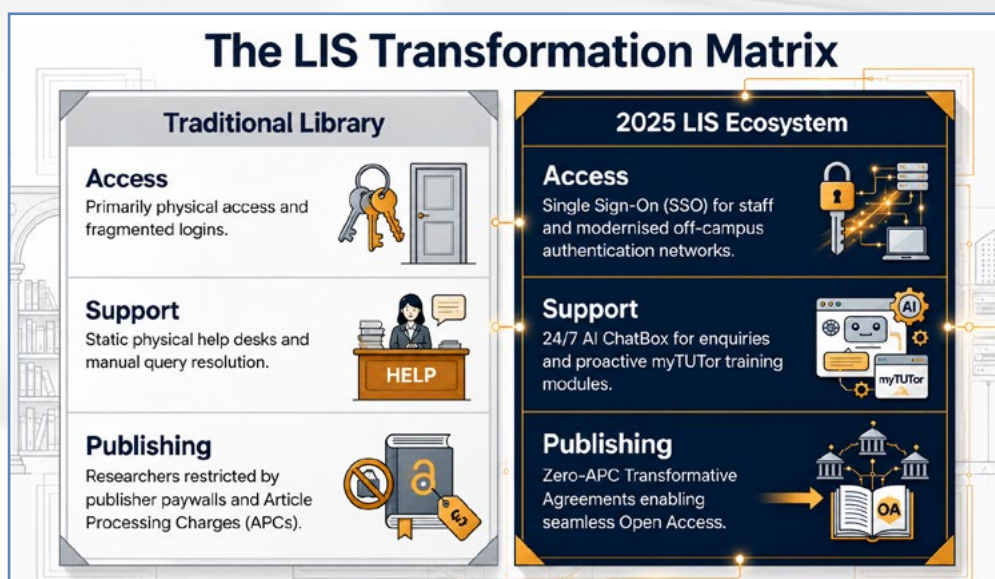


Postgraduate Training and Research Support

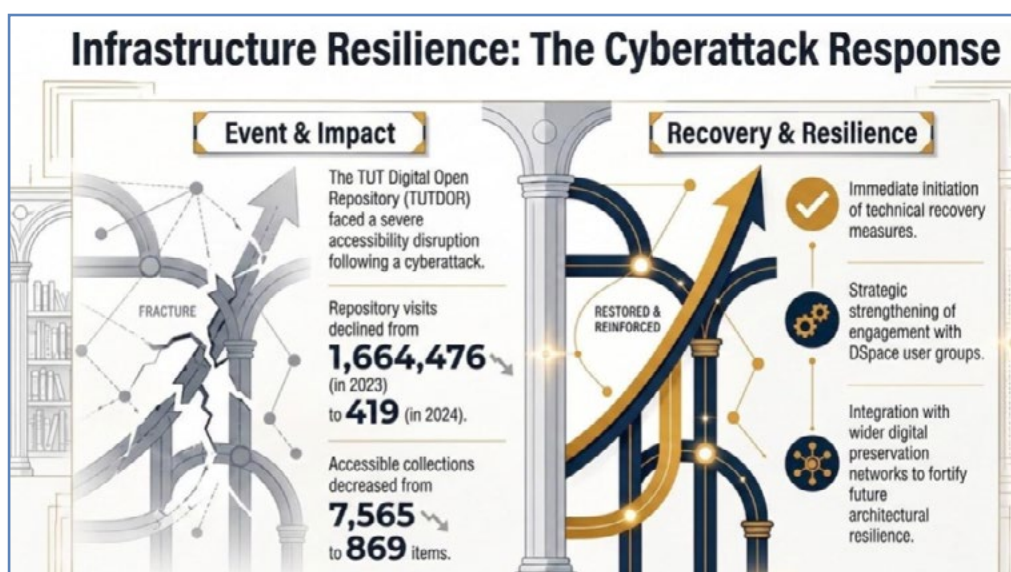


Library and Information Services (LIS) recorded a 458,9% increase in postgraduate training participation, reflecting TUT's growing research intensity. Training focused on EndNote, databases, research visibility, InCites evaluation and predatory journal identification. The online EndNote Basic module on myTUT or attracted 135 261 enrolments, while intermediate and advanced EndNote programmes were developed to strengthen postgraduate research capacity.

