

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



CSD

CENTRE FOR STUDENT
DEVELOPMENT

A Division of Student Affairs

STUDENT LEADERSHIP **2025** CONFERENCE

LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

BOOKLET

BACKGROUND

Introduction

The University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) 2033 strategy affirms the University's commitment to developing scholars who are also global leaders. In light of escalating societal adversities including conflicts, humanitarian crises, climate change, decay in institutional governance systems in both the private and public sector; a challenge is presented on universities to produce well rounded future leaders to steer the society toward a new and productive phase of societal development.

These are leaders who would function in a globalised setting where the influence of a rapid technological advancement inevitably impacts on modes of productions, economic structures, relationships, systems of governance, education, human life as a whole, environment as well as democratic practices. Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus in their book *Leaders: The Art of Changing the World* (1986) in their theory of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity (VUCA) to describe challenges and opportunities that would beset the new world; succinctly predicted and summarised the new world order which requires agile leadership capabilities for organisations and society to thrive by navigating the challenges and exploiting the opportunities that lie ahead. The adage "neither the strongest nor the cleverest of the species would survive; but only those that are adaptable to change would" resonates. The post COVID-19 pandemic world brought what could be perceived as more chaotic patterns of interaction and experiences that impact personal, social and professional engagement.



BACKGROUND



As the rate of technological developments in the grand era of digital transformation and social change accelerates; a need for ethical leaders who lead with integrity in navigating uncertainty becomes enormously vital. In this VUCA world, societies across the world are presented with contemporary challenges of inclusion and exclusion. Meaning in this phase leaders are charged with a tough choice of unravelling the inequalities brought by previous modes of production in past revolutions or reinforce such inequities within the heralding system and new normal.

Essentially contemporary leaders are at a cross-roads: chart a new discourse or sustain the past within the new! In an article entitled “Reset or perish”, Nisha Ramchandani aptly articulates the significance of adaptive leadership in the modern and organisational world. She emphasises the importance of a leader’s capability to modulate their behaviour at the face of diversity in societies and teams. Linked to the importance of adaptive leadership is the significance of integrity which is centric. Based on Merry Usman’s guide; the inaugural Student Leadership Conference at Wits is convened by Student Affairs through its Centre for Student development to explore the value of integrity in leadership using Usman’s eight standards:

- Setting clear, ethical standards
- Communicating with transparency and honesty
- Developing a culture of trust
- Taking responsibility for mistakes
- Empowering and supporting team members
- Embracing diversity and inclusion
- Leading by example
- Prioritising long-term success over short-term gains

BACKGROUND

The conference features speakers in the public and private sector, academia and civic organisations to empower interested participants who are students and budding leaders with tools that they would require in their life journey. Through the inclusion of public sector political leaders' stream, the conference would spotlight topical issues especially at the advent of 29 May 2024 National and Provincial Elections (NPE) outcome which tilted balance dominance and shifted the political trajectory in an unimaginable manner since the dawn of our country's democracy. A segment of the conference will be made available for students to present reflections on the construct of integrity.

Conference Objectives

- To equip emerging and aspiring student leaders with reflective and reflexive practice through exposing them to critical thinking and principles of leadership with integrity using Usman's eight standards.
- To provide emerging and aspiring student leaders with sense-making and decision-making skills so that they can lead effectively in various contexts.
- To revitalise the culture of dialogue and debate amongst students whilst creating a platform for student leaders to build networks of collaborative leadership practices.
- Invent a platform for a structured robust debate and dialogue.



ABOUT THE SESSIONS

PANEL 1: FAITH, VALUES, AND INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP: AN INTERFAITH DIALOGUE.

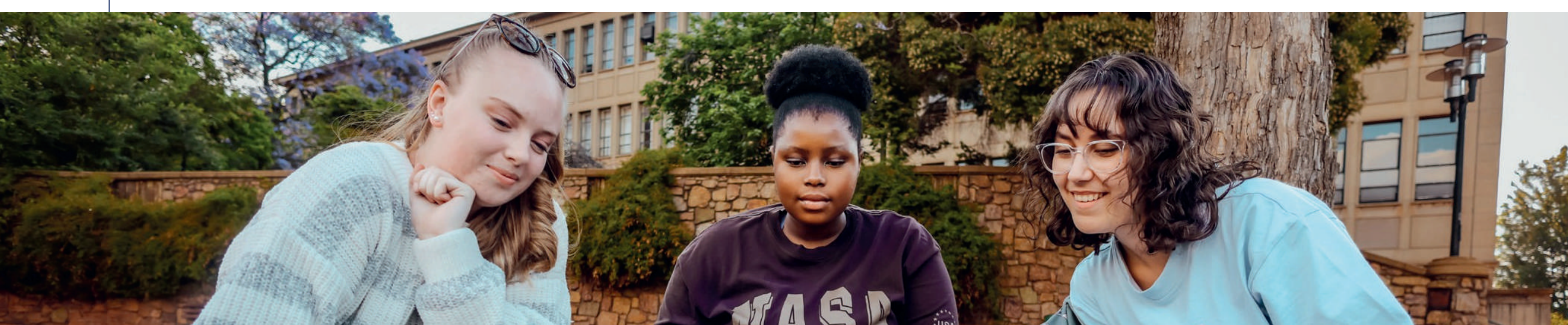
This session draws from scholars such as Reeve (2005), who demonstrated a consistent relationship between values traditionally understood as spiritual ideals (including integrity, honesty, and humility) and effective leadership. Anchored in these insights and Usman's principles, the session recognises the role and intersection of faith, spirituality, and belief systems in shaping student lives and leadership values.

The session features representatives from diverse religions reflecting on how faith, spirituality and belief systems inform leadership. Importantly, this session is not intended to be a debate or comparison of traditions, but as an invitation to reflect, connect and affirm universal principles of integrity from religious or spiritual lenses. Through this session, we also seek to recognise the diverse religious students communities and affirm that they too carry the obligation and responsibility to lead with integrity. By doing so, we hope to also challenge the subtle narrative that leadership is reserved only for those in business or political spheres, while the significance spiritual leadership is often overlooked.

Intended Outcomes

By the end of this session, student leaders will be able to:

1. Understand the relationship between spiritual values (such as integrity, honesty, and humility) and effective leadership, drawing on academic insights.
2. Reflect on how personal faith, spirituality, or belief systems shape leadership values and decision-making.
3. Recognise the diverse religious and spiritual communities within the student body and their role in promoting ethical leadership.



ABOUT THE SESSIONS

PANEL 3: THE NATIONAL DISCOURSE: INTEGRITY - THE MOST FREQUENTLY INVOKED IDEAL, YET TOO OFTEN NEGLECTED IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

The National Discourse confronts one of the central paradoxes of twenty-first-century political life- integrity is elevated as a core value in leadership rhetoric, yet remains seriously lacking in public practice and perception. This panel discussion convenes a cross-section of leaders, policy experts, and practitioners to examine why integrity is so frequently cited yet so seldom realised in political leadership, and to interrogate what practical steps can restore it as a lived standard.

Against the backdrop of widespread public distrust, governance challenges, and eroding confidence in institutions, this gathering explores the causes and costs of neglected integrity in political life.

By the end of the engagement, attendees will have a deeper understanding of why integrity remains elusive in political contexts and, more importantly, what systemic changes and individual commitments are necessary to ensure that integrity is not just invoked, but embodied, in our nation's public leadership.

ABOUT THE SESSIONS

PANEL 2: CROSS-SECTOR INSIGHTS: INTEGRITY AND LEADERSHIP IN A VOLATILE, UNCERTAIN, COMPLEX AND AMBIGUOUS (VUCA) WORLD

This session is designed to offer cross-sector perspectives. It brings together leaders from humanitarian work, law and governance, sport, and evidence-based policy sectors to illustrate how integrity is practised in real-world contexts.

By weaving together these diverse voices, the session aims to move the conversation beyond theory or ideology, showing students what it means to lead with integrity in practice — in boardrooms, on the sports field, in crisis zones, and in policy-making spaces.

Intended Outcomes

By the end of this session, student leaders should:

1. Recognise how integrity manifests differently across professional, humanitarian, academic, and student contexts.
2. Understand the role of integrity in navigating a VUCA world.
3. Gain practical, personal takeaways on what it means to lead with integrity in their own journeys; and what to expect in various in various post-university professions.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP *2025* CONFERENCE

PROGRAMME



DAY 1

THEME: LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

DATE: FRIDAY, 03 OCTOBER 2025

VENUE: GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

MASTER OF CEREMONY: FARAI NTULI

Time	Item	Speaker
17:05 - 17:15	Arrival, Refreshments & Registration	
17:15 - 17:30	Opening, Welcome & Tone Setting	Deputy Vice-Chancellor: People Development and Culture: Prof Garth Stevens
17:30 - 17:40	Chancellor's Address: Leadership with Integrity: From Values to Action	Chancellor: Dr Judy Dlamini
17:40 -17:45	Performance	
17:45 - 17:50	Introduction of the keynote speaker	Dean of Student Affairs: Jerome September
17:50 - 18:15	Keynote Address: Leadership Without Integrity is a Calamity that Erodes Society and Betrays Human Rights	Prof Barney Pityana, GCOB
18:15 - 18:40	Facilitated Dialogue on Keynote Address	Dr Judy Dlamini, Prof Barney Pityana GCOB & Nombulelo Chiya Moderator: Farai Ntuli
18:40 - 18:50	Vote of Thanks	Dean of Student Affairs: Jerome September
18:50 - 18:55	Official Conference Photo: Capturing Leadership in Action	
18:55 - 19:00	Performance	
19:00 - 20:30	Networking Evening	



DAY 2

THEME: LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

DATE: SATURDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2025

VENUE: GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

Time	Item	Speaker
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival, Refreshments & Registration	
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Performance	
09:30 - 09:50	Data, Truth, and Integrity: Lessons in Leadership	Dr Pali Lehohla
10:00 - 10:05	Faith, Values, and Integrity in Leadership: An Interfaith Dialogue	Tone Setting: Candice Modiselle
10:05 - 11:05		Panel discussion: Rev Dr Wesley Mabuza, Candice Sello, Dr Shahiem Patel, Mbuso Khoza, Manukanya Devi Dasi Moderator: Faith Mangope
11:05 - 11:10		Reflective Synthesis: Dr Shahiem Patel
11:10 - 11:20		Conclusion: Rev Dr Wesley Mabuza
11:20 - 11:30	Cross-sector Insights: Integrity and Leadership in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous (VUCA) World	Tone Setting: Dr Imthiaz Sooliman
11:30 - 12:20		Panel discussion: Dr Imthiaz Sooliman, Adv Thabo Motloung, CarreyAnn Boshoff, Bonga Makhanya, Dr Millicent Motheogane Moderator: Mncedisi Sindane
12:20 - 12:30		Reflective Synthesis and Conclusion Bonga Makhanya
12:30 - 12:35	Performance	



DAY 2 CONT..

