

LISC Strategic Directions 2018-2022

Vision

To be the school of choice in Africa for Library and Information Studies

Mission

To take the leadership role in providing a transformative and innovative Library and Information Studies teaching, learning and research, informed by our location in Africa and by global scholarship.

Niche areas

In support of its mission, LISC has three niche areas, namely, sector specialisation, subject foci and level of study specialisation.

Sector specialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic and research libraries• Public libraries
Subject foci	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital curation• Impact analysis and assessment• Knowledge and skills competencies• Research librarianship• Resource description and representation
Level of study specialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postgraduate diploma• Master's• Doctoral• Post-doctoral

Strategic themes

Transformative and relevant curricula

Innovative teaching and learning

Research excellence

Recruitment and retention of students and staff

Collaborative relationships

Social and professional engagement

Strategic Goals

To provide **transformative and relevant curricula** for a new generation of information professional

To offer **innovative teaching and learning** experiences for effective delivery of curricula in response to decoloniality.

To achieve **research excellence** through actively engaging in research and publication in the LIS and cognate domains in response to UCT's research-intensive goal.

To **facilitate access and support academic success** for students towards a socially responsive LIS profession and a pipeline of transformed LIS academics

To **recruit and retain staff** for sustainable innovation, growth and development of academic and research programmes

To establish and sustain mutually beneficial **collaborative relationships** at the institutional, national, continental and international levels

To grow partnerships **in social and professional engagement** to advance African development and social justice

Strategic Actions

To provide **transformative and relevant curricula** for a new generation of librarians and information professionals:

- Offer programmes of choice for South Africa and the rest of Africa that lead to internationally competitive qualifications
- Design and implement curricula that embrace new and emerging areas of specialisation in the LIS and cognate sectors
- Continuously and actively review and evaluate programmes and curricula for relevance and alignment with the imperatives of decoloniality.

- Produce leaders for LIS and related contexts

To offer **innovative teaching and learning** experiences for effective delivery of curricula in response to decoloniality:

- Engage in inspired and dedicated teaching that accommodates diversity and different learning styles
- Prepare and equip students with knowledge and skills for academic success
- Adopt teaching and learning methodologies that support self-directed, engaged and collaborative learning as well as critical thinking in a blended environment
- Provide an intellectually stimulating environment for learning, both peer-to-peer and between experts and learners

To achieve **research excellence** through actively engaging in research and publication in the LIS and cognate domains in response to UCT's research-intensive goal:

- Cultivate a scholarly environment to accelerate independent and team research for publication and societal impact
- Build strategic research partnerships locally, nationally and internationally
- Exploit opportunities to enhance LISC's visibility as a centre of research excellence

To **facilitate access and support academic success** for students towards a socially responsive LIS profession and a pipeline of transformed LIS academics:

- Create opportunities for access and articulation to programmes in order to counter financial, physical, geographic and educational barriers
- Actively engage barriers to student success and implement responsive interventions for ongoing support
- Nurture the growth of future LIS professionals and academics who will contribute to social cohesion and equity in praxis

To **recruit and retain staff** for sustainable innovation, growth and development of academic and research programmes:

- Create robust publicity and marketing opportunities to attract dynamic and innovative staff for a transforming institution
- Cultivate a stimulating scholarly environment to advance excellent teaching and research, and learning experiences

To establish and sustain mutually beneficial **collaborative relationships** at the institutional, national, continental and international levels:

- Create strategic partnerships to share and build teaching and learning expertise and resources
- Establish partnerships for postgraduate supervision, research and publication

- Identify and form alliances with relevant communities and institutions in support of development and social justice

To grow partnerships in **social and professional engagement** to advance South African/African development and social justice:

- Establish LISC as a source of intellectual guidance for policy makers
- Provide intellectual contributions and technical expertise to relevant institutions for development and redress
- Position LISC as an intellectual leader within relevant communities for development and social justice