Library Systems and Digital Infrastructure

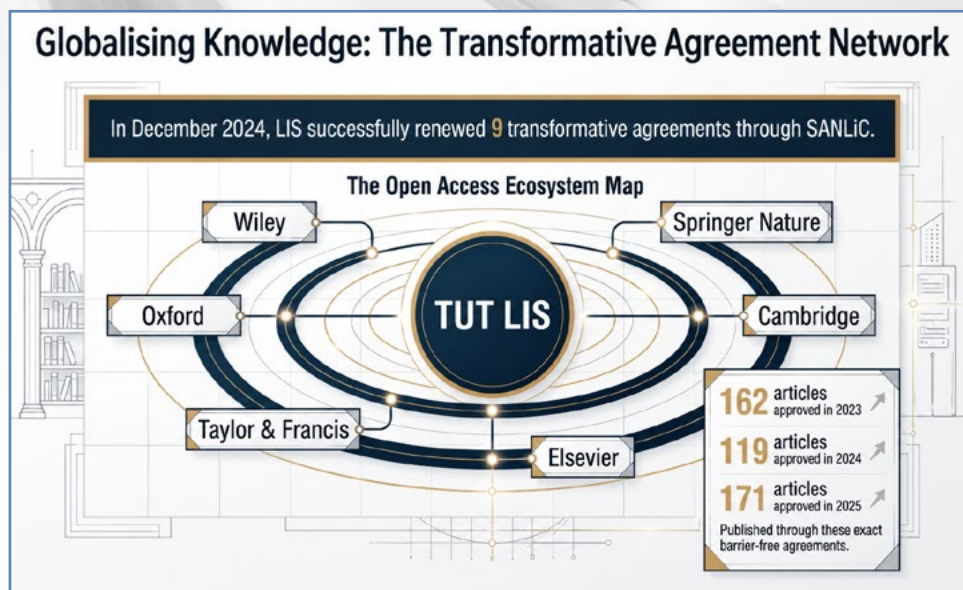


Following a cyberattack, the TUT Digital Open Repository (TUTDoR) experienced reduced accessibility. Repository visits declined from 1 664 476 in 2023 to 419 in 2024, while collections decreased from 7 565 to 869 items. Despite these challenges, LIS initiated recovery measures and strengthened engagement with DSpace user groups and digital preservation networks.



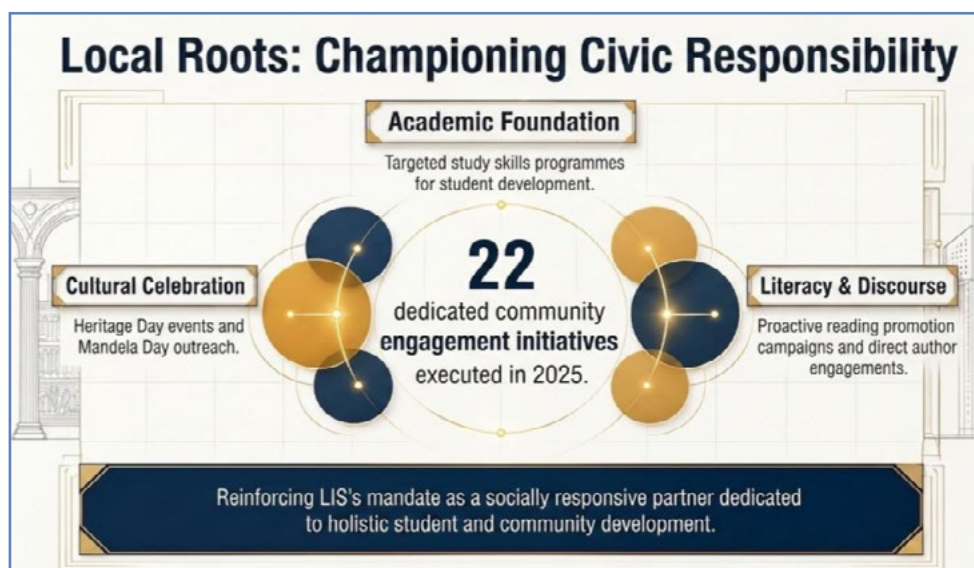
LIS enhanced digital access by upgrading EndNote to version 21, implementing Single SignOn for staff, and modernising offcampus access through a new authentication system. Service delivery was further supported through improved marketing, a customer feedback mechanism, and the introduction of an AI ChatBox for library enquiries.

Transformative Agreements and Open Access



In December 2024, LIS renewed nine transformative agreements through SANLiC with major publishers including Wiley, Springer Nature, Oxford, Cambridge, Taylor & Francis and Elsevier. These agreements enable Open Access publishing without article processing charges, support cost control and ensure compliance with Open Access policies. A total of 162 articles were approved in 2023 and 119 in 2024 through these agreements. In 2025 our institution has successfully secured the approval of 171 articles for open-access publication.

Community Engagement



TUT libraries conducted **22 community engagement initiatives** in 2025, promoting student development and civic responsibility. Activities included Heritage Day celebrations, study skills programmes, reading promotion, Mandela Day outreach and author engagements, reinforcing LIS's role as a socially responsive learning partner.