THEME: LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

DATE: SATURDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2025

VENUE: GREAT HALL, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

12:35 - 13:20	Student Reflections: Presentations will explore how student leaders can anchor themselves in integrity and present their reflections on the theme “Lead or Perish”.	Lerato Malose Setsiba	Facilitator: Bokamoso Mapela
		Kamogelo Mabe	
		Kudakwashe Peter Mashero	
		Paballo Mahlwele	
		Tshepiso Kola	
		Danica Ellapen	
13:20 - 14:10	Lunch		
14:10 - 14:20	Performance		
14:20 - 15:10	The National Discourse: Integrity - The Most Frequently Invoked Ideal, Yet Too Often Neglected in Political Leadership. What Should Be Done?	Panel discussion: Sihle Lonzi, Collen Malatji , Boitumelo Mpakanyane, Nombulelo Chiya, Karabo Khakhau Moderator: Amahle-Imvelo Jaxa	
15:10 - 15:20	Vote of Thanks	Deputy Dean of Student Affairs: Tshegofatso Mogaladi	
15:10 - 15:20	Performance & Plenary Adjournment		
	Post-Conference Reflections Seminar at the Solomon Mahlangu House Concourse (By invitation only)		
15:30 - 16:30	Critical Reflections on the Role of Movements in Shaping Public Discourse: Revisiting #FeesMustFall	Seth Mazibuko, Fasiha Hassan, Zukiswa Mqolomba, Siphosethu Ndyumbu Moderator: Moeketsi Koahela	

HOSTS



**Dean of Student
Affairs:**
University of the
Witwatersrand

Jerome Septemer

Jerome September was appointed as Dean of Student Affairs at Wits in May 2018. September is a member of the University's Senior Executive Team and chairs the Student Services and Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of the University Council and Senate) and the Board of Residences. He is a member of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, the Student Success Committee, and the First Year Experience Committee, amongst others. His portfolio includes Campus Housing and Residence Life, Counselling and Careers Development, Campus Health and Wellness Centre, the Centre for Student Development, and Wits Sport.

He serves on the National Executive Committee of the South African Association for Senior Student Affairs Practitioners (SAASSAP), is a member of the Universities South Africa (USAf) Strategy Group on Transformation, is a member of the Ministerial Task on Sexual Harassment and Gender-based Violence in Higher Education, was a member of the Council on Higher Education Reference Group on the Development of a Good Practice Guide on Student Engagement in Quality Assurance and Promotion in Higher Education, and is a board member of the University Sports Company.



**Deputy Dean of
Student Affairs:**
University of the
Witwatersrand

Tshegofatso Mogaladi

Tshegofatso Mogaladi is the Deputy Dean of Student Affairs at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He holds a Master of Commerce (MCom) degree in Development Finance from the University of Cape Town (UCT) where he is currently enrolled for a Ph.D. Tshegofatso Mogaladi is a certified Chartered Development Finance Analyst (CDFA) and a member of the Institute of Directors South Africa (IoDSA).

He previously served on the UNISARF Board of Trustees which is one of South Africa's largest retirement funds with a sizable asset base and currently serves as ministerial council appointee at the Western TVET College (WestCol) where he is also the chairperson for the Council's finance committee. He previously worked for various entities such as the University of South Africa, the Department of Community Safety in Gauteng, the Independent Electoral Commission as well as the Pan African Parliament.

SPEAKERS



**Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
People Development and
Culture:** University of the
Witwatersrand

• Prof. Garth Stevens

Garth Stevens is a Professor and Clinical Psychologist at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. His research interests include foci on race, racism and related social asymmetries; critical violence studies; applied psychoanalytic theorising of contemporary socio-political issues; and historical/collective trauma and memory. He has published widely in these areas, both nationally and internationally, including coeditorships of *A 'race' against time: Psychology and challenges to deracialisation in South Africa* (UNISA Press, 2006); *Race, memory and the apartheid archive: Towards a transformative psychosocial praxis* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013); and *Decoloniality and epistemic justice in contemporary community psychology* (Springer, 2021).

He was the colead researcher on the Apartheid Archive Project, which was an international research initiative that aimed to examine the nature of the experiences of racism of South Africans under the old apartheid order and their continuing effects on individual and group functioning in contemporary South Africa. He is also the co-lead researcher on the Violent States, States of Violence Project, which aims to re-engage a theorisation of violence in the contemporary world.

He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), previously served as the Dean in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of the Witwatersrand, is Past-President of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA), and is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: People Development and Culture.

SPEAKERS



**Chancellor of the
University of the
Witwatersrand**

• Dr Judy Dlamini

Dr. Judy Dlamini is the Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, a role through which she champions excellence in research, teaching, and innovation at one of Africa's leading universities. She is also the Executive Chairman and founder of Mbekani Group, a diversified investment company with interests in healthcare, fashion retail, property, and private equity.

A qualified medical doctor turned entrepreneur and business leader, Dr. Dlamini has built a career that bridges medicine, business, and academia. She previously worked in investment banking as a Senior Manager at HSBC South Africa before expanding Mbekani Group into a multi-sector enterprise.

Her academic journey is equally inspiring: she holds an MBChB from the University of Natal, a Diploma in Occupational Health from the University of the Free State, an MBA from Wits, and a Doctor of Business Leadership from the University of South Africa, where her research focused on Women in Leadership.

Passionate about empowerment and inclusion, Dr. Dlamini is recognized not only for her strategic leadership and investment expertise, but also for her commitment to uplifting women and driving equitable access to opportunity.

Today, she stands as a role model for resilience, innovation, and transformative leadership in Africa and beyond.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Former Principal
and Vice
Chancellor of the
University of
South Africa,
Human rights
lawyer and
Theologian**

• Prof Barney Pityana, GCOB

Nyameko Barney Pityana was born on 7 August 1945 in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape. An exceptional child, the young Pityana earned the Andrew Smith Scholarship that enabled him to attend Lovedale, a progressive Scottish-run missionary school in Alice. During his senior years at Lovedale, Pityana began to develop an interest in politics and joined the African National Congress Youth League. But it was also a period in which the relatively liberal ethos of Lovedale was being replaced by a conservative culture, through the introduction of Afrikaans-speaking teachers. In 1963, Pityana was expelled from Lovedale for forcefully articulating the inequities of Bantu education and the apartheid system.

After completing matric at Newell High School in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, Pityana enrolled at the then University College of Fort Hare in 1966 where his political activism and commitment intensified. He became very involved in various progressive Christian organisations. He became a founder member of the University Christian Movement and later the South African Students' Organisation, both of which were eventually banned by the apartheid Government. In 1969, Pityana's leadership and mobilisation of students at Fort Hare culminated in his expulsion from the university.

His continued activism in the community soon attracted the attention of the State and between 1973 and 1978, Pityana was subjected to a series of detentions and banning orders. In 1978, exhausted after a year in detention, Pityana went into exile in England, together with his wife and child. By this time, he had already completed his BA and B Proc degrees through the University of South Africa (Unisa). He enrolled for further studies at King's College in London and obtained an Honours degree in 1981.

In the years that followed, he undertook training for the Anglican Ministry at Ripon Cuddesdon College in Oxford and also became ordained as an Anglican priest. He served as parish priest in Milton Keynes and Birmingham for several years. During this time, the struggle against apartheid was intensifying both inside the country and internationally. Pityana played a key role in mobilising support on the international front.

As director of the World Council of Churches' Programme to Combat Racism – a position he held between 1988 and 1992 – his activities proved decisive in the final dismantling of apartheid and the eventual agreement to enter into negotiations.

Pityana returned to South Africa in 1992 and joined the University of Cape Town from January 1993 to 1995.

In October 1995, Pityana was appointed as the chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission. In June 1997, he was elected to the Africa Commission on Human and People's Rights at the Organisation of African Unity's Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Harare.

Pityana obtained his PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Cape Town in 1995 and was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa in February 1996. He holds honorary degrees from Trinity College, Hartford (1996) and from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina (1999). The Psychology Society of South Africa awarded him life membership in 2000. In 2001, he was awarded the Tribute Achievers Award for Leadership.

In 2002, he was appointed as a fellow of King's College London and in the same year he was given an honourable mention in the 2002 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Prize for Human Rights Education. Pityana became the first black Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Unisa on 27 November 2001.

Throughout his life, Nyameko Barney Pityana has remained focused on the fight for human rights and the battle against racism. His life reflects a determined effort to end racism and injustice. Through his endeavours and example he has embodied an unshakeable commitment to build a free, non-racial and just society and world.

SPEAKERS



**President:
Student
Representative
Council (SRC)**

• Nombulelo Chiya

Nombulelo Mkabayi Chiya is the current President of the University of the Witwatersrand's SRC for the 3rd administration.

In this role, she is dedicated to advocating for students and driving positive change across the campus. Nombulelo is currently studying for her Honours in International Relations, after completing a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in International Relations and Media Studies.

Her leadership journey at the university has been impressive. In 2023/24, she served as Chairperson of the All-Res Sub- Council (ARSC), Chairperson of the School of Social Sciences School Council, and Deputy Chairperson of the Humanities Faculty, where she led teams and worked hard to represent student interests. She also played an important role in the David Webster House Committee, serving as Vice-Chairperson in 2023/24 and Deputy Secretary in 2022/23.

Before becoming SRC President, Nombulelo was a member of the SRC compliance subcommittee and served as the Senior Undergraduate Representative for QQR. With a strong passion for leadership and student welfare, she continues to make a lasting impact at the university.

MASTER OF CEREMONY



Queen's Young Leader for South Africa, TEDx speaker, One Young World Ambassador and a King's Principal Global Leadership Award Recipient.

• Farai Ntuli

Farai is the Africa Livelihoods and Education Lead for Accenture Development Partnerships (ADP) a Strategy Manager for Accenture. In this role she works with clients in the international development space to tackle issues of employment, entrepreneurship, digital and future skilling, gender equity and education. Her most recent work included working with a UN agency to develop a strategy and implement a youth skilling and job matching platform across Africa.

She formerly served as the Chief Partnerships Officer at the Youth Employment Service (YES). YES is a business-led NPO works in partnership with government and labour to initiate policy changes which incentivises the creation of jobs for youth. Farai runs a social media blog 'Impact with Farai' which provides key tools and tips to enhance the employability of young people and has had over 120k views across its episodes.

Prior to YES, Farai served as a project manager at The Aurum Institute (a leading African TB and HIV research and implementation institute). Her main project Youth Health Africa focused on decreasing the spread of HIV and reducing the high levels of youth unemployment by equipping 10 000 youth from heavily-burdened communities with knowledge and education about HIV and AIDS; and providing skills development and employment to disenfranchised youth.

Prior to Aurum, she was an intern at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). She achieved a distinction for her MSc in the Political Economy of Emerging Markets at King's College London. Her dissertation on South African Private Companies and Black Women, examined the effect of the Employment Equity Act (affirmative action policy) on black women and received a mark of 85%. Prior to her Masters, she worked at Deloitte as a strategy analyst.

She founded Afrika Matters Initiative and has since left the organisation to pursue other ventures on the continent. Farai is a Queen's Young Leader for South Africa, a TEDx speaker, a One Young World Ambassador and a King's Principal Global Leadership Award Recipient. In 2018, she was named one of the top 100 Mandela's of the future by Media24 and in 2020 she was ranked as one of the top 100 influential young South Africans.

Farai is a Dalai Lama 2019 Fellow and the 2021 recipient of the Stellenbosch University Exceptional Alumni award. In 2022, she became an Honourary Member of the Golden Key International Honours society and won the TransUnion Rising Star award for the Service: Public and Private sector category. She is a board member for Africa Skills Alliance and Scouts SA.

