

Riana Coetsee : Abbreviated Bio October 2025

Riana Coetsee is a research management consultant, specialising in skills development of early career researchers and grant proposal support of researchers at all levels. She did her postgraduate studies at the Université de Nantes, France (Diplôme d'Études Supérieures, with distinction) and Stellenbosch University (Master's degree in French, *cum laude*).

She recently held the position of Group Manager & Head: International & Early Career Research Grants at Stellenbosch University (SU), prior to which she had served as, among other, Interim Regional Manager of the African Office for the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership (EDCTP) of the European Union, and Executive Director of the South Africa-USA Fulbright Commission. She also served as an advisor to the South African Minister of Science and Technology regarding international science and technology collaboration and agreements.

A recipient of the SU Vice-Chancellor's Award for Professional Excellence twice, the United States Government Distinguished International Visitors Leadership Programme Award and the United Nations' award to participate in the UN International Leadership Academy in Jordan, Riana developed skills training courses for researchers in grant proposal writing, in English and French respectively. These have been offered at international conferences and at various tertiary and research institutions in Africa and on other continents.

Since March 2020, when online training became inevitable, she has trained more than 1,500 researchers in Southern Africa, West Africa and the UK through virtual and in-person grant proposal writing workshops. In her current position as Research Management & Skills Training Consultant, she continues with these training courses at various research and higher education institutions. Over the past 2 years, Riana also trained more than 100 early career researchers in Southern Africa in best practices in presenting research at public forums (e.g. conferences, seminars, grant interviews) and presented numerous information sessions on “funding for research”.

During the past three years she served on an International Core Expert Panel for global publisher Springer Nature, co-developing a course for a Masterclass in research grant funding. According to Nature over 60,000 researchers globally have benefited from the Nature Masterclasses. She was also invited by Springer Nature to conduct their first Nature Masterclasses Online (NMO) webinar on the topic “Demystifying Grant Budgets: A Beginner's Guide for Researchers” which was attended by more than 500 researchers from all over the world. She recently taught a module to postgraduate students in research management at the Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST) at Stellenbosch University.

Having written numerous successful grant applications herself, serving on grant review panels and continuing to do so, she wrote a chapter on grant proposal writing in the book, *Get Ready...Get set..Go!* (SUNMedia 2017) aimed at doctoral students and supervisors.