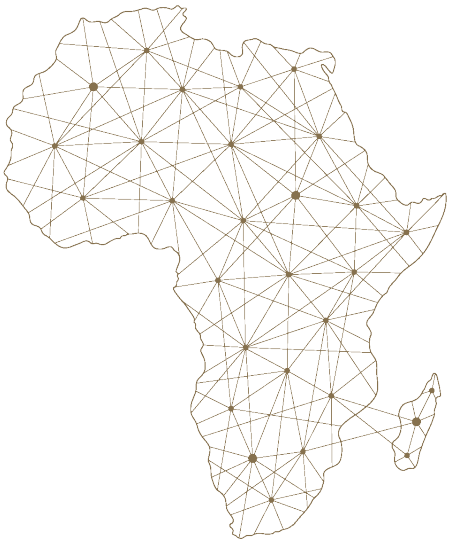


AFRICAN DATA SCIENCE CONFERENCE

24-26 JUNE 2026
WITS UNIVERSITY

Frequently Asked Questions

African Data Science Conference 2026

Wits Science Stadium, University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa

24–26 June 2026

Optional workshops: 23 June 2026

Conference theme: **African Data Science, for Africa**
This document provides concise responses to common questions from prospective delegates, presenters, students, institutions, sponsors, and partners interested in ADSC 2026.

Conference website: https://www.wits.ac.za/adsc2026/

Registration: https://adsconference.witsevents.co.za/register

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/african-data-science-conference/

Enquiries: adsc2026@easychair.org

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African Data Science Conference 2026 Frequently Asked Questions

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At a Glance

MAIN CONFERENCE
24–26 June 2026

OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS
23 June 2026

HOST INSTITUTION
Wits University

VENUE
Wits Science Stadium

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION
Extended to 15 May 2026

STANDARD REGISTRATION
Due 5 June 2026

Key Contacts

General enquiries	adsc2026@easychair.org
Conference & Programme Chair	Dr Farai Mlambo, University of the Witwatersrand farai.mlambo@wits.ac.za
Scientific Committee Chair	Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli, University of Pretoria inger.fabris-rotelli@up.ac.za
Organising Committee Chair	Dr Taariq Surtee, University of the Witwatersrand taariq.surtee@wits.ac.za
Fundraising Committee Chair	Dr Isaac Nyambiya, Great Zimbabwe University inyambiya@gzu.ac.zw

Conference Organisation and Governance

FAQ 1

Who is organising ADSC 2026?

ADSC 2026 is organised under a formal conference governance framework hosted by the **University of the Witwatersrand**. The conference is led by the Conference Chair and supported by several governance and implementation structures, including the Advisors, Scientific Committee, Programme Committee, Conference Proceedings Editors, Organising Committee, and Fundraising Committee. These structures collectively support the academic quality, programme development, operational planning, sponsorship engagement, and overall delivery of the conference.

FAQ 2

Who is the Conference Chair for ADSC 2026?

The Conference Chair for ADSC 2026 is **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)**. The Conference Chair provides overall leadership, coordination, and strategic direction for the conference, working with the relevant committees to ensure that the scientific, programme, editorial, organisational, and fundraising functions remain aligned with the objectives of ADSC 2026.

FAQ 3

Who provides strategic advisory support to ADSC 2026?

ADSC 2026 is supported by a group of Advisors who provide high-level strategic, institutional, and scholarly guidance. The Advisors are **Prof. Kanshukan Rajaratnam (Stellenbosch University)**, **Prof. Paida Mhangara (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Prof. Thokozani Majozi (University of Cape Town)**, **Prof. Costa Hofisi (North-West University)**, and **Prof. Charis Harley (University of Johannesburg)**.

FAQ 4

Who chairs the Scientific Committee?

The Scientific Committee is chaired by **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli (University of Pretoria)**. The Scientific Committee is responsible for the academic integrity, intellectual direction, peer review standards, scholarly quality, and scientific oversight of ADSC 2026.