MODERATOR



**Broadcaster,
Entrepreneur and
Host of Metro FM
Talk**

• Faith Mangope

Faith Mangope is a dynamic broadcaster and entrepreneur, hosting Metro FM Talk on South Africa's second-largest commercial radio station. She founded the Faith Mangope Technology and Leadership Institute, which equips young women from disadvantaged backgrounds with digital skills and leadership development, helping bridge the digital divide in South Africa and across Africa. Faith also co-founded FMTALI-Tech, a tech solutions company with a focus on women-led services. A former host on eNCA and Massiv Metro, Faith was recognized in 2022 as one of South Africa's Powerful Women by The Mail and Guardian for her impact in education. She is also a Washington Fellow and a member of the BRICS Business Council Skills Working Group. Beyond media, she is a faculty member at Duke University in South Africa, producing leadership programs for top executives. Faith continues to influence various sectors through her work in media, technology, and public speaking, striving to future-proof South Africa's workforce and economy.

MODERATOR



**Professional
television and radio
host and current
host of Trendz Live
on SABC**

• Mncedisi Sindane

Mncedisi 'Mnce' Sindane is a 28 year old media personality, graduate and brand partner. He is a professional television and radio host and is the current host of Trendz Live on SABC. Mncedisi holds 2 degrees from the University of the Witwatersrand; He holds an Bcom Double Major (Management Accounting and Corporate Finance) junior degree and a Bcom Honours Degree in Business Science majoring in Marketing.

His close to 10 year media career boasts accomplishments like winning the first ever YFM presenter search, partnerships with notable brands like Nedbank Unlocked.Me, Ted X and FNB Art Joburg as well as influencer partnerships with Heineken and Tanqueray. More recently, Mncedisi has leaped into the world of production which sees him take the role of executive producer for projects like Fashion Meets Gospel and the very first South African Voice Over Awards. He is a tenacious bright star that lives by the words: "Keep your feet on the ground but let your heart soar like an eagle."

MODERATOR



**Entrepreneur | Social
Commentator |
Youth Advocate**

• Amahle-Imvelo Jaxa

Amahle-Imvelo Jaxa is an entrepreneur, content creator and youth advocate who uses her voice both online and offline to educate, provoke thought, and spark change. With over 230,000 TikTok followers and 17 million views, she's built a powerful platform where South Africans learn about current affairs, history, and civic engagement with clarity, wit, and relevance.

She is currently completing her Honours in International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, after earning her undergraduate degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics from the University of South Africa. Her academic grounding informs her digital activism, and her goal is clear: to equip young people to think critically, challenge systems, and shape their futures.

Amahle is the former co-founder of Until Until, a pioneering marketing and youth events company that provided employment, mentorship, and creative opportunity for young South Africans. Through her new podcast Jaxx of All Trades, her viral Tik Tok current affairs explainers, and public speaking, Amahle reminds us that freedom isn't just inherited. It's built together, generation by generation.

MODERATOR



Co-Chair, Y20 South Africa 2025 & Education and Training Officer of the Youth Activism Programme at the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation

• Moeketsi Gordon Koahela

Moeketsi Koahela serves as Co-Chair of Youth 20 (Y20) - Youth Engagement Group of the Group of Twenty (G20) which is an international forum of both developing and developed countries which seeks to find solutions to global economic and financial issues. The 2025 Presidency of G20 is led by South Africa, and to tackle the global polycrisis, South Africa has embraced the theme “Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability” for its G20 Presidency.

Moeketsi is also the Education and Training Officer of the Youth Activism Programme at the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF) and serves as Chairperson of National Youth Coalition (NYC), and serves in key Sub-Committees of the National Dialogue process formally announced by South African Head of State, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa. Moeketsi previously held a Project Assistant role responsible for Training and Development at the Development and Leadership Unit (DLU) in the Centre for Student Development (CSD) at Wits University. Moeketsi holds a Masters in Sociology (2022) from Wits University. His thesis dissertation explored “How is Masculinity Performed among Male University Students in an All-Male Residence at Wits.” Moeketsi also holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Sociology (2018), and a Bachelor of Arts degree (2017) having majored in Psychology and Sociology, from the same university

FACILITATOR



First-year Bachelor of Laws (LLB) student at the University of the Witwatersrand

• Bokamoso Mapela

Bokamoso Mapela is a first-year Bachelor of Laws (LLB) student at the University of the Witwatersrand. He is a passionate Master of Ceremonies and Programme Director, with his experience dating back to primary school. A talented performer, he is also a three-time South African National Ballroom and Latin Youth Championship dancer under the Federation of Dance Sport South Africa and has represented the country worldwide.

Bokamoso has held and excelled in various leadership roles throughout his life and growing career. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Wits Men's Hall of Residence and has been re-elected to the Men's Residence House Committee for 2026. Beyond residence life, he is actively involved in student governance as the Introduction to Law Class Representative and serves as a subcommittee member in both the MLaw Students' Council (LSC) Careers Office and the Treasury of the Wits Black Lawyers Association Student Chapter (BLASC).

A driven young leader, Bokamoso is committed to excellence, growth, and service, and will stop at no cost in pursuing his vision of leadership that inspires, empowers, and transforms society.

SPEAKER



**South African
Analyst, Educator,
and Former
Statistician-General
of South Africa**

• Dr Pali Lehohla

Dr. Pali Lehohla is a distinguished South African analyst, educator, and former Statistician-General of South Africa, a position he held from 2000 to 2017. Born on September 27, 1957, in Lesotho, Dr. Lehohla pursued his higher education with a double major in Statistics and Economics at the National University of Lesotho. He furthered his studies in demography at the University of Ghana's Regional Institute for Population Studies (UNRIPS). Additionally, he completed the Senior Executive Programme at both the University of the Witwatersrand and Harvard University.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lehohla has been a prominent figure in statistical development, both within South Africa and internationally. He served as the Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission and was the founding chair of the Statistics Commission of Africa (StatCom Africa). His leadership extended to the African Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD), and he co-chaired the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). Recognizing his contributions, he was named Vice President of the International Statistics Institute (ISI) and was a member of the UN Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution.

Beyond his tenure as Statistician-General, Dr. Lehohla has continued to influence the field of statistics and development. He is a Research Associate at the University of Oxford and a consultant for the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. He is also the founder of the Pan African Institute for Evidence (PIE) and serves as a board member for the Institute for Economic Justice at Wits University. In academia, he holds the position of Professor of Practice at the University of Johannesburg and co-directs the Economic Modelling Academy.

Dr. Lehohla has been honored with several honorary doctorates, including from the University of Stellenbosch, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and the University of Zululand. He has also been recognized by the University of Ghana for his significant contributions to African public service.

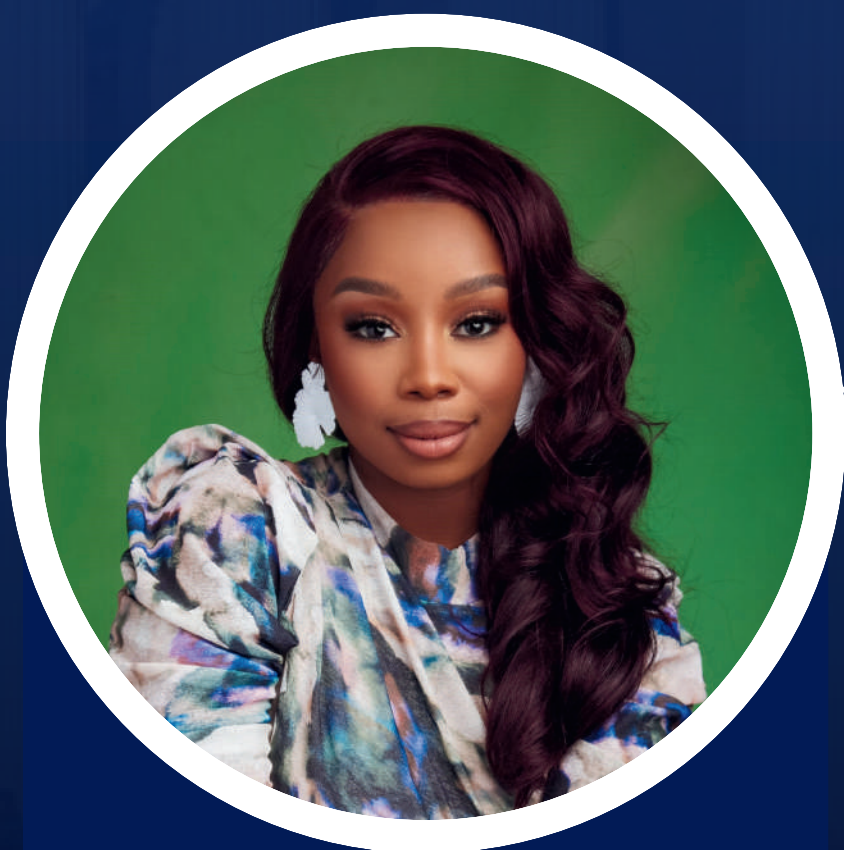
SPEAKER



**Deputy Chairperson of
the National Youth
Development Agency
(NYDA)**

• Bonga Makhanya

Bonga Makhanya is the Deputy Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and a committed advocate for youth empowerment in South Africa. He holds a BCom in Economic Sciences from the University of the Witwatersrand and previously served as Executive Chairperson of the South African Youth Economic Council (SAYEC). With a background in economics and leadership, he focuses on advancing youth participation in policy, entrepreneurship, and development, working to create inclusive opportunities that enable young people to thrive.



**South African
Actress, Television
presenter, and
Entrepreneur**

• Candice Modiselle

Candice Modiselle is a South African actress, television presenter, and entrepreneur. She holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Dramatic Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand. Candice rose to fame as a presenter on YoTV Live and went on to star in *Generations: The Legacy*, *Jiva!*, and *The Queen*. Beyond acting, she is the founder of Sellé Jewellery and the creator of *The Five Minute Call Show*, which uplifts young creatives in the arts. Passionate about empowerment, she also launched the *Safe Africa* app to support women's safety. Recently named among the *Mail & Guardian's* 200 Young South Africans, Candice continues to inspire with her artistry, education, faith, and leadership.

SPEAKER



**Dean of Regent
Business School**

• Dr Shahiem Patel

Dr. Shahiem Patel holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with Majors in Law as well Human Resources Management from the University of Witwatersrand. He then went on to complete a Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree at the University of South Africa (UNISA) with a specialisation in Business Management.

Thereafter, Dr Patel was awarded a full scholarship to study at the University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN). Here, he completed his Master of Commerce Degree with a specialisation in Leadership Studies. Dr Patel was once again awarded a full scholarship to read for a PhD in Leadership studies and completed his Doctorate in 2018.

He is also a graduate of the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI), where he completed programs in International Trade Theory & Practice in African Development as well as African Politics & International Trade.

Dr Patel currently holds the position of Academic Dean at REGENT Business School. He also has experience as an academic supervisor on the Wits Business School MBA and the Wits Masters in Energy Leadership programmes. Additionally, he has experience as an academic supervisor at UKZN's Graduate School of Business & Leadership on the Doctoral program. He is a former member of the adjunct faculty on the Wits Business School's Executive Education programmes. He is the global head of the Channel Islam International Research Department.

Dr Patel has over 14 years of experience as a Business Consultant and Analyst in various public and private sector industries. Driving the adoption of digital transformation is a key area of expertise for Dr Patel. He has led and facilitated a leading South African bank's goal of establishing an enterprise-wide Knowledge Management capability, where digital transformation was a key driver of success. He previously occupied the position of Head: SAP Core Banking Learnership Programme. Dr. Patel also served as Chairman of the Career Network for 8 years – The Career Network is a network of over 900 ambitious and talented individuals that actively seek mentoring and networking opportunities as well as corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Dr Patel has crafted various leadership frameworks for the South African legal profession. He also enjoyed a stint as an Implementation Coach at the global leader in management consulting, McKinsey & Company.

