



# Journal of Student Affairs in Africa

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### “The Professionalization of Student Affairs in Africa”

*JSAA Prestigious Launch Double Issue 2013*

Along with the revitalization of African higher education and the increasing massification of universities and colleges across the continent, student affairs has been experiencing an incipient professionalization in Africa. Master’s and doctoral-level programmes in Higher Education Studies, in parts focused on the training of researchers and professionals with interest or involvement in student development, have sprung up in African universities. Simultaneously, new and existing centres are increasing efforts to develop the body of knowledge and expertise necessary for the rapid expansion of higher education research in Africa. This trend is underpinned by a growing recognition among university leadership of the need for professionally qualified personnel in student affairs to deal with increasing demands for *professional* student development services and *evidence-based* policy making.

It is within this context that the *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa (JSAA)* is inviting original contributions of conceptual, empirical and normative nature that engage with questions around the incipient professionalization of student affairs in Africa.

- Critical contributions engaging with the notion of ‘professionalization’ / ‘professionalism’ and its meaning in relation to the practice of student affairs
- Explorations of the nexus of student affairs theory, policy and practice in the African context
- Explorations of theory development, professional trends and academic programmes related to student affairs in Africa
- Conceptual discussions of student development, and key enablers and inhibitors of student development in Africa
- Case studies of innovative practices in student affairs in the context of African higher education (e.g. in residence administration, student governance, student counselling)
- High level reflective practitioner accounts

In addition, the journal publishes relevant book reviews, and professional and conference notices from affiliated scholarly associations and institutions.

The **Closing Date** for receiving full papers for the prestigious launch double issue is **30 June 2013**. Submissions on these and related topics relevant to the field of student affairs can be made at any time. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically to the *Journal’s* website [www.jsaa.ac.za](http://www.jsaa.ac.za). Guidelines regarding the format and process of submission can be obtained from [www.jsaa.ac.za](http://www.jsaa.ac.za) and overleaf. Register as author and/or reviewer and for your free online subscription at [www.jsaa.ac.za](http://www.jsaa.ac.za).

**The *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa (JSAA)*** is an independent, international, peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary, open-access academic journal that publishes scholarly research and reflective discussions about the theory and practice of student affairs in African higher education. JSAA strives to be *the foremost academic journal dealing with the theory and practice of the student affairs domain in higher education on the African continent*, and an indispensable resource for the executive leadership of universities and colleges dealing with student development, deans of students and other senior student affairs professionals, as well as institutional researchers and academics and students focused on the field of higher education studies and student affairs.

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The JSAA Editorial Executive can be contacted at [jsaa\\_editor@outlook.com](mailto:jsaa_editor@outlook.com) and at +27 83 350 59 59.



# Journal of Student Affairs in Africa

## Information for Authors

The *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa* affirms diverse forms of scholarly engagement and diversity in terms of themes and perspectives, paradigmatic, disciplinary and methodological approaches and contexts of scholarship and application. It considers for publication submissions of original scholarly research-based articles, reflective discussions by practitioners, book reviews and professional notices, such as conference calls. The publication is free of charge to authors; the journal publishes open access, under a creative commons licence, in partnership with African Minds publishers.

**Scope of the Journal** The *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa* publishes theoretical, practice-relevant, and reflective contributions from across the scholarly and professional field of Student Affairs, taking due cognizance that the scope is broad, fluid and context dependent. Submissions are encouraged from scholars and reflective practitioners from across the globe; submissions ought to be relevant to the mission, aims and scope of the *Journal*. Especially encouraged are submissions from African scholars and professionals working in higher education on the African continent. Submissions dealing with student affairs issues from other contexts that are transferable to the African context are also considered.

The scope of JSAA is indicated by keywords such as: student affairs, student success, retention and throughput, student career development, student counselling, student development theory and research, student discipline, student engagement, student experience, student finances and financial aid, student housing, disability/disabled students, student leadership and governance, student lifecycle, student living and learning, student organizations, student orientation, student policy, student politics and activism, student sport, student support, graduate attributes, and teaching and learning support.

JSAA is divided into different sections, i.e. Research Article (peer reviewed); Reflective Practice (peer reviewed); Dialogue section; Book Reviews section; and Calls and Notices. All manuscripts should be double-spaced and all pages consecutively numbered. The *Journal* uses the APA author-date referencing system (for details see <http://www.apastyle.org>).

Please note that different requirements apply for different types of manuscripts:

- **Research-based Articles** Contributors are encouraged to submit original research-based manuscripts of 3000-5000 words, including all references, notes, tables and figures. Manuscripts should be accompanied by an abstract of approximately 150-200 words.
- **Reflective articles** (reflective practitioner accounts) on professional campus practice are peer reviewed. They are screened and reviewed according to the same criteria as research articles, albeit with a different emphasis. Unlike a research article, they do not need to include an extensive consideration of recent literature and theory, but they must nonetheless comply with standard academic convention and scholarly practice. Reflective practitioner articles must be original, must make a significant empirical contribution and significantly enhance our understanding of student affairs practice within their respective scope and focus. Typical length: 2500-5000 words.
- **Book reviews** should be between 800–1000 words. Competent reviews of key student affairs books are published at the discretion of the Editorial Executive.
- Proposal for the journal's **Dialogue** section (e.g. interviews) and **Comments and critique**, of no more than 1500 words, are also welcome.
- Suggestions for **Calls and Notices** must be emailed directly to the journal manager. The publication of professional notices and calls is at the discretion of the Editorial Team and may incur a nominal fee.

Please note: All contributions received for publication in the journal undergo initial screening by members of the Editorial Executive. Once a manuscript has successfully passed an initial screening, it may be submitted for a double-blind peer review (for research-based articles and reflective practitioner accounts) in keeping with ASSAf best practice guidelines. The suitability of articles is evaluated in terms of (1) Originality; (2) Significance; (3) Scholarship; (4) Scope and Interest; and (5) Accessibility (details see website).

**Publications and Language Policy and Costs of Publication** The *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa* is published twice a year, starting with a launch double issue in 2013. The journal is available in print and online at [www.jsaa.ac.za](http://www.jsaa.ac.za) (open access). JSAA's main publishing language is English; contributions in other AAU languages may be considered and must be accompanied by English abstracts. **No costs accrue to authors** of articles accepted for publication (**no page fees**) but voluntary contributions and donations are welcome.