FAQ 5

Who serves on the Scientific Committee?

The Scientific Committee includes scholars and practitioners from several universities, research institutions, and industry organisations. Members include **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Dr Taariq Surtee (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Prof. Innocent Maposa (Stellenbosch University)**, **Dr Isaac Nyambiya (Great Zimbabwe University)**, **Dr Sunday Oladejo (Stellenbosch University)**, **Dr Humphrey Brydon (University of the Western Cape)**, **Dr Peter Olukanmi (University of Johannesburg)**, **Dr Nomalanga Mashinini (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Dr Louise De Koker (Nelson Mandela University)**, **Prof. James Cochran (The University of Alabama)**, **Dr Moses Phiri (NIQ Company)**, **Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo (IBM Research Africa)**, **Prof. David Mhlanga (North-West University)**, and **Dr Tsitsi Zengeya (University of KwaZulu-Natal)**.

FAQ 6

Who is responsible for the conference programme?

The Programme Committee is chaired by **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)** and supports the development and structuring of the conference programme. The Programme Committee members are **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Dr Taariq Surtee (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Dr Isaac Nyambiya (Great Zimbabwe University)**, **Dr Nomalanga Mashinini (University of the Witwatersrand)**, and **Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo (IBM Research Africa)**. The committee helps coordinate plenaries, technical sessions, panels, workshops, and other academic activities in line with the scientific direction of the conference.

FAQ 7

Who are the Conference Proceedings Editors?

The Conference Proceedings Editors are responsible for publication oversight, editorial quality, formatting compliance, and scholarly coherence in relation to the ADSC 2026 proceedings. The editors are **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli (University of Pretoria)**, **Prof. David Mhlanga (North-West University)**, **Dr Nomalanga Mashinini (University of the Witwatersrand)**, and **Dr Peter Olukanmi (University of Johannesburg)**.

FAQ 8

Who chairs the Organising Committee?

The Organising Committee is chaired by **Dr Taariq Surtee (University of the Witwatersrand)**. The Organising Committee is responsible for the practical planning, administrative coordination, logistical execution, venue arrangements, scheduling support, registration processes, and stakeholder communication required for the successful delivery of ADSC 2026.

FAQ 9

Who serves on the Organising Committee?

The Organising Committee includes **Dr Taariq Surtee (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Dr Isaac Nyambiya (Great Zimbabwe University)**, **Ms Eleni Flack-Davison (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Mr Lazarus Matizirofa (University of the Witwatersrand)**, and **Ms Kagiso Modise (University of the Witwatersrand)**.

FAQ 10

Who leads fundraising and sponsorship engagement?

The Fundraising Committee is chaired by **Dr Isaac Nyambiya (Great Zimbabwe University)**. The committee supports sponsorship development, donor engagement, institutional partnerships, and resource mobilisation for ADSC 2026. Members include **Dr Isaac Nyambiya (Great Zimbabwe University)**, **Dr Farai Mlambo (University of the Witwatersrand)**, **Ms Eleni Flack-Davison (University of the Witwatersrand)**, and **Mr Lazarus Matizirofa (University of the Witwatersrand)**.

FAQ 11

How are the ADSC 2026 committees structured?

The governance structure is designed to separate strategic, academic, operational, editorial, programme, and fundraising responsibilities while ensuring coordination across all areas. The Advisors provide high-level strategic guidance; the Scientific Committee provides academic oversight; the Programme Committee supports programme development; the Conference Proceedings Editors oversee publication-related matters; the Organising Committee handles operational delivery; and the Fundraising Committee supports sponsorship and partnerships.

Funding, Fees and Registration

FAQ 12

Can I receive funding from ADSC?

At this stage, ADSC 2026 does not guarantee funding for delegates, presenters, or students. However, the organising committee is actively engaging potential sponsors and partners to support student participation, possible discounts, and limited registration waivers where feasible. Any available support will depend on sponsorship received and will be communicated through official conference channels.