SPEAKER



South African Musical Visionary

• Mbuso Khoza

Mbuso Khoza is a South African musical visionary whose artistry transcends boundaries and inspires listeners worldwide. Born and raised in Eshowe, Zululand, Khoza's journey in music began at a young age, fueled by a deep connection to his Zulu heritage and an insatiable passion for storytelling through song.

Khoza's musical odyssey reflects the rich tapestry of South African traditions, blending the soulful harmonies of Isicathamiya, the rhythmic complexities of Amahubo, and the evocative melodies of indigenous folk music. Amahubo is the mother of all the isiNguni genres: for each historical occurrence, the Zulu would compose a song to communicate their thoughts. In this way the music serves as the scroll of a nation. Khoza's remarkable voice carries the echoes of ancestors, resonating with a timeless wisdom that transcends language and culture.

A true custodian of his heritage, Khoza's lyrics are poignant reflections of life's joys, sorrows, and the enduring human spirit. His songs, delivered in his native Zulu tongue, convey universal truths that resonate with audiences of all backgrounds. With each performance, Khoza invites listeners on a spiritual journey, where his powerful vocals and heartfelt compositions create an atmosphere of profound connection and healing.

Mbuso Khoza's impact on the global music scene is undeniable. He has graced prestigious stages across the world, captivating audiences with his emotive performances and unwavering commitment to preserving and celebrating African musical traditions. His collaborations with renowned artists and his dedication to mentoring emerging talents showcase his commitment to the evolution of African music.

Beyond the stage, Khoza is a cultural ambassador and educator, tirelessly working to promote the beauty and significance of African music and heritage. His contributions extend to the realms of academia and community engagement, where he shares his knowledge and passion with the next generation of artists and cultural enthusiasts. Mbuso Khoza's music is a testament to the power of artistic expression to bridge divides and foster understanding among diverse communities. His unwavering commitment to preserving and sharing the musical treasures of South Africa enriches the global cultural tapestry and leaves an indelible mark on all who have the privilege of experiencing his artistry. As a beacon of African musical excellence, Mbuso Khoza continues to inspire, uplift, and unite people through the timeless beauty of his music.

SPEAKER



**Theologian and
Author**

• Rev Dr Wesley Mabuza

The Reverend Dr Wesley M. Mabuza is an ordained minister (retired) of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA). Education: Primary : Matriculation: St Josephs College, Inkamana; BA (Fort Hare); BA Honours (UCT); MA (Wits); PhD (UP). Ordained by the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA, 1971).

He has served the church in the following capacities: As Youth Field Worker for Northern Free State and Lesotho District; as circuit minister at Gugulethu in Cape town, and as Superintendent of Ogwini Circuit at Kwa Mashu, as Superintendent Minister of Botswana Methodist Circuit, based In Gaborone. Has served as General Secretary of the Western Province Council of Churches; Director of Faith and Mission of the South African Council of Churches, Director of the Institute for Contextual Theology (ICT).

He has served a five year term as Chairperson of the Commission for the Protection and Promotion of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Rights of Communities (CRL Commission). When he was eventually granted a passport in 1989, he travelled extensively representing SACC and ICT respectively. He spent one year in Canada at the invitation of the United Church of Canada (UCC), Toronto Conference. He has published several articles. In 2024 published a book: Keeping the Spirit of Kairos Alive – Where is the Church in the Democratic South Africa (NF Saliwa Publishing, SA)

SPEAKER



**First Female Temple
President at WuSA
House in South Africa**

Manukanya Devi Dasi

I hold an honors degree in Vaishnava Theology and Religious Education from the University of Chester, which I completed while studying in Belgium. During that time, I also served as an understudy to the Radhadesh Center Manager in Petit-Somme and assisted the Guest House Manager.

After returning to South Africa, I pursued a Postgraduate Certificate in Education and went on to take up several leadership roles within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). My service has included managing Govinda's Restaurants in Phoenix, Durban, and Rivonia, Sandton.

I currently serve as Project Manager for Wake Up South Africa (WuSA), an ISKCON-affiliated initiative dedicated to sharing Bhakti Yoga culture with the wider African community.

SPEAKER



CEO: Gift of the Givers

• Dr Imthiaz Sooliman

Dr Imthiaz Sooliman was born in Potchefstroom, in the North West. He started his schooling in Potchefstroom, but moved to Sastri College in Durban in 1978. He qualified as a medical doctor at the then University of Natal Medical School in 1984.

Sooliman gave up his career as a medical doctor to pursue the field of humanitarian aid, which for him transcends the boundaries of race, religion, culture, class and geography. Alongside his studies and his medical work and throughout his life, Sooliman has been involved in several associations, religious organisations and school-governing bodies progressively as a student, medical doctor and an active member of civil society.

In 1992, he founded the Gift of the Givers Foundation, and has since then delivered more than R160 million in a 13-year period to 22 countries, including South Africa. The organisation is impartial and apolitical, and aims to serve with compassion, kindness and mercy. One of the notable gifts that he organised was the donation of a well-equipped field hospital first used during the Bosnian War.

In 2003, his organisation became the first in South African history to receive R60 million from the South African Government for humanitarian aid in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The Gift of the Givers Foundation is the largest disaster response non-governmental organisation of African origin on the African continent. In a 15-year period, the organisation has developed into one of the most respected international humanitarian agencies, being the first such agency to be accredited by Proudly South African.

The Gift of the Givers continues to concern itself with alleviating physical and emotional suffering. The foundation provides disaster relief, primary healthcare clinics, feeding schemes, water purification and water wells; distributes new blankets, clothing and food parcels; provides bursaries, educational support, toys for the underprivileged, agricultural self-help schemes, job creation, counselling services and drug rehabilitation; and conducts HIV and AIDS, skills development and life-altering workshops. All of these would not be possible without the dedication, energy and leadership of Dr Imthiaz Sooliman. His latest relief activity was to mobilise help for Haiti in the wake of the earthquake disaster.

SPEAKER



**Advocate of the High
Court of South Africa
and Managing
Director: TNT Group**

• Adv Thabo Motloun

Advocate Thabo Motloun is an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa and a member of the Johannesburg Society of Advocates, practising with the Rivonia Group of Advocates. He brings to the Bar a unique combination of legal expertise, corporate leadership, and governance experience, enabling him to provide clients with strategic, commercially astute legal solutions. His practice focuses on corporate and commercial law, with strong capabilities in administrative law, regulatory compliance, contractual disputes, and governance-related matters. He also has experience across diverse areas of law, including banking and insurance, construction, labour, family, and criminal law.

Before joining the legal profession, Advocate Motloun built a distinguished career in business and executive management. He began his professional journey in business development within the ICT sector before moving into senior management roles in banking over a decade. In 2012, he founded TNT Group, where he served as Managing Director, sharpening his entrepreneurial and strategic leadership skills.

His governance track record includes serving as a Non-Executive Director and Audit Committee Chairperson across multiple municipal-owned entities, including the Johannesburg Social Housing Company, Johannesburg Property Company, Johannesburg Development Agency, and Johannesburg Roads Agency. These roles strengthened his expertise in corporate governance, risk management, and accountability within the public sector.

Academically, Advocate Motloun holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Milpark Business School, a Management Advancement Programme (MAP) certificate from Wits Business School, and both LLB and LLM (in progress, Corporate Law) degrees from the University of South Africa. This interdisciplinary foundation underpins his ability to navigate the intersection of law, business, and governance.

SPEAKER



**Deputy Head of the
Academic
Information and
Systems Unit (AISU)
at Wits University**

• Dr Millicent Motheogane

Dr Millicent Motheogane is the Deputy Head of the Academic Information and Systems Unit (AISU) at Wits University and a Hall Coordinator at Barnato Hall of Residence, where she contributes to student success through psychosocial support and creating a conducive learning environment.

Her academic journey and career development is a powerful story of resilience and determination. Growing up in Seabe, Mpumalanga, and beginning her career as a cleaner and later a secretary, she pursued higher education against significant financial and personal odds. She went on to obtain a Diploma, BTech, and MTech in Information Technology, culminating in a PhD in 2025. Her doctoral research explored how digital technologies shape student performance, with a particular focus on disadvantaged students' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Motheogane joined Wits in 2014 as a Projects and Proposal Officer in the Development and Fundraising Office, later moving to AISU in 2019. Her expertise in digital systems and commitment to excellence led to her promotion to Deputy Head in 2024.

A mother of four, Dr Motheogane is passionate about demystifying PhDs for professional and administrative staff, encouraging especially women and young people to believe in the possibility of higher education. She advocates for resilience, self-belief, and inclusive education, grounding her professional success in a lived reality of perseverance and transformation.

SPEAKER



**Student Leader
and Passionate
Advocate for
Sport and
Community**

• CarreyAnn Boshoff

CarreyAnn Boshoff is a dedicated student leader and passionate advocate for sport and community. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Genetics and Psychology and is currently pursuing her Honours in Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her academic journey reflects her curiosity about both the complexities of the human mind and the intricacies of the natural world.

Over the past three years, CarreyAnn's leadership has grown through her involvement in student sport, beginning as Chairperson of the Wits Yacht Club, later serving as Vice-Chairperson of the Wits Sports Council, and currently leading as Chairperson of the Council. In this role, she also serves as a member of the Wits SRC for 2025, where she has been an advocate for change and a strong voice for students, particularly student-athletes. Her philosophy of leadership centres on presence- showing up, listening, and supporting athletes across all sporting codes.

Beyond academics and leadership, CarreyAnn is a sailor who finds joy in spending time outdoors. She is deeply family-oriented and places great value on building strong, meaningful relationships. Whether on the water, in the classroom, or alongside fellow student-athletes, CarreyAnn strives to bring people together and create spaces of trust, encouragement, and growth.

It's the dedication to the minor and mundane details and tasks that often separates the ordinary from the extraordinary

SPEAKERS



**Postgraduate Student
and a South African
Depression and
Anxiety Group
(SADAG) Youth
Advisory Committee
Member**

• Lerato Malose Setsiba

I am currently pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Science in the field of Innovation and Entrepreneurship this comes after completing my BSc in Computer Science and Information Systems. My journey blends technology, leadership, and social impact, with a passion for creating meaningful change.

I serve on the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) Youth Advisory Committee, where I advocate for youth mental health, and I volunteer with Every Nation Campus (ENC) Wits, leading a group of students in weekly discussions and mentorship. My leadership experience also includes serving on the Wits Squash Committee and the Yale Village House Committee, where our team was recognised as the most outstanding house committee of our term.

Beyond my academic and leadership roles, I enjoy tutoring first years and matrices, coffee, running, squash, and meeting new people. I am deeply committed to justice, activism, and using innovation to uplift communities. "We want to demystify mathematics to make it accessible to as many children as possible. ... Mathematics is at the base of all science and technology, both as a way of thinking and as an instrument of inquiry." - Joséphine Guidy Wandja (Ivorian mathematician)



**A PhD Student and
Marketing Director
for Relievers Group
of Companies.**

• Kudakwashe Peter Mashero

Peter Kudakwashe Mashero is a PhD Student in Marketing at Wits under the CLM faculty. He is the Marketing Director for Relievers Group of Companies. He is an award winning marketer and a member of the Marketers Association of Zimbabwe. Former President of the Global Business Roundtable (Future Leaders). An ambassador for the Youth In Africa Org. In 2016 he started the Marketers Toast, a club for students studying marketing and related degrees in Zimbabwe.

