



South African Society of Archivists

2026–2027 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF ARCHIVISTS ELITE-EDGE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Closing Date: 31 July 2026

The South African Society of Archivists (SASA) invites applications from its members for consideration for the EliteEdge Development Initiative.

About the programme

In recognition of the evolving landscape of the profession, SASA acknowledges the importance of fostering knowledge transfer, promoting continuous learning, and encouraging professional engagement among both new and experienced professionals.

Despite the evident benefits of mentorship programmes in various professions, the archives and records management field in South Africa is facing a void in structured platform for knowledge exchange. This gap has posed significant challenges, including limited career growth, skills deficiencies, and loss of institutional knowledge. SASA stepped up to address this critical need by introducing a comprehensive mentorship programme termed, *EliteEdge Development Initiative* tailored specifically for professionals in the field.

Objectives of the EliteEdge Development Initiative Programme:

The SASA EliteEdge Development Initiative is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- To foster knowledge and skills transfer from experienced professionals to mentees with a common goal of ensuring continuous professional development.
- Facilitate networking opportunities for members by creating a platform where new professions can connect with leaders and peers within the association for the betterment of the profession at large.
- Develop a firm grasp of professional ethics, standards, and best practice in the sector and thereby fostering commitment to responsible and strong adherence to ethical principles.
- Build a sense of community amongst members of the association by creating mentoring relations that encourage continuous collaboration.
- Instil a culture of lifelong learning amongst members of the association.
- Encourage members to embrace innovation and adaptability at their workplaces with the view of keeping up with industry trends and technological advancement.

Committee Members: Dr Maite Manganye (President); Mr Nkitseng Mahalefa (Deputy President); Dr Vanessa Neo Mathope (Secretary General); Prof Makutla Mojapelo (Deputy Secretary General); Ms Nikkita Singh (Treasurer General); Prof. Ngoako Marutha (Journal Editor in Chief); Dr Mahlatse Shekgola (Journal Deputy Editor, Editor: SASA Newsletter, Coordinator: SASA EliteEdge Initiative Programme); Mr. Nkwenkwezi Languza (National Archives and Records Service of South Africa Representative); Ms Phindile Bekwa (Promotion, Publicity and Partnership Coordinator); Mr Lwazi Mestile (Training and Development Coordinator); INkosi Jongisilo Pokwana ka Menziwa (Former Chairperson)

Eligibility Criteria

To participate in this programme, please note the following criteria before proceeding with your application:

- Applicants must be active SASA members.
- Applicants must have less than five years' experience.
- Applicant should have access to reliable internet connection and necessary technology devices to fully participate in virtual meetings or other activities.
- Participant must be available to commit his or her time to a 12-month SASA EliteEdge Development Initiative programme.
- Participants must be available to contribute to any work done by SASA (i.e. arrange workshops or conferences, proofread papers for SASA journals, conference abstracts, market the association, etc.).

Benefits and opportunities

SASA EliteEdge Development Initiative offers several benefits and opportunities for young professionals in the field of archives and records management which include:

- Participants will have access to an experienced mentor who will guide and support to achieve their professional goals.
- Participants would have the opportunity to attend all workshops organised by SASA.
- Participant would attend and present a paper at SASA annual conference on a project they have been working on throughout the year.
- Participate in SASA recruitment drive.
- This programme is a networking opportunity for new professionals as the participants will be expected to participate in workshops, conferences, seminars, bootcamps and work with SASA executive on specific projects.
- Publish at least one article on a topic decided by mentor and mentee in a reputable journal.

Expectations from mentees

Mentees must be committed to do the following:

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to their professional development within the field.
- Meet with mentors on a regular basis throughout the programme.
- Attend all meetings organised by coordinators, including planning sessions and network.
- Participate in organising SASA workshop and the conference.
- Manage and facilitate SASA EliteEdge Development Initiative social media accounts.
- Market and encourage professionals to join SASA.
- In all interactions, mentees are expected to conduct themselves professionally by respecting the deadlines, guidelines and expectations set by the SASA and their mentors.

Duration

The programme shall run for a period of 12 months from the date of admission.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2026. We encourage those who are interested to apply before the deadline.

Remember that to apply you need to click <https://forms.office.com/r/y241SMfCVV>

Best Wishes!

Dr Mahlatse Shekgola
Coordinator: SASA EliteEdge Development initiative