FAQ 13

Does ADSC provide travel and accommodation support?

ADSC 2026 does not automatically provide travel or accommodation funding. Delegates are encouraged to seek support from their universities, research units, employers, funders, professional bodies, or institutional sponsors. Where sponsorship becomes available, priority may be given to postgraduate students, early-career researchers, and participants from under-resourced institutions, subject to clear criteria and available funds.

FAQ 14

Can students apply for a discounted registration fee?

Yes. ADSC 2026 includes a student registration category. Students may be required to provide proof of current registration at a recognised university or higher education institution. The organising committee is also exploring additional student support, subject to sponsorship availability.

FAQ 15

What are the registration deadlines?

Early-bird registration has been extended to **15 May 2026**. Standard registration is due by **5 June 2026**. Delegates are encouraged to register as early as possible to support planning and venue arrangements.

FAQ 16

How do I register for ADSC 2026?

Registration is available through the official registration portal: `https://adsconference.witsevents.co.za/register`. Delegates should use the official portal to complete registration and follow payment instructions.

Participation and Attendance

FAQ 17

Is ADSC 2026 open only to academics?

No. ADSC 2026 is open to academics, postgraduate students, industry practitioners, policymakers, innovators, data professionals, government representatives, research institutions, development organisations, and members of civil society interested in data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistics, analytics, and their applications in African contexts.

FAQ 18

Do I need to submit a paper to attend the conference?

No. Delegates may attend ADSC 2026 even if they are not presenting a paper. The conference welcomes both presenters and non-presenting participants who wish to engage with contemporary developments in data science, artificial intelligence, analytics, and African development priorities.

FAQ 19

Can industry practitioners participate or present?

Yes. ADSC 2026 strongly encourages participation from industry practitioners, data scientists, AI specialists, consultants, technology leaders, entrepreneurs, innovation teams, and public-sector professionals. The conference values both academic research and practical case studies that demonstrate responsible and impactful applications of data science and AI in real-world contexts.

FAQ 20

Can postgraduate students attend?

Yes. Postgraduate students are strongly encouraged to attend. ADSC 2026 provides a platform for students to present research, receive feedback, network with scholars and practitioners, and engage with emerging developments in data science, machine learning, AI, statistics, analytics, and responsible innovation.

FAQ 21

Can I attend only one day of the conference?

The standard registration is designed for full conference participation. Any one-day attendance options, if made available, will be communicated through the official registration platform or the organising committee.

Abstracts, Papers and Proceedings

FAQ 22

My abstract has been accepted. Does this mean my full paper is automatically accepted?

No. Abstract acceptance allows a participant to present at the conference. Inclusion in the conference proceedings is subject to full paper submission, review, formatting compliance, and final approval by the Scientific Committee.

FAQ 23

Can I present without submitting a full paper?

Yes. Accepted abstracts may be presented as oral presentations at the conference. However, participants who wish their work to be considered for inclusion in the conference proceedings must submit a full paper that meets the required guidelines, deadlines, and quality standards.

FAQ 24

Will ADSC 2026 publish conference proceedings?

ADSC 2026 intends to publish proceedings for eligible full papers, subject to peer review, formatting compliance, editorial checks, and approval by the Scientific Committee. Further details will be communicated through official channels.

FAQ 25

What topics are suitable for ADSC 2026?

Relevant topics include, but are not limited to, data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistical learning, responsible AI, health data analytics, climate and sustainability analytics, geospatial data science, business analytics, digital transformation, fintech, risk analytics, data governance, open data, data science education, and applications of analytics in African development contexts.

Programme, Venue and Contact Information

FAQ 26

When and where will ADSC 2026 take place?

The main conference will take place from **24–26 June 2026** at the **Wits Science Stadium, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**. Optional workshops are scheduled for **23 June 2026**.