SPEAKERS



A Dynamic Student Leader, Postgraduate Student and a South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) Youth Advisory Committee Member

• Kamogelo Mabe

Kamogelo Mabe is a dynamic leader and postgraduate student at Wits University, with a background in Education and a focus on advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. His leadership journey has been shaped through campus and national platforms, from driving Green Campus Initiatives on environmental sustainability to serving in multiple student governance roles. These include SRC Subcommittee (2020–2022), House Committee, Chairperson of the Education Student Council (2021/22), and ultimately SRC Deputy President and Acting President (2022/23).

Beyond the university, Kamogelo's commitment to active citizenship has earned him a place on the inaugural Youth Advisory Committee of the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), selected from hundreds of noteworthy candidates nationwide. He continues to use his knowledge, skills, and passion for change to challenge the notion that young people are leaders of tomorrow, asserting instead that they must shape society today.



An Astronomy and Astrophysics student and an alumnus of the Emerging Leaders Programme.

• Paballo Mahlwele

Paballo Mahlwele is an Astronomy and Astrophysics student at the University of the Witwatersrand. Passionate about science, leadership, and community empowerment, she strives to inspire others through integrity and purpose-driven action. As a participant in the Emerging Leaders Programme of the Development and Leadership Unit (DLU) for 2025, Paballo is committed to developing the skills and values necessary to lead with vision, authenticity, and compassion. She serves as an Outreach Officer for the Wits Astronomy Club and is also part of Project Phoenix, a student-led initiative dedicated to empowering communities to build disaster resilience and responsiveness through first aid training and disaster preparedness education.

SPEAKERS



An Engineering Student and Chairperson of Enactus Wits

• Tshepiso Kola

I am Tshepiso Kola, an engineering student at the University of the Witwatersrand, entrepreneur, and passionate changemaker. I currently serve as the Chairperson of Enactus Wits, where I support student innovators in creating sustainable solutions that positively impact communities. I founded Her Empowerment Rising (H.E.R) and the Zitikeni Secondary School Library, initiatives dedicated to empowering young people and providing access to opportunities that nurture learning and growth. As an Allan Gray Candidate Fellow, I am committed to developing innovative solutions that tackle real-world challenges while inspiring others to lead with purpose. I believe that meaningful change begins with opportunity and empowerment, and I dedicate my work to creating spaces where individuals can thrive, grow, and make a difference. Combining my technical skills with a passion for social impact, I strive to lead initiatives that leave lasting value for communities and the next generation of changemakers.



An Honours student in Organisational Psychology

• Danica Ellapen

Danica Ellapen is completing her Honours degree in Organizational Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand. Fascinated by multigenerational workplace dynamics, she enjoys exploring how psychology can create healthier, more inclusive organizational cultures. When she's not studying, you'll probably find her baking or overthinking her latest LinkedIn post.

SPEAKER



**Executive
Director of RISE
Mzansi**

• Boitumelo Mpakanyane

Boitumelo Mpakanyane is a dynamic leader, policy strategist and currently serve as the Executive Director of RISE Mzansi and as a key member of its National Leadership Collective and the top-6 National Office Bearers. In this role he is among the youngest operational head of a parliamentary political party.

With a rich and diverse professional background, Boitumelo has built his career across communications, legal practice, electoral management, and policy. He has previously served as a Digital & Policy Manager at South Africa's largest private elections management firm, where he led digital electoral components for some of the country's most consequential elections.

At RISE Mzansi, Boitumelo first held the portfolio of Head of Internal Democracy/Internal Democracy Coordinator, ensuring organizational & political compliance with the party's constitution, and leading the candidate selection processes.

In his capacity as Executive Director, he drives the operational strategy, institutional development, and implementation of the party's agenda, working closely with the party's leadership to translate vision into action.

Boitumelo holds academic credentials in Political Studies, International Relations, and Law, giving him a foundation in governance, policy, and structural justice.

He is deeply committed to deepening democracy, accountability, ethical leadership, and ensuring that public representatives are responsive and answerable to the communities they serve. His approach is grounded in the conviction that political institutions should be transparent, participatory, and rooted in service.

SPEAKER



President of the African National Congress Youth League

• **Collen Malatji**

Collen Malatji is a dedicated activist, public servant, and current president of the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL). His leadership journey reflects a consistent commitment to youth empowerment, education, and organizational development, underpinned by strong academic achievements and grassroots activism.

Malatji began his political activism in the Peter Mokaba Branch (Ward 36), where he served as Branch Secretary (2008-2010; 2016-2017) and Branch Chairperson (2010-2012; 2012-2014; and from 2017 to date). He rose through the ranks of the Congress of South African Students (COSAS), serving as Regional Secretary, Provincial Secretary, Provincial Chairperson, and ultimately National President (2010-2014). He later played a key role in the South African Students Congress (SASCO) as a member of the National Executive Committee (2013-2015), before assuming leadership positions within the ANCYL, including Ekurhuleni Regional Deputy Chairperson, RTT Convenor, and Bavumile Vilakazi Zone Zonal Chairperson and Secretary. His leadership excellence has been recognized nationally, including being named in the Mail & Guardian Top 200 Young South Africans (2018).

Academically, Malatji has pursued studies that strengthen his governance and leadership expertise. He holds a BA Degree from Wits University, a Higher Certificate in Municipal Governance (University of Johannesburg), advanced qualifications in Business and Senior Management from the National School of Government, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management from the University of Pretoria, amongst other. These qualifications equip him with a strong foundation in policy, governance, and administration. Malatji is deeply passionate about youth development and skills development, dedicating his work to empowering young people with the tools, opportunities, and platforms they need to contribute meaningfully to South Africa's growth and Africa's renewal. With his blend of grassroots activism, academic grounding, and national leadership, 'Collen' Malatji continues to embody the principles of servant leadership, working tirelessly to inspire, mobilize, and uplift the youth of South Africa.

SPEAKER



**A Member of the
National Assembly**

• Karabo Khakhau

Karabo Lerato Khakhau is a South African politician and a Member of the National Assembly for the Democratic Alliance (DA). Born on June 27, 1997, in Welkom, Free State, she matriculated from Welkom-Gimnasium in 2015. She pursued a Bachelor of Social Science degree at the University of Cape Town, majoring in Politics & Governance, Sociology, and Social Development. In 2019, she paused her academic studies to serve in public office.

At the age of 21, Khakhau became the youngest-ever Member of the Free State Provincial Legislature, marking a significant milestone in South African politics. She was sworn in on May 22, 2019, and served until November 2022. During her tenure, she was involved in various legislative activities and represented the DA in the provincial legislature.

In November 2022, Khakhau transitioned to the National Assembly, taking over the seat previously held by Patricia Kopane. She was sworn in as a Member of Parliament on November 16, 2022, and has since been active in national politics. As of April 21, 2023, she was appointed as the Shadow Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation, reflecting her growing influence within the DA.

Khakhau is also the National Spokesperson for the Democratic Alliance, a role she assumed on July 11, 2024. In this capacity, she serves as the public face of the party, communicating its policies and positions to the media and the public.

In addition to her political career, Khakhau holds a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Governance and Public Leadership from the University of the Witwatersrand's School of Governance. She is currently pursuing a postgraduate qualification in Public Management at the same institution.

SPEAKER



**Member of
Parliament**

• Sihle Lonzi

Sihle Lonzi was the EFF Student Command President before joining the party's caucus in Parliament in November 2024. He holds a BCom in Politics, Philosophy & Economics from the University of Cape Town. Lonzi is committed to the struggle for economic freedom and is an advocate for free, quality education and the transformation of South Africa's education system.

Lonzi aims to champion the interests of the youth with passion and dedication.



**Youngest member of
the group of
students that led the
1976 Soweto
uprising**

• Seth Mazibuko

Seth Mazibuko, born on June 15, 1960, in Orlando, Soweto, was the youngest member of the South African Students' Organization, which played a crucial role in the Soweto uprising. At just 16, he was arrested in July 1976 and spent 18 months in solitary confinement at Number Four in Braamfontein's Fort Prison. After his trial, he was sentenced to seven years on Robben Island, where he dedicated his time to studying English and earned a B. Ed. degree. He spends his time advocating to protect, preserve, and promote our original history.

SPEAKER



**Member of
Parliament**

• Fasiha Hassan

Fasiha Hassan is a prominent youth leader and Member of Parliament in South Africa, known for her work in amplifying youth and womxn voices in national policy. She serves on the Judicial Service Commission, tasked with recommending judicial appointments, and holds key roles as the whip for both the Electricity and Energy, and Mineral and Petroleum Resources portfolio committees. Previously, she was the youngest Member of the Provincial Legislature in Gauteng, where she chaired the COGTA and E-Governance Portfolio Committee and led the Economic Development, Agriculture, and Education portfolios. She currently serves as a spokesperson for the ANC Youth League's National Executive Committee and was the Deputy Convenor of the ANC's National Youth Task Team.

Fasiha played a pivotal role in the #FeesMustFall movement, advocating for free, quality, and decolonized education, which earned her international acclaim as the 2019 laureate of the prestigious Student Peace Prize. She holds BCom and LLB degrees from Wits University, where she was the first womxn chairperson of the Muslim Students' Association and held leadership positions in the Wits SRC and South African Union of Students. Her impactful activism, leadership, and commitment to social justice continue to drive her work toward youth empowerment and education reform.

SPEAKER



**Public Sector
Leader with roots
deeply embedded
in Economics,
Poverty and Public
Policy Research.**

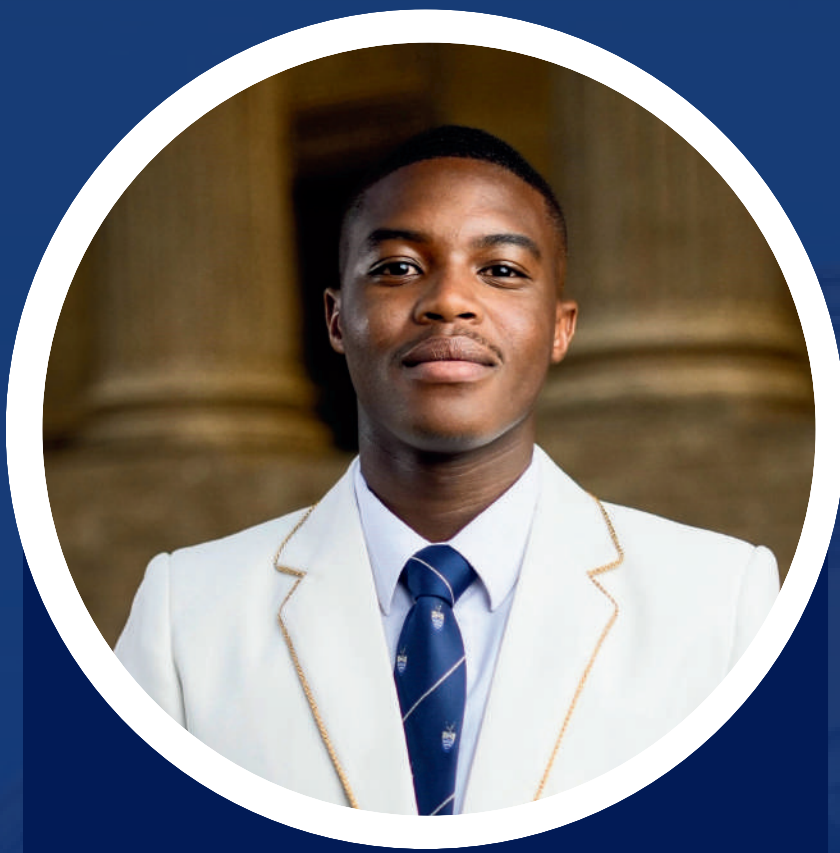
• Zukiswa Mqolomba

Zukiswa Mqolomba is a seasoned Public Sector Leader with roots deeply embedded in Economics, Poverty and Public Policy Research. She has over 15 years of professional experience in the public service. She holds 2 Masters degrees: MSocsci (Sociology) and MA (Poverty and Development) from the University of Cape Town and University of Sussex (UK) respectively. She is completing her PHD with the University of Mpumalanga on Cooperative Governance and the Developmental State. She is intending to reregister her PhD at the University of Cape Town in 2006 and complete her thesis on professionalisation of the public service using the South African Police Service (SAPS) as a case study in 2026. She also holds an executive leadership certificate in 21st Century Leadership with Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, US, as well as with the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford through the AIG Foundation.

