

## Summarised CV for Syden Mishi

Syden Mishi was born in 1983 in Makonde, Zimbabwe, and spent much of his early life in the small-scale farming community of Zowa. He completed his primary education at Baramasimbe Primary School in Zowa in 1996, finishing top of his class. He then attended St Francis Roma High School in Chegutu Town for his secondary education (1997–2000).

After completing his A-level studies, Syden enrolled at Midlands State University but had to drop out due to financial constraints. He then worked at Bricon Private Limited from 2004 until his enrolment at the University of Fort Hare in 2007 under the Zimbabwe Presidential Scholarship Programme. During these 'gap years,' Syden discovered his passion for writing, encouraged by his aunt, Mrs. Gororo.

At Fort Hare, Syden pursued a BCom in Management and Economics, graduating Cum Laude in 2009. During his studies, he served as a tutor, Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader, and president of student societies such as Students in Free Enterprise and New Economic Horizons, achieving significant milestones.

*For example under the New Economic Horizons he led the development of a impactful community engagement project: he lead the engagement with Kat River Citrus and offered to train shop floor workers on Basic Financial and Economics Literacy Programme → the company paying for the services → appointed academics as Body of Intellectual Sponsors to ensure quality material and facilitation done by the students → utilised the resources to conduct Economics essay competition as a way to motivate the study of Economics, and to host events that support students graduateness and career planning. A self-sustainable, transformative and empowering community engagement model. The needs and resources finding each other. He continues on this model, with many of his projects containing a significant student and emerging academics development initiative.*

In 2010, Syden completed his BCom Honours in Financial Markets Economics under the Mandela Rhodes Scholarship, graduating Cum Laude. In 2011, he worked as a Projects Officer, evaluating and monitoring scholars' developmental projects in their communities. He began his MCom in Economics in 2011, completing it in 2012 while lecturing part-time at the University of Fort Hare. That same year, he attended a workshop on behavioural and experimental economics by Professors Glenn Harrison and Elisabet Rutström, which sparked his research interest in the field and helped establish a lasting professional network. In 2013, he began his doctoral studies, completing his PhD in 2015, focusing on banks and stakeholder behaviour.

Syden was appointed a full-time lecturer in September 2014 and moved to the university's Research and Development Centre as a Senior Researcher in January 2015. He was promoted to Associate Professor in January 2019 and joined Nelson Mandela University in March 2019 in the same capacity, achieving full professorship on 1 January 2024. Between January 2020 and December 2024, he served as Head of the Department of Economics (both acting and substantive) and is currently the Director of the School of Economics, Development, and Tourism.

His research journey began with his Honours treatise, later published in the Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA) working paper series. To date, he has published over 65 journal articles, eight book chapters, one textbook, numerous conference papers, and more than 30 policy reports. He has supervised over 40 master's students and 10 PhDs to completion, hosted at least four postdoctoral fellows, and mentored more than 10 research interns. Since completing his PhD, he has been principal investigator on multiple projects averaging no less than R500,000 annually, funded by institutions such as UNU-WIDER, NRF, WRC, SANOCEAN, the World Bank, government departments, business chambers, and other local and international organisations.

Syden has contributed to national, provincial, and higher education platforms, including:

- Domestication of SDGs workshops with StatsSA
- BRICS Labour and Employment Ministerial Meetings Expert Forum
- Eastern Cape Provincial COVID-19 Economic Commission and Technical Response Team
- Keynote addresses at BankSeta Strategic Planning, postgraduate orientations, and nGAP Lecturers Workshops

He has co-edited a research methods textbook for economics, guest-edited a special journal issue, and is currently leading the revival of the Business and Economic Sciences (BES) Faculty Journal. He also chairs the BES Faculty Postgraduate Studies Committee, develops and facilitates grant funding workshops, and serves on advisory boards for the UNISA Department of Economics and Walter Sisulu University's Faculty of Economics and Financial Services.

His accolades include the NRF Excellence Award for Emerging Researchers, an NRF C Rating (since 2023), Faculty Researcher of the Year (2022, 2023), and Institutional Researcher of the Year (2022). Syden recently completed the Senior Leadership Programme in Higher Education, offered by the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA).

*On a lighter note: Syden will never correct you, on how you choose to pronounce his first name; only on how to spell it!*