FAQ 27

What is the theme of ADSC 2026?

The conference theme is **African Data Science, for Africa**. The theme emphasises the development, application, and critical engagement of data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistics, and analytics in ways that are relevant to African contexts, institutions, challenges, and opportunities.

FAQ 28

Will there be workshops?

Yes. Optional workshops are scheduled for **23 June 2026**, ahead of the main conference programme. These workshops are intended to provide practical, hands-on engagement with selected topics in data science, artificial intelligence, analytics, and related fields.

FAQ 29

Will certificates be issued?

Certificates may be issued for presenters and registered participants, subject to attendance verification and conference administration processes.

FAQ 30

Can my institution sponsor ADSC 2026?

Yes. ADSC 2026 welcomes sponsorship and partnership from universities, research institutes, government departments, industry partners, professional bodies, and development organisations. Sponsorship opportunities may include support for student participation, exhibition space, conference branding, themed sessions, workshops, and other partnership activities.

FAQ 31

Who should I contact for conference enquiries?

For general enquiries, please email adsc2026@easychair.org or visit the official conference website.

Programme Highlights, Keynotes and Workshops

FAQ 32

Who are the keynote speakers for ADSC 2026?

ADSC 2026 will feature a distinguished group of keynote speakers drawn from academia, industry, and the broader data science ecosystem. Confirmed featured speakers include **Prof. Loyiso Nongxa**, **Prof. Maurice Radebe**, **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli**, **Prof. Vukosi Marivate**, **Prof. Karin-Therese Howell**, and **Prof. Benjamin Rosman**. The final keynote programme and speaker schedule will be communicated through the official conference channels.

FAQ 33

Will there be industry talks at ADSC 2026?

Yes. ADSC 2026 will include industry lightning talks designed to showcase practical applications of data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, analytics, and digital innovation. These sessions will provide opportunities for industry practitioners to share concise, high-impact insights on real-world use cases, implementation lessons, organisational challenges, and emerging opportunities in African and global contexts.

FAQ 34

Will ADSC 2026 include panel discussions?

Yes. ADSC 2026 will include panel discussions on selected strategic and scholarly themes. Planned panel themes include **AI Governance** and **Data Science Education**. These sessions will bring together academics, practitioners, institutional leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to reflect on responsible AI, data governance, skills development, curriculum innovation, and the future of data science in Africa.

FAQ 35

Which workshops will ADSC 2026 convene?

ADSC 2026 will convene optional workshops on **23 June 2026**, ahead of the main conference. Planned workshops include *Beyond Vibe Coding: Building Trustworthy Data Science with LLM Agents* by **Naweed Khan** and **Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo** from **IBM Research**; *Introduction to Spatial Data Science* by **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli** from the University of Pretoria; *Publishing in Top Tier Journals* by **Prof. Moinak Maiti** from Wits University; and *Data Science in Industry* by **Prof. Charis Harley** from the University of Johannesburg. Workshop places may be limited and delegates are encouraged to register early.

FAQ 36

Are the workshops included in the main conference registration fee?

No. The workshops are optional extras and are not automatically included in the main conference registration fee. Delegates who wish to attend a workshop should select the relevant workshop option during registration and pay the applicable workshop fee.

FAQ 37

How much does it cost to attend an ADSC 2026 workshop?

The listed workshop fee is **R1,500** per workshop. Delegates should confirm the selected workshop and applicable fee through the official registration portal.

FAQ 38

Can I attend the workshops without attending the full conference?

Workshop-only attendance may be subject to availability and conference registration arrangements. Interested participants should check the official registration portal or contact the organising committee for guidance. Priority may be given to registered conference delegates where places are limited.

FAQ 39

Will the workshops be practical or theoretical?

The workshops are intended to provide focused, applied, and intellectually engaging sessions. Some workshops will be practically oriented, while others will focus on scholarly development, publishing, professional practice, or strategic reflection. The final workshop descriptions will provide more detail on expected content, level, and participant requirements.

FAQ 40

Will there be sessions relevant to industry and professional practice?

Yes. ADSC 2026 is designed to connect academic research with professional practice. In addition to industry lightning talks, the conference will include sessions relevant to business analytics, digital transformation, applied AI, data-driven decision-making, responsible innovation, and sector-specific applications of data science.

FAQ 41

Will there be opportunities for networking?

Yes. ADSC 2026 will provide several opportunities for networking among postgraduate students, researchers, academics, industry practitioners, policymakers, sponsors, and institutional partners. These interactions are central to the conference's aim of strengthening the African data science ecosystem.

FAQ 42

Will there be a gala dinner?

Yes. A gala dinner is available as an optional extra. The listed gala dinner fee is **R1,200**. Corporate or industry delegate registration includes the gala dinner, as indicated on the registration portal. Other delegates who wish to attend the gala dinner should select it during registration.

FAQ 43

Can I submit or present more than one paper?

Delegates may be allowed to present more than one accepted paper, subject to conference scheduling and registration rules. An additional paper fee of **R1,000** applies per additional paper submission. Authors should confirm the applicable conditions through the official registration portal and conference communication channels.

FAQ 44

What are the registration fee categories?

The early-bird registration categories include **R4,500** for student early-bird registration, **R5,500** for standard early-bird registration, and **R7,900** for corporate or industry delegates, with the corporate or industry fee including the gala dinner. Delegates should consult the official registration portal for the most current registration options and payment details.

FAQ 45

Will there be exhibitions or sponsor showcases?

Yes. ADSC 2026 welcomes institutional partners, sponsors, exhibitors, and organisations interested in showcasing relevant work, tools, programmes, research initiatives, or professional services.

Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities may be arranged through the organising committee.

FAQ 46

Will postgraduate students have opportunities to engage with senior researchers?

Yes. One of the aims of ADSC 2026 is to create a supportive intellectual environment for postgraduate students and early-career researchers. Students will have opportunities to present their work, receive feedback, attend workshops, interact with keynote speakers, and network with experienced academics and practitioners.

FAQ 47

Will ADSC 2026 focus only on technical data science?

No. While technical data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence, statistics, and analytics are central to the conference, ADSC 2026 also welcomes work on governance, ethics, education, policy, business applications, digital transformation, sustainability, health, finance, climate, geospatial analytics, and African development contexts.

FAQ 48

Will responsible AI and AI governance be discussed?

Yes. Responsible AI and AI governance are important themes within ADSC 2026. The conference will provide space for critical discussion on ethics, accountability, fairness, transparency, data governance, institutional readiness, and the responsible deployment of AI systems in African contexts.

FAQ 49

Is ADSC 2026 suitable for people who are new to data science?

Yes. ADSC 2026 is suitable for a broad audience. While some sessions will be technical, others will focus on applications, policy, education, business strategy, governance, and professional practice. Postgraduate students, emerging researchers, and practitioners who are building their data science expertise are encouraged to participate.

FAQ 50

Where can I find updates about the programme?

Programme updates will be shared through the official conference website, registration portal, LinkedIn page, and official conference communication channels. Delegates are encouraged to check these channels regularly as the programme develops.

Sponsorship and Partnership Opportunities

FAQ 51

Can my organisation sponsor or partner with ADSC 2026?

Yes. ADSC 2026 welcomes sponsorship and partnership from universities, research institutes, government departments, industry partners, professional bodies, technology organisations, development agencies, foundations, and other institutions aligned with the conference theme, **African Data Science, for Africa**.

FAQ 52

Why should an organisation partner with ADSC 2026?

Partnership with ADSC 2026 provides an opportunity to support the growth of the African data science ecosystem while gaining visibility among researchers, postgraduate students, industry practitioners, policymakers, innovators, institutional leaders, and data science professionals. Sponsors and partners contribute to a conference platform that promotes research excellence, responsible innovation, industry engagement, and African-centred data science development.

FAQ 53

What can sponsorship contributions support?

Sponsorship contributions may support student participation, registration waivers, postgraduate development, thematic sessions, workshops, prizes and awards, exhibition activities, and broader conference visibility. Organisations may also support specific activities that align with their institutional priorities, strategic objectives, or social impact commitments.

FAQ 54

What sponsorship packages are currently available?

The current ADSC 2026 sponsorship packages include Bronze Sponsor, Silver Sponsor, Gold Sponsor, Platinum Sponsor, Conference Bag Sponsor, and Workshop Sponsor. Each package offers different forms of visibility, acknowledgement, participation, and engagement with the conference community.

FAQ 55

What is included in the Bronze Sponsor package?

The **Bronze Sponsor** package is valued at **R15 000**. It includes logo placement on the conference website, acknowledgement in the conference programme, recognition during the opening session, and one complimentary full conference registration.

FAQ 56

What is included in the Silver Sponsor package?

The **Silver Sponsor** package is valued at **R30 000**. It includes all Bronze Sponsor benefits, together with two complimentary full conference registrations, exhibition space, and recognition on selected conference communication material.

FAQ 57

What is included in the Gold Sponsor package?

The **Gold Sponsor** package is valued at **R50 000**. It includes all Silver Sponsor benefits, together with three complimentary full conference registrations, premium logo placement, a promotional insert in conference bags, and sponsorship of a themed session, panel, or student activity.

FAQ 58

What is included in the Platinum Sponsor package?

The **Platinum Sponsor** package is valued at **R75 000**. It includes all Gold Sponsor benefits, together with four complimentary full conference registrations, premium recognition across conference branding, a brief speaking opportunity during a high-visibility session, enhanced visibility across conference media platforms, and priority exhibition presence.

FAQ 59

What is included in the Conference Bag Sponsor package?

The **Conference Bag Sponsor** package is valued at **R40 000**. It includes logo branding on the official conference bags, exhibition presence, promotional inserts in conference bags, acknowledgement on the conference website and in the official conference programme, and two complimentary full conference registrations.

FAQ 60

What is included in the Workshop Sponsor package?

The **Workshop Sponsor** package is valued at **R45 000**. It includes sponsorship of up to three workshop sessions, acknowledgement in the workshop programme, branding on selected workshop communication material, and two complimentary full conference registrations.

FAQ 61

Are tailored partnership opportunities available?

Yes. Beyond the listed sponsorship categories, tailored partnership opportunities are available for organisations wishing to support specific aspects of the conference. These may include student scholarships, registration waivers, postgraduate development initiatives, thematic sessions, panel discussions, workshops, prizes and awards, exhibition activities, or other strategic activities aligned with institutional priorities.

FAQ 62

How can my organisation express interest in sponsoring or partnering with ADSC 2026?

Organisations interested in sponsoring or partnering with ADSC 2026 are invited to contact the organising committee at adsc2026@easychair.org.

Sponsors and Partners

ADSC 2026 gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors, partners, and institutional collaborators. Their contributions help strengthen the conference's mission of advancing **African Data Science, for Africa**, while supporting research engagement, postgraduate development, industry collaboration, student participation, and responsible data science innovation across the continent.

WITS FACULTY OF COMMERCE, LAW & MANAGEMENT

NITheCS National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND JOHANNESBURG

MIND Machine Intelligence and Neural Discovery Institute

Faculty of Science

CAPSI Centre on African Philanthropy & Social Investment

Celebrating 10 years of African Philanthropy at Wits 2016 2026

MaSS DSTI-NRF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICAL & STATISTICAL SCIENCES

Organisations interested in sponsoring, exhibiting, supporting student participation, facilitating workshops, supporting prizes and awards, or partnering with ADSC 2026 are invited to contact the organising committee at adsc2026@easychair.org.