She has won international, continental and domestic awards for her public sector leadership in public policy. For instance, she has been awarded the Africa Youth Awards 2021, & Africa3535 leadership laureat award for Governance. She has won the Humphrey Leadership award from the United States also for her policy contribution in the Public sector, as well as 2 time winner of the Mail & Guardian top 200 leaders award, running in the top 10 for Politics and Government. She is also a recipient of the Vice-chancellor's award, University of Cape Town. She is a AIG Fellow, Mo Ibrahim Fellow, Codesria Fellow, EALP Fellow, Obama fellow, Mandela/Washington fellow, Yenching Fellow, Mandela/Rhodes scholar, ABE Bailey Fellow, MMEG grantee, as well Chevening scholar with a keen interest in Public Sector transformation, Monetary and Fiscal Policy, Macro-Economics, Trade and Investments, Industrial development, Trade and Regional Integration, Local economic development, Poverty and Social Security, Labour markets, African Renaissance, International Relations, Afro/Silo relations and South-South Cooperations. She has a passion for international development and has participated in a number of global consultative forums (African Union, United Nations, The Elders, NATO) giving representation on youth agency in Africa. She has served as a member of the Panel of Experts of the Department of Public Works; giving representation on a job creation strategy there. She is previously a member of the Board of SAWIP, PAYD and CMRS. She is a Board member of PESA.

She is an author and co-editor of a book called "Chasing Freedom: histories, analyses and voices of student activism in SA". She is an Adjunct Faculty member of the Chandler Institute of Governance headquartered in Singapore to train public sector leaders in Africa and across the globe. She now works as a National Commissioner (Deputy Chair) at the Public Service Commission, appointed by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa. She hopes to contribute towards new development narratives of South Africa and Africa.

SPEAKER



**Secretary General:
Student
Representative
Council (SRC)**

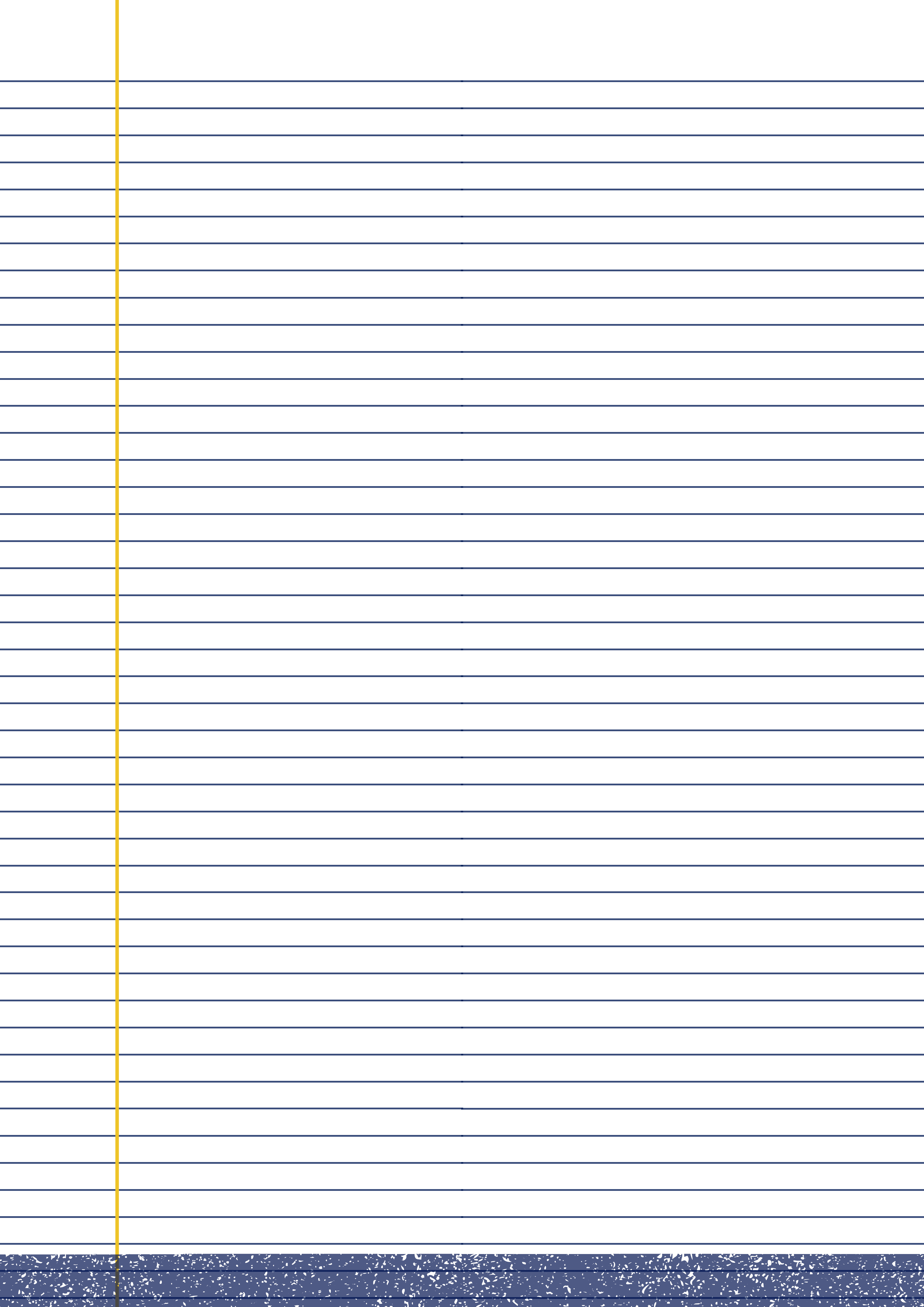
• Siphosethu Ndyumbu

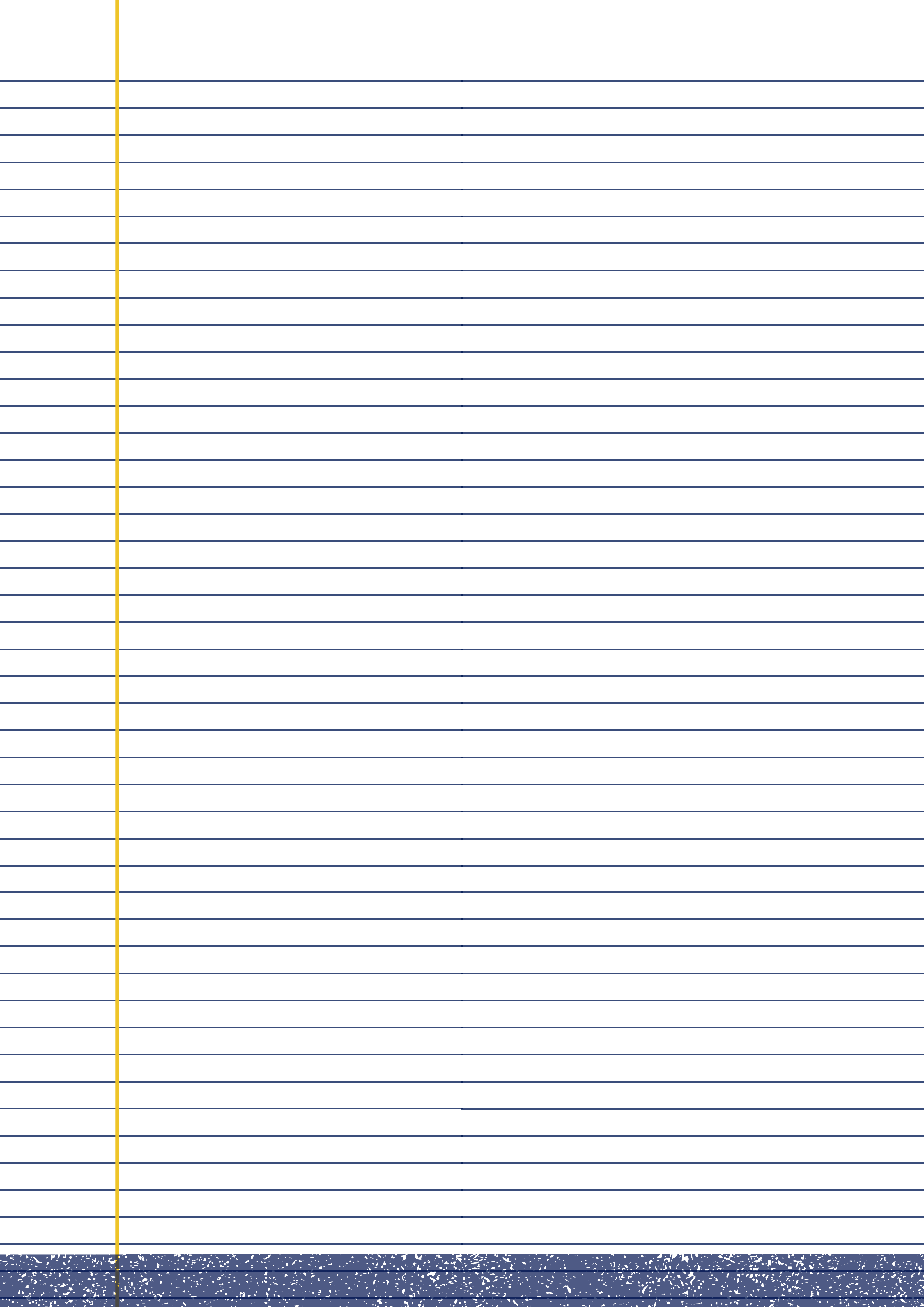
Siphosethu Ndyumbu currently serves as the Secretary General of the Wits University Student Representative Council (SRC), where he is responsible for steering the council's administrative and strategic functions. In this role, he continues to champion student rights and plays a pivotal part in shaping institutional policy through dialogue, advocacy, and collective leadership.

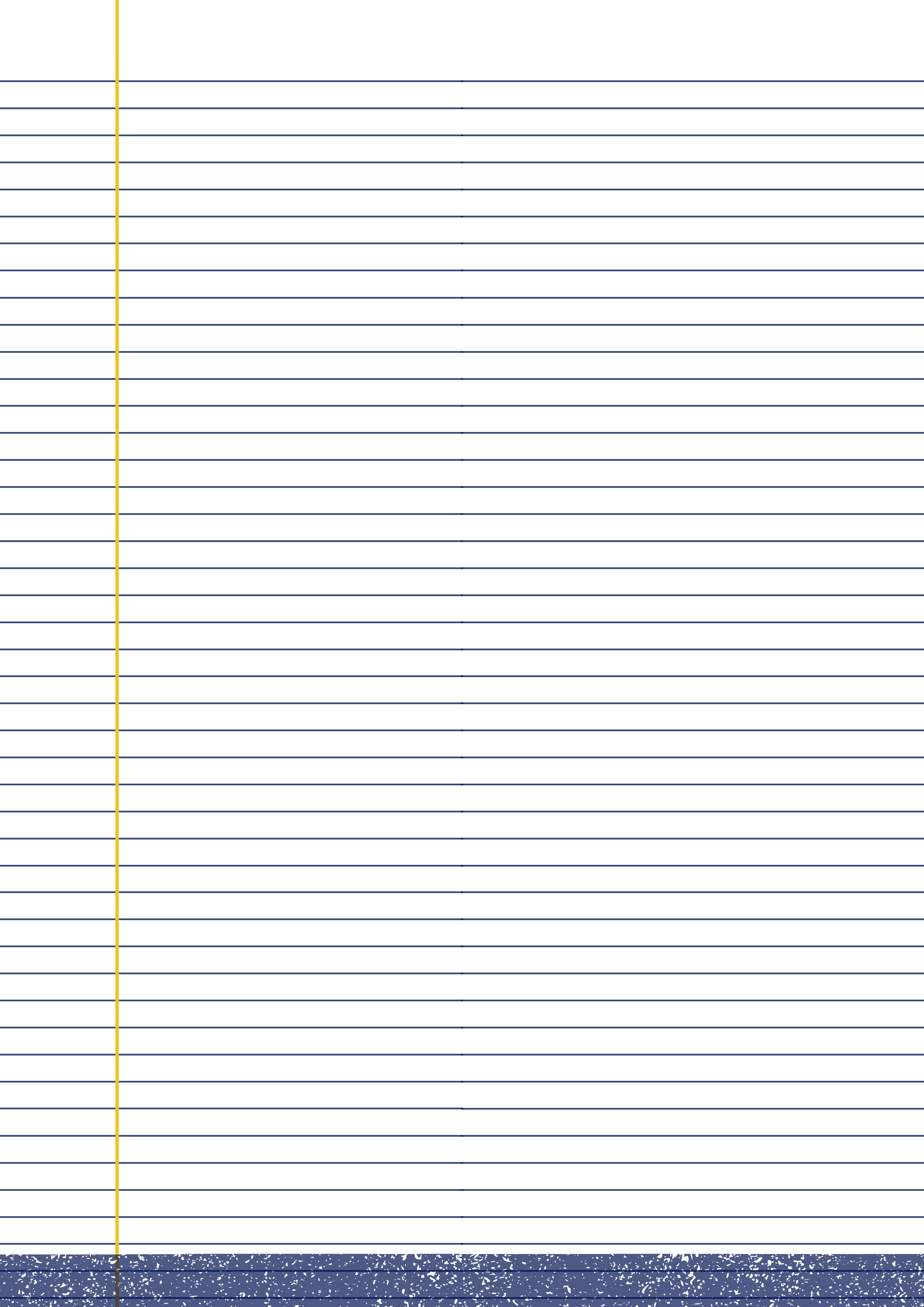
His activism is grounded in years of dedicated student leadership. In 2024, he served as the Branch Treasurer of the Wits SASCO Super Branch, where he managed the branch's finances with transparency and ensured alignment between its resources and its political commitments. The year prior, in 2023, he held the position of Branch Deputy Chairperson of the Wits SASCO Branch, contributing to the branch's political direction, membership development, and grassroots mobilisation efforts.

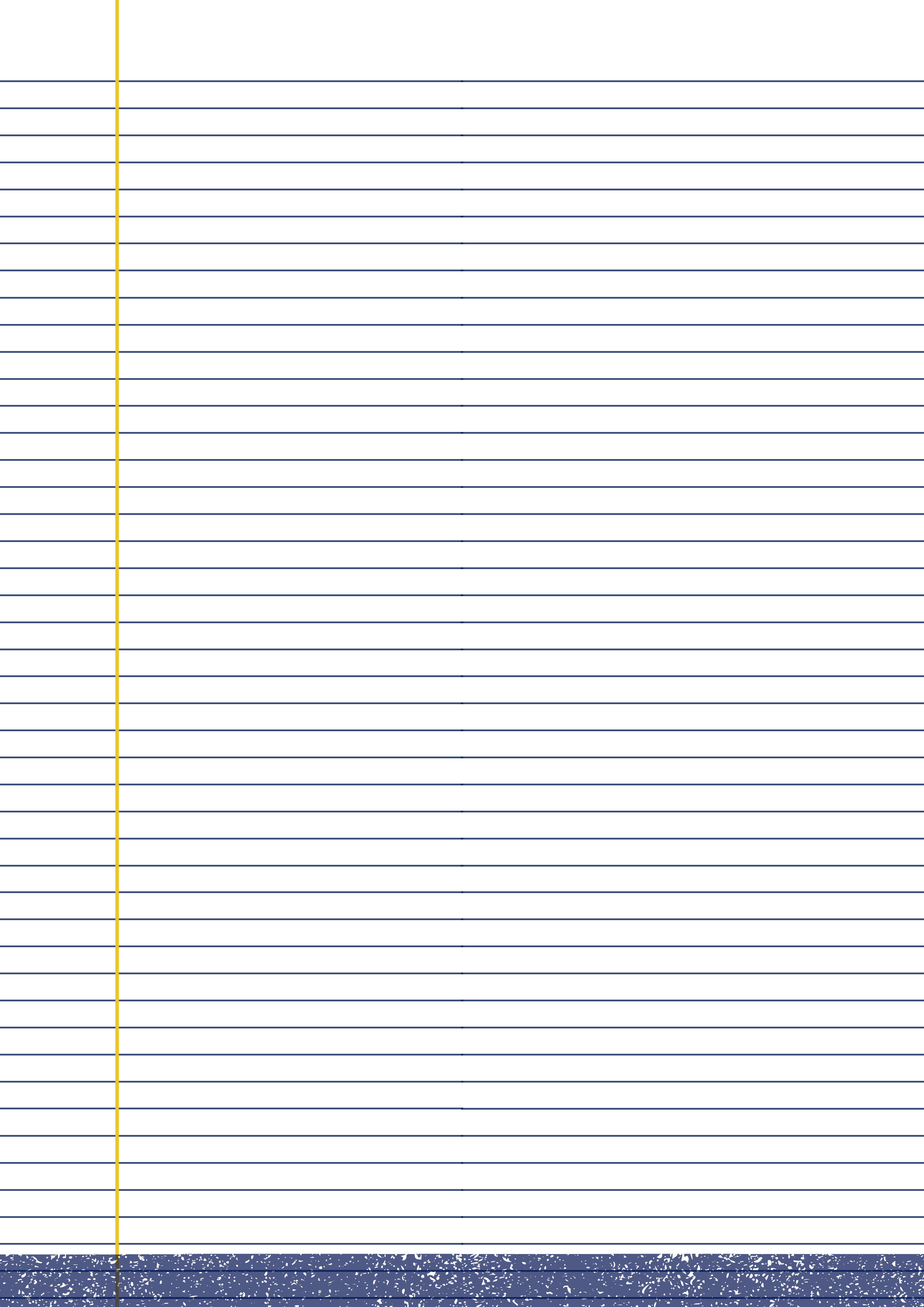
Siphosethu's leadership is guided by a deep sense of responsibility to the student community. He brings a thoughtful, principled approach to every space he occupies - rooted in values of accountability, access, and social justice. Whether working within governance structures or on the ground with students, he remains focused on building a more equitable and inclusive university environment.

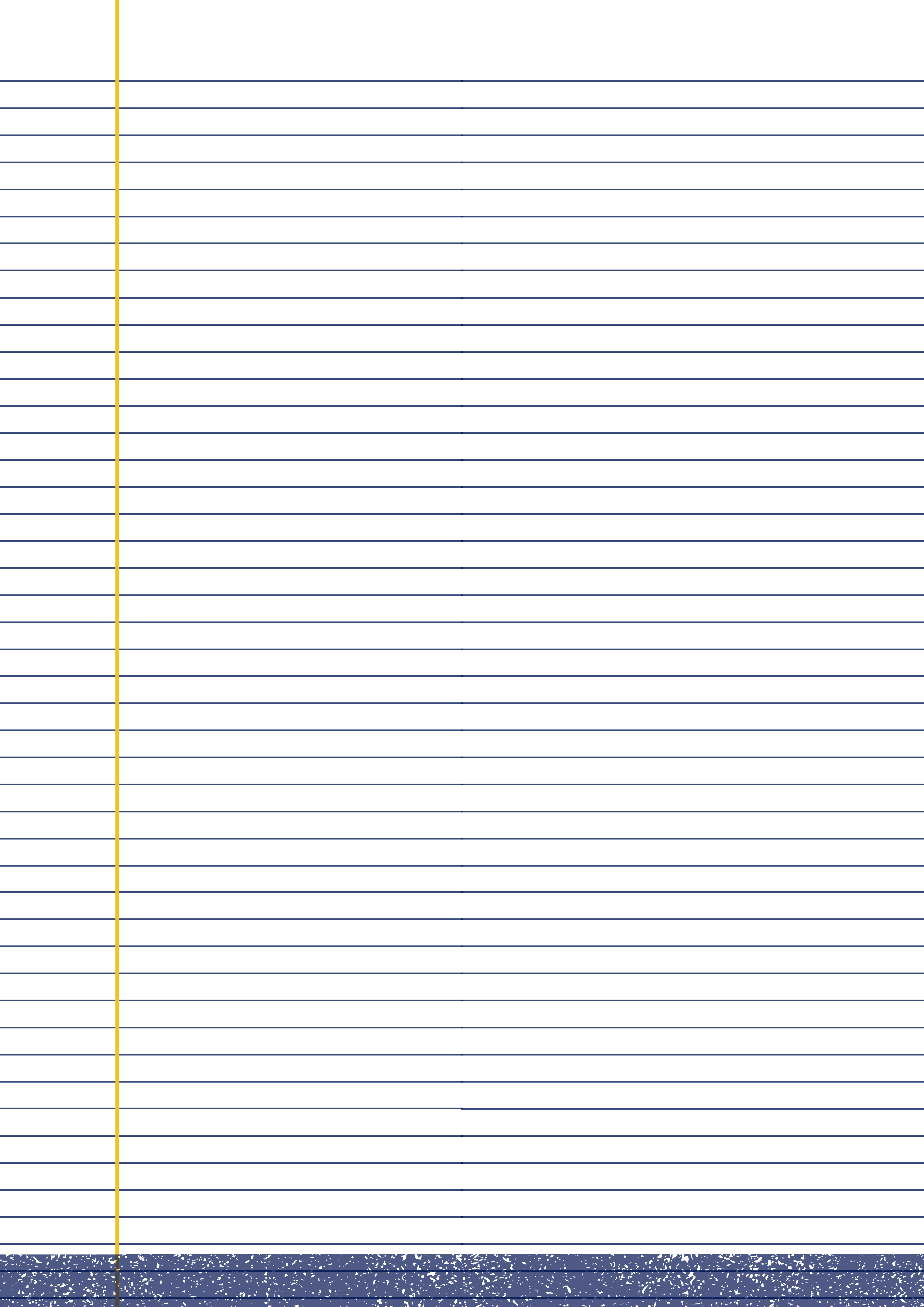
His work has consistently centred on forging strategic partnerships and collaborative networks that advance student development. By prioritising multi-stakeholder engagement, Siphosethu has positioned himself as a bridge-builder - working with university management, civil society, government entities, and student organisations to co-create solutions to the structural challenges that continue to affect students across the higher education landscape.

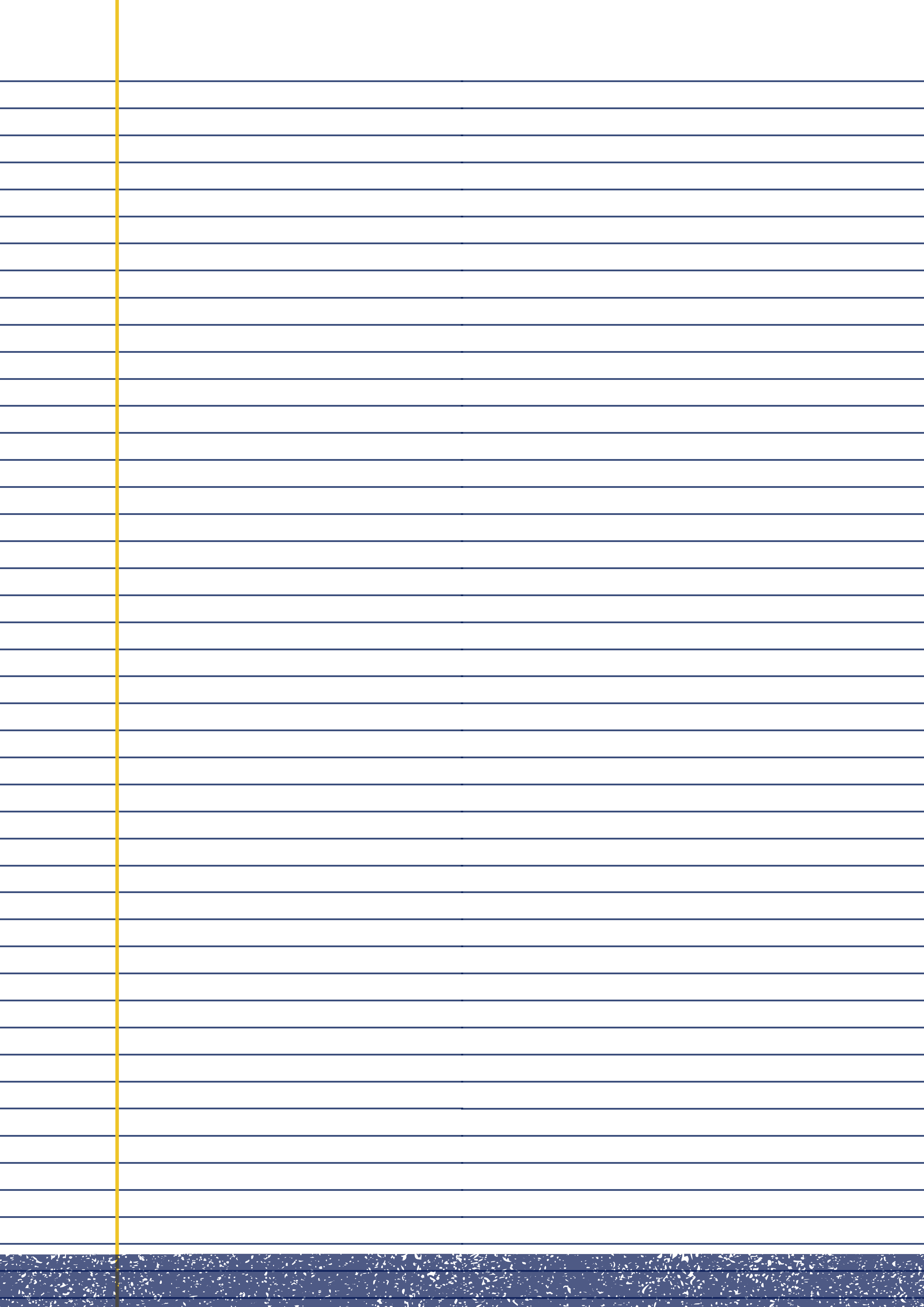


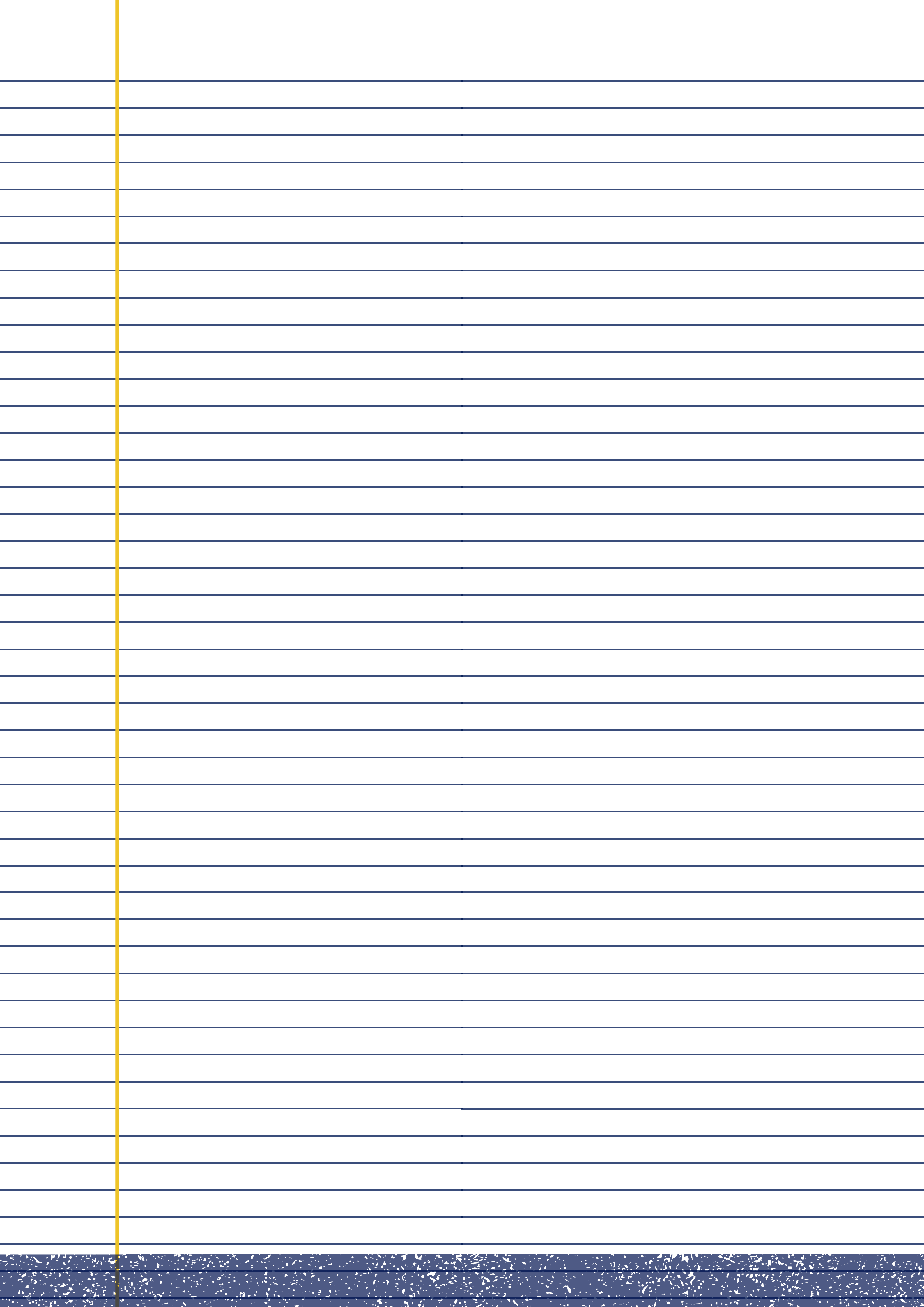


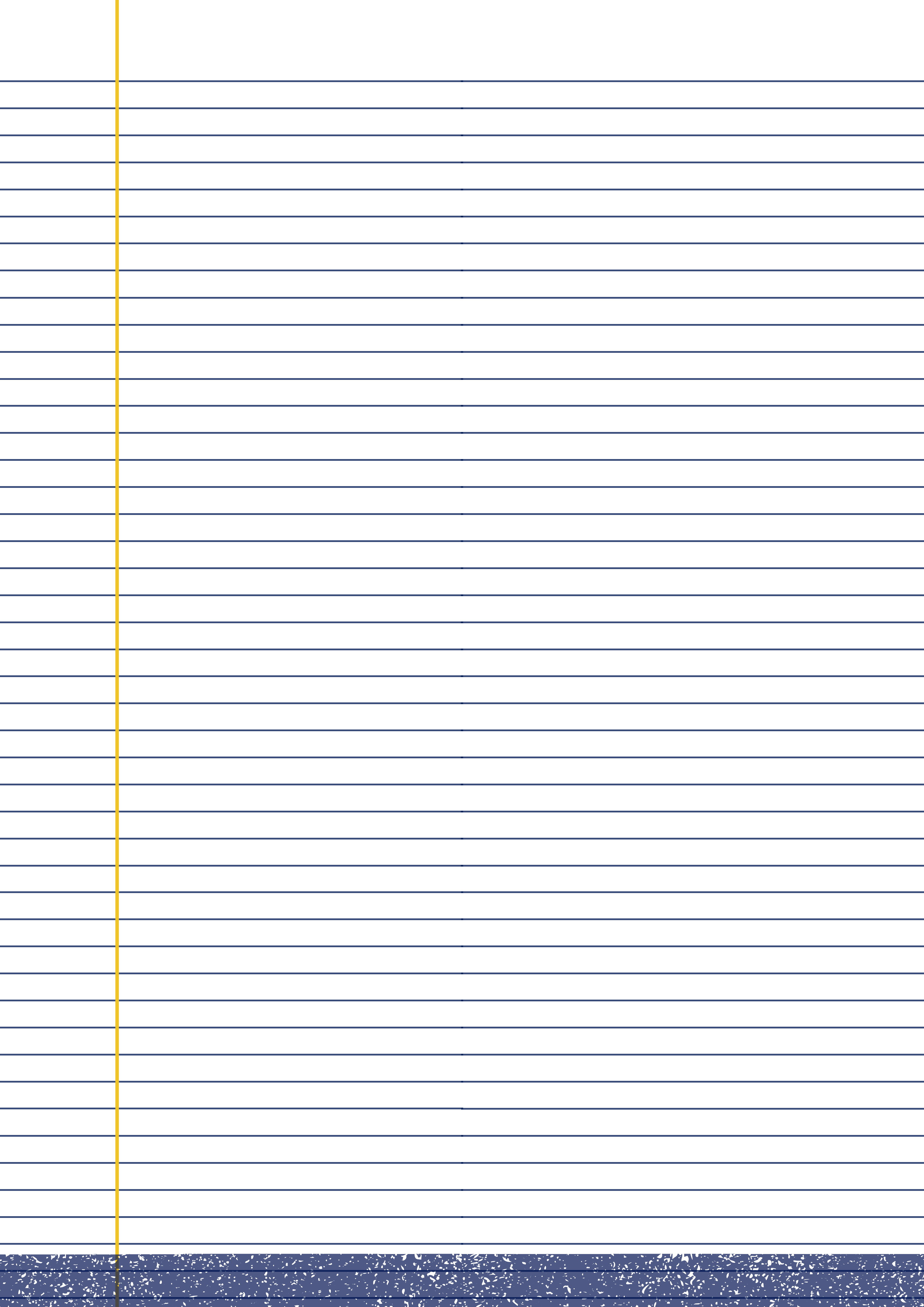


