



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
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UCT's Mandela School introduces Professor Ismail as Director Designate

South Africa's top trade negotiator will shortly take over as the Director of the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Professor Faizel Ismail has had a glittering career negotiating major agreements including the Southern African Customs Union and the Trade and Development Agreement with the European Union, having been South Africa's Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation for 10 years, and as a senior adviser to the Minister of Trade and Industry. Professor Ismail has now committed to making his future contributions at UCT.

The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance prepares to enter a new and exciting phase of its development in 2019 following the appointment of Professor Faizel Ismael as Director. There will be a few months transition between current Director Professor Alan Hirsch and Professor Ismail, before handover in July 2019.

"I am excited at the new opportunity that this appointment provides for me to contribute to re-building the institutions of the democratic state and the capacity of the next generation of policymakers based on the values of Nelson Mandela," said Professor Ismail.

"Under the careful directorship of Professor Hirsch, the Mandela School has developed a global reputation for engaged, exciting scholarship that gets to grips with African governance and leadership issues as lived and experienced. I will be building on this solid foundation."

The School has trained 1400 students from across Africa in leadership and academic programs since it was established in 2011. It combines academic insight with practice-based public service to promote strategic public leadership in Africa. The School and its

offerings are designed to make public service at the highest levels of leadership an aspiration for the most talented of the community's rising generation.

Professor Ismail, an experienced international trade negotiator and respected academic, is well placed to succeed Professor Hirsch. He is also a global expert on development issues, having published several books on trade and development. He has a distinguished academic career having completed a BA and an LLB degree from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal an MPhil degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University (United Kingdom) and a PhD in Politics from the University of Manchester (UK). He is currently a Professor in the UCT School of Economics and in the Faculty of Law. He served as the Chairperson of the International Trade and Administration Commission from 2015 to 2018 and has been re-appointed for a five-year term (2018-2023).

The Mandela School at a glance

Previously established as the Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, the school adopted its current name in July 2018, a move made in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation. "We are proud and deeply honoured to be associated with Nelson Mandela's name," said Professor Alan Hirsch, current Director of the School.

The Mandela School's student demographics straddle the public and private sector, from civil society professionals to government officials and activists. The 1400 alumni of the School, so far, live in more than 30 African countries.

"The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance has a very exciting programme of growth planned, that will secure its position as the most widely respected governance School in Africa," says Hirsch. "We have built a truly African centre at the University of Cape Town and, under Faizel's leadership, we anticipate growing from strength to strength."



Professor Faizel Ismail (left) and Professor Alan Hirsch (right). Photo credit: Liam Cornell

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Note to Editors:

The Mandela School has a number of global specialists in African economic development and ethical leadership who can be contacted for expert opinion on matters related to governance and development.

These include:

1. **Professor Alan Hirsch** – Director of the Mandela School. Managed economic policy in the South African Presidency from 2002 – 2012. Author of *Season of Hope: Economic Reform Under Mandela and Mbeki*.
2. **Professor Faizel Ismail** – Director Designate of the Mandela School. Former South African Ambassador to the World Trade Organization.
3. **Professor Carlos Lopes** – Honorary Professor at the Mandela School. Bissau-Guinean development economist, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa from 2012 – 2016. Member of African Union reform team, led by Rwandan President Paul Kagame.
4. **Professor Brian Levy**, Academic Director at the Nelson Mandela School and Professor at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University
5. **Dr Marianne Camerer** – Director of the Mandela School Building Bridges programme, specialising in developing emerging, ethical African leadership.
6. **Professor Lindiwe Msengana-Ndlela** – Adjunct Professor at The Mandela School, Special Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Training, and

former Director General of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

7. **Professor Alison Gillwald** – Adjunct Professor at the Mandela School, Executive Director of Research ICT Africa. Information Communication Technology specialist.
8. **Professor Matt Andrews** – Mandela School and Harvard Kennedy School lecturer in public policy, specialising in participatory governance and public sector reform, with experience in Kwa-Zulu Natal provincial government.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Aamirah Sunday

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5427
Cell: (076) 947 6071

Email: aamirah.sunday@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za