

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS
3rd Biennial Postgraduate Conference (2026)
Postgraduate College, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria

The Postgraduate College, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, invites postgraduate students, researchers, academics, professionals, policymakers, industry actors, and development stakeholders to submit abstracts and full papers for the 3rd Biennial Postgraduate Conference. The conference is designed to provide a platform for postgraduate scholars and researchers to present innovative research findings, share knowledge, receive scholarly feedback, build academic networks, and contribute to national, regional, and global development discourse.

Conference Theme

Innovative Postgraduate Research for Sustainable Development in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

Conference Rationale

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence, digital technologies, and emerging knowledge systems is reshaping education, research, industry, governance, health, agriculture, infrastructure, finance, and society. In this changing context, postgraduate research must not only advance knowledge but also provide practical solutions to development challenges. This conference, therefore, seeks to promote high-quality postgraduate research that addresses sustainable development, innovation, digital transformation, institutional strengthening, knowledge commercialization, and societal transformation.

Conference Objectives

The objectives of the conference are to:

1. provide a scholarly platform for postgraduate students and researchers to present ongoing and completed research;
2. promote interdisciplinary dialogue on innovation, sustainable development and Artificial Intelligence;
3. strengthen postgraduate research quality, academic writing, publication and knowledge dissemination;
4. encourage research collaboration among universities, research institutes, industry, government and development partners;
5. promote the application of research findings to national development challenges;
6. expose postgraduate scholars to peer review, academic critique and research communication; and
7. generate scholarly outputs including a book of abstracts, conference proceedings and policy-relevant recommendations.

Sub-themes

Abstracts and papers are invited under the following sub-themes:

1. **Artificial Intelligence, Digital Transformation and Emerging Technologies**
 - Artificial intelligence and data science

- Cybersecurity and digital trust
 - Internet of Things, blockchain, and smart systems
 - Virtual and augmented reality
 - Digital infrastructure and smart campuses
 - AI for research, teaching, and knowledge generation
- 2. Postgraduate Education, Research Quality and Knowledge Production**
- Innovations in pedagogical approaches
 - Postgraduate supervision and mentoring
 - Research ethics and academic integrity
 - Innovative research methods and scholarly communication
 - Quality assurance in postgraduate education
 - Research funding, grantsmanship, and publication strategies
 - Graduate employability and career development
- 3. Health, Biomedical Sciences, and One Health Innovations**
- Digital health and AI in healthcare
 - Biomedical and pharmaceutical innovation
 - Public health systems and disease surveillance
 - Veterinary medicine and One Health
 - Nutrition, wellbeing, and community health
 - Health policy and service delivery
- 4. Agriculture, Food Systems, Environment, and Climate Resilience**
- Food, livestock and fisheries systems
 - Climate-smart agriculture
 - Natural resource management and biodiversity
 - Food, water and energy security
 - Environmental sustainability and climate adaptation
 - Agricultural extension, rural development and livelihoods
- 5. Engineering, Infrastructure, Energy, and the Built Environment**
- Sustainable infrastructure and urbanisation
 - Renewable energy and energy transition
 - Transportation, housing, and smart cities
 - Water systems and sanitation
 - Industrial innovation and manufacturing systems
 - Materials, design, and technological applications
 - Application of AI, robotics, and IoT in infrastructure development
- 6. Governance, Law, Security, Innovation, and Social Transformation**
- Digital transformation in governance, policy and institutional reforms
 - Law, justice and human rights
 - Peace, equity, security and conflict resolution
 - Migration, border systems and regional integration
 - Gender, youth and social inclusion

- Development planning and public administration
- Entrepreneurship, innovation and knowledge commercialisation
- Research commercialisation and technology transfer
- Intellectual property and patent development
- Startup development and incubation
- University-industry collaboration
- Innovation ecosystems for Africa's development
- Technological solutions for future societies

7. Finance and Administration in the Digital Economy

- Adapting to regulatory shifts and global market volatility
- Transparency in an era of digital finance
- Harnessing big data for organisational value creation
- Socio-economic impacts of automation and digital finance
- Digital financial systems, accountability, and institutional efficiency
- Public finance, administration, and sustainable development

8. Humanities, Languages, Culture and Creative Industries for Sustainable Development

- Digital humanities and artificial intelligence
- Language, linguistics and multilingual technologies
- Literature, creative writing and cultural expression
- History, archaeology and heritage conservation
- Philosophy, ethics and responsible innovation
- Religious studies, peacebuilding and social cohesion
- Theatre, music, visual arts and creative industries
- Indigenous knowledge systems and African intellectual traditions
- Media, communication and digital literacy
- Libraries, archives, museums and knowledge preservation

Categories of Participation

Participants may submit abstracts and papers for any of the following categories:

- Oral paper presentation
- Poster presentation
- Doctoral research presentation
- Master's research presentation
- Panel contribution
- Innovation or research exhibition

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

Abstracts should be prepared according to the following guidelines:

- Title: not more than 20 words
- Author names and institutional affiliations should be clearly stated
- The corresponding author's email and phone number should be provided
- Abstract length: between 250-300 words
- Keywords: 4–6 keywords

Abstract should clearly indicate the background, objective, methodology, major findings or expected findings, conclusion, and contribution to knowledge or development.

- Font: Times New Roman, 12-font size
- Line spacing: 1.15
- File format: Microsoft Word document

Guidelines for Full Paper Submission

Full papers should be submitted after abstract acceptance and should follow the prescribed conference format. Papers should normally include:

- Title
- Author name(s) and affiliation(s)
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods/Methodology
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion and Recommendations
- Acknowledgments, where applicable
- References

Full papers should not exceed 10 pages, including references, tables, and figures, unless otherwise specified by the Conference Technical Subcommittee.

Review and Selection Process

All submitted abstracts and papers shall be subjected to academic peer review by appointed reviewers. Submissions will be assessed based on:

- relevance to the conference theme or sub-themes;
- originality and contribution to knowledge;
- clarity of objectives;
- appropriateness of methodology;
- quality of analysis and presentation;
- significance of findings;
- policy, practical or theoretical relevance; and
- adherence to submission guidelines.

Accepted abstracts will be assigned to appropriate thematic sessions for oral or poster presentation.

Expected Conference Outputs

The expected outputs of the conference include:

- conference programme booklet;
- book of abstracts;
- peer-reviewed conference proceedings;
- conference communique;
- awards for outstanding presentations;
- strengthened postgraduate research networks; and
- recommendations for policy, practice and future research.

Important Dates

Opening of abstract submission: 9 August 2026

Deadline for abstract submission: 20 September 2026

Deadline for full paper submission: 30 September 2026

Conference dates:

- Arrival: Monday, 5 October
- Opening ceremony, plenary Session: Tuesday, 6 October
- Technical Sessions: Wednesday, 7 October
- Departure: Thursday, 8 October 2026

Submission Procedure

Abstracts and full papers should be submitted electronically through the Conference

Management System: conference.pgc.abu.edu.ng

All submissions should indicate the relevant sub-theme under which the abstract or paper should be considered.

Enquiries

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Signed

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