



SCIENCE DIPLOMACY SUMMER SCHOOL

Science Diplomacy for Shared Futures

INFORMATION PACK

1. Welcome Note

We are delighted to welcome you to the Science Diplomacy Summer School taking place from 15–25 October 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme “Science Diplomacy for Shared Futures”. The summer school will be hybrid – online from 15 to 17 October 2025 and at the Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre in Gauteng from 18 to 25 October 2025. This pack provides essential information to help you plan your stay, navigate the venue, and enjoy your time in Johannesburg.

Click [here](#) for the online link.

2. Accommodation

You have been selected to participate in person, and we are pleased to share the logistical details below:

Venue:	Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre
Address:	44 Viewpoint Street, Bartlett, Boksburg, Gauteng, South Africa
Phone:	+27 (0)11 897 0000
Website:	www.birchwoodhotel.co.za
Facilities:	60+ conference and meeting venues; 4-star accommodation; Spa, gym, pool; Free Wi-Fi; Complimentary airport shuttle; Restaurants & coffee shops
Check-in:	Saturday, 18 October 2025
Check-out:	Saturday, 25 October 2025
Board basis:	Dinner, Bed, and Breakfast (DBB)

Lunch and refreshments will be provided during the daily programme sessions.



3. Weather During Conference (20–24 October)

Johannesburg in late October enjoys spring weather:

Daytime highs: 22–26 °C

Evenings: 10–15 °C (bring a light jacket)

Occasional afternoon thunderstorms – a small umbrella is recommended

4. Transport & Logistics

Please note that delegates are responsible for their own travel costs, including airfares and ground transport to and from the venue. Kindly note Birchwood Hotel does offer airport transfers please see the following link for their schedule.

<https://www.birchwoodhotel.co.za/airport-hotel-free-shuttle-bus>

Airport:	OR Tambo International Airport (7 km, 10–15 mins by car)
Ride Services:	Uber & Bolt widely available
Parking:	Ample secure parking at Birchwood

We encourage you to make your travel arrangements in advance to ensure timely arrival at the Birchwood Hotel on 18 October 2025.

5. Dining & Leisure

- East Rand Mall (5 mins drive): restaurants, shops, cinemas
- Emperors Palace: dining, casino, theatre, entertainment
- Nearby restaurants: IL Gusto (Italian), Turn 'n Tender (Steakhouse), The Classic India (Indian cuisine)
- Benoni Lake Golf Course – Scenic golfing experience (12 km).

6. Health & Medical Services

Nearest Hospitals:	Tambo Memorial Hospital, Boksburg (24/7 emergency) Life Glynnwood Hospital Netcare Sunward Park Hospital
Nearest Pharmacies	Dis-chem Pharmacy, East Rand Mall Clicks Pharmacy Boksburg (0118998644)
Police:	10111 (nationwide)
Ambulance/Medical Emergency:	10177

8. Contacts

Conference Secretariats:	
Lumka Lizipho	+27 (0) 073 082 6009
Mamello Tsaoane	+27 (0) 066 247 1250
Birchwood Hotel Reception:	+27 (0)11 897 0000

9. Quick Tips for Conference Attendees

- South Africa uses Type M power plugs (three round pins).
- Payments are mostly cashless – Visa/MasterCard widely accepted.
- Tap water is safe in hotels, bottled water recommended.

We look forward to welcoming you in Johannesburg for a week of engaging discussions, networking, and collaborative learning.