



Abridged Biography | Prof Sue Harrison



Prof Sue Harrison is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Internationalisation, University of Cape Town. She took up the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation at the University of Cape Town in 2019. Her specific portfolio includes research, innovation, postgraduate studies and internationalisation with a strong focus on embedding social responsiveness into research. Prof Sue Harrison also contributes to the executive function in a cross-cutting way. She has a long, varied track record in management and leadership in the academic arena, built up through a 30 year academic career. The management and leadership roles started with her headship of the

Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Cape Town some 20 years back, through serving as Deputy Dean: Postgraduate and Research for 6 years.

Harrison's research and teaching career extends over some 30 years. She was a founding member of three interdisciplinary research groupings at UCT: the Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research, the Minerals to Metals initiative for sustainable development of minerals resources and Future Water, an interdisciplinary research institute and has served as director of two of these. She has been a long-time champion of interdisciplinary research capacity at UCT and continues very much in this role, as well as facilitating the role of soft-funded researchers and building fit-for-purpose research support systems. Her contribution to innovation and translation of research has been demonstrated through her leadership role in the nurturing of South Africa's regional innovation centres in biotechnology, serving on the Technology Innovation Agency and in the implementation plans for SA's bioeconomy strategy. Further, throughout her career, her work has focused on developing a well-functioning relationship between academia and industry.
