



## International Academic Advisor

### Prof Les Labuschagne, PhD



Executive Director: Research  
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**Lessing (Les) Labuschagne** began his career at the then Maize Board in Pretoria as a Systems Designer and Developer. The prospect of lending his enquiring mind to research and contributing to the shortage of IT skills led him to return to academia as a lecturer at Technikon SA in 1992, the same year in which he completed his Master's degree through Rand Afrikaans University. He left academia for a few years to gain industry experience and worked at companies such as Price Forbes and IBM South Africa as a consultant while completing his doctorate. The lure of academia proved too great and he re-entered it as a senior lecturer at the Rand Afrikaans University in 1998. He completed his doctorate in 2000 and became an associate professor in the same year. In 2006 he was appointed as the Head of Department for Business Information Technology. In 2009 he joined Unisa as Professor and Director of the School of Computing and in August 2011 was seconded to the position of Executive Director Research. The position became permanent in October 2012.

His volunteer activities and affiliations outside of his formal employment reflected his interest in project management as early as 1999 when he joined Project Management South Africa (PMSA) first as an ordinary, then professional member. He began to take on leadership roles within this professional association, first serving as the Vice-President: Projects on the National Executive Committee then being elected as president of the association in May 2004. He served a two-year term until 2006 before being invited onto the Board of PMSA as director. He has been the chair of the Programme Committee for the last four biennial PMSA national conferences. In September 2010 he was awarded the title of Fellow of PMSA in recognition of his contribution to the development of Project Management as a research discipline in South Africa. He is one of only five people to hold this title and also the youngest.

Les ensures he is active in the international PM community and as such is also a member of the international Project Management Institute (PMI).

Les has been a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher since 2003 and is currently rated as C2, has co-authored a book and authored fourteen journal papers and 38 conference papers. He has also successfully supervised nine masters and two doctoral students to completion. Since 2000 he regularly serves as reviewer for conferences such as PMI's Research and Education Conference (2008-2014), PMSA's biennial conference (2002-2014) and Information Security South Africa (2000-2014).

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