



15 July 2025

Dear Prospective Participant

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Sabelo Raymond Peter, a Doctor of Education candidate at Walter Sisulu University in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. Under the supervision of Prof. B Bantwini, Dr. Z Baleni, and Prof. N Marongwe, I am conducting a doctoral study titled **"Designing a Student Success Framework for Selected Universities with Urban and Rural Campuses in South Africa."**

Purpose of the Study:

The study aims to develop a contextual and responsive framework to enhance student success, institutional support, and student engagement in universities with diverse campus contexts.

Why are you being invited?

As valued members of the broader university community—including students, staff, alumni, and stakeholders—your collective insights are crucial in capturing the lived realities, challenges, and opportunities within and around our universities. Your input will help design a framework that truly resonates with the institutional culture and environment.

Nature of participation:

Participation will include completing an anonymous online survey (approx. 20–30 minutes). Some may also be invited to one-on-one interviews lasting around 30–45 minutes, with your consent to record for accuracy.

Voluntary participation & confidentiality:

Participation is voluntary; you may withdraw at any time without consequences. All data will be anonymised, kept strictly confidential, and securely stored.

Risk & benefits:

Minimal risk is anticipated, limited to potential discomfort in reflecting on institutional challenges. Findings may help inform institutional policies and practices that support our students' success.

Ethical approval:

This study has received ethical clearance from Walter Sisulu University and participating institutions. Approval letters can be shared on request.

Results:

You are welcome to request a summary of findings or participate in member-checking to ensure accurate representation of your views.

If you have questions, please contact me at **speter@wsu.ac.za** | **076 631 0057**, or my supervisors:

- Prof B Bantwini: **bbantwini@wsu.ac.za**
- Dr Z Baleni: **zbaleni@wsu.ac.za**
- Prof N Marongwe: **Newly.Marongwe@nwu.ac.za**

Please share your valuable feedback by 25 August 2025.

Link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kpnoSCseCEmAOnIX4swcvTEBBrAuRzhMlh2usuPKexUNDhTQzBNQkZIMTdTUDNQQUxIUTRVQjg4Uy4u>

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Sabelo Raymond Peter

Doctoral Candidate, Walter Sisulu University