

MEET THE EXPERTS

SHAPING A STRONGER MBA EXPERIENCE

S H A P I N G E X E C U T I V E M I N D S I N A F R I C A

Meet the experts shaping a stronger NWU Business School MBA experience

The NWU Business School is proud to introduce the experts joining our MBA Programme: Dr Zondré Keevy, Francois Fouche, Frans van der Colff, Jerome Davies, Lyndon Barends, Sivan Padayachy and Veronica Motloutsi – leaders ready to challenge and inspire our MBA students. They each bring global expertise, practical insights, and deep experience across business, economics, leadership, and digital innovation.

Dr Zondré Keevy joins us as a leadership development practitioner, facilitator, and academic. Her work spans higher education, corporate leadership programmes, and organisational consulting. Passionate about intentional, human-centred leadership, Dr Keevy has worked with organisations including Dis-Chem, Pick 'n Pay, Edcon, Netcare, and more, and her research has led to the creation of the Coherent Architecture for Retail Leadership (CARL) Model. Her MBA module promises to be a reflective, practical, and deeply engaging leadership journey. Dr Keevy will facilitate the Leadership module for the Phase One students.

Francois Fouche bridges the gap between high-level economic theory and real-world industrial strategy. He will facilitate the Executive Economics module for the Phase One students and began his career at Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates, the U.S. commercial think tank founded by Nobel Laureate Dr Lawrence Klein. Today, as co-founder of Boundless World, Fouche advises central banks, governments, and private-sector companies on trade policy, export strategies, and investment decisions. He is a frequent speaker and panellist on economic developments across Africa. Beyond advisory work, Fouche is passionate about developing future leaders, sharing his deep institutional knowledge through his teaching roles at NWU Business School and GIBS. His ability to translate complex econometric data into actionable trade policy makes him a valuable resource for students and business professionals alike.

Frans van der Colff is a strategically minded business leader with an entrepreneurial spirit and over 20 years of experience in retail management and strategy across Africa. As an Executive Fellow at Henley Business School and a Professor of Practice at the University of Johannesburg, Van der Colff has guided organisations in operations, finance, and team leadership, building high-performing teams and sustainable business models. Passionate about mentoring young entrepreneurs, he has led franchises, advised companies on strategic growth, and developed executive education programmes that equip leaders to succeed in complex markets. Van der Colff combines practical business insight with academic rigour, preparing MBA students to thrive in the dynamic African business landscape and will facilitate the Strategic Management module for the Phase Two students.

Jerome Davies is a chartered accountant and senior executive with more than 20 years' experience in financial management, strategy, and executive leadership across higher education, financial services, and public institutions. He has served in roles including CFO, COO, and Executive Director, leading financial turnarounds, strengthening governance, and supporting strategic board-level decision-making. Davies holds an MBA from Maastricht School of Management, an MCom in Finance from UCT, and is a qualified CA(SA). As an MBA lecturer, he brings a practitioner perspective to the classroom, helping students link financial theory to real-world challenges and develop financially literate leadership skills that drive sound strategic decisions. We are proud to have him facilitate the Financial Management module for the Phase Two students.

Lyndon Barends is a results-driven CEO, strategist, and change leader with a diverse career spanning media, sports, and IT industries. He is currently Managing Director at Arena Holdings, overseeing newspapers, TV and radio stations, and music and events divisions. Barends has held leadership roles, including CEO of Primedia, CEO of SASCO, and director at Standard Bank. Beyond business, he is a passionate philanthropist, founding DADFund and Dream Girls Academy and co-founding the Soweto Heritage Trust. An award-winning leader, Barends brings together strategic vision, operational excellence, and a strong commitment to community impact. He will offer MBA students valuable insights into leadership, strategy, and social responsibility while facilitating the International Business Issues elective module for Phase Two students.

Veronica Motloutsi is a visionary leader in digital transformation with over 25 years' experience driving enterprise innovation, operational excellence, and governance in both public and private sectors. She will facilitate the Managing the Digital Economy module for Phase Two students. Formerly CEO of SmartDigital Solutions, she led digital ecosystem initiatives across Southern Africa and advised governments and global tech partners such as Huawei, Microsoft, and Inspur. Motloutsi is also a non-executive director for multiple organisations and an award-winning innovator in technology and business leadership. Holding an MBA and an MTech in Business Information Systems, and currently pursuing a PhD, she continues to champion Africa's digital future as the author of AfricaLead with Digital and through her teaching, inspiring the next generation of business leaders.

Sivan Padayachy is a PCC-certified executive and team coach with over 25 years' experience supporting leaders and teams across Africa. She will be facilitating the coaching introduced to our Phase One students. A former corporate HR executive and founder of Sivan & Co. (Pty) Ltd, she partners with organisations to develop authentic,

emotionally intelligent, and accountable leaders. Sivan is known for her grounded, human-centred coaching approach, which emphasises empathy, personal mastery, and sustainable transformation.

Together, this diverse group of experts brings practical experience, global perspective, and cutting-edge thought leadership to the NWU Business School's MBA Programme. Their combined expertise promises an MBA experience that is rigorous, reflective, and deeply connected to the challenges and opportunities of today's business world.

We are excited to introduce these leaders to our MBA students and look forward to an MBA teaching journey that is rich in learning, collaboration, and growth.