

34th Chris Engelbrecht Summer School &
8th Mandelstam Theoretical Physics School and Workshop

Large N and the Emergence of Holography

NITheCS, Merensky Building, Stellenbosch University

8-14 January 2026

This joint event brings together **two prestigious programmes in theoretical physics**, offering a week of lectures, tutorials, and research discussions. International plenary lecturers will each present two pedagogical talks aimed at graduate students and one technical talk during the School. The Workshop will feature cutting-edge research presentations by both local and international participants.

The format of the event encourages **lively discussion, promotes collaboration, and drives the exploration of new research directions** in theoretical high energy physics.

Who should attend?

- Postgraduate students
- Early-career researchers
- Academics

Confirmed Pedagogical Lecturers

- Lorenzo di Pietro (Trieste University)
- Seok Kim (Seoul National University, Korea)
- Costis Papageorgakis (Queen Mary University of London, UK)
- Xinan Zhou (Shanghai Technical University and Kavli Institute for Theoretical Sciences, China)

Support / Scholarships

During the school, lunch, coffee/tea and snacks will be provided.

A limited number of scholarships are available to assist individuals to attend the school. As a publicly funded institution, NITheCS encourages applications from individuals from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.

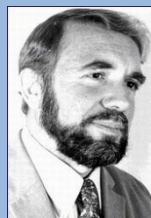
Got a question?

Email any queries to Farah-Naaz Samuels:
farah-naaz.samuels@wits.ac.za

Acknowledgements

The organisers gratefully acknowledge NITheCS for its generous funding of the School and Wits University for its valued support.

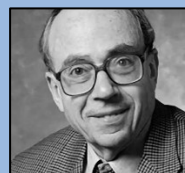
About Chris Engelbrecht



Chris Engelbrecht was a renowned South African theoretical physicist, teacher, and mentor whose legacy continues through this long-running annual programme. The Chris Engelbrecht

Summer School, organised under the auspices of NITheCS, provides advanced training in theoretical physics.

About Stanley Mandelstam



Stanley Mandelstam was an eminent South African-born American theoretical physicist and Wits University graduate, recognised

for his pioneering contributions to particle physics and string theory. The Mandelstam Theoretical Physics School and Workshop is named in his honour to continue his legacy of advancing fundamental physics.

APPLY AT: <https://bit.ly/4hEUJu5>

Apply by: Fri, 15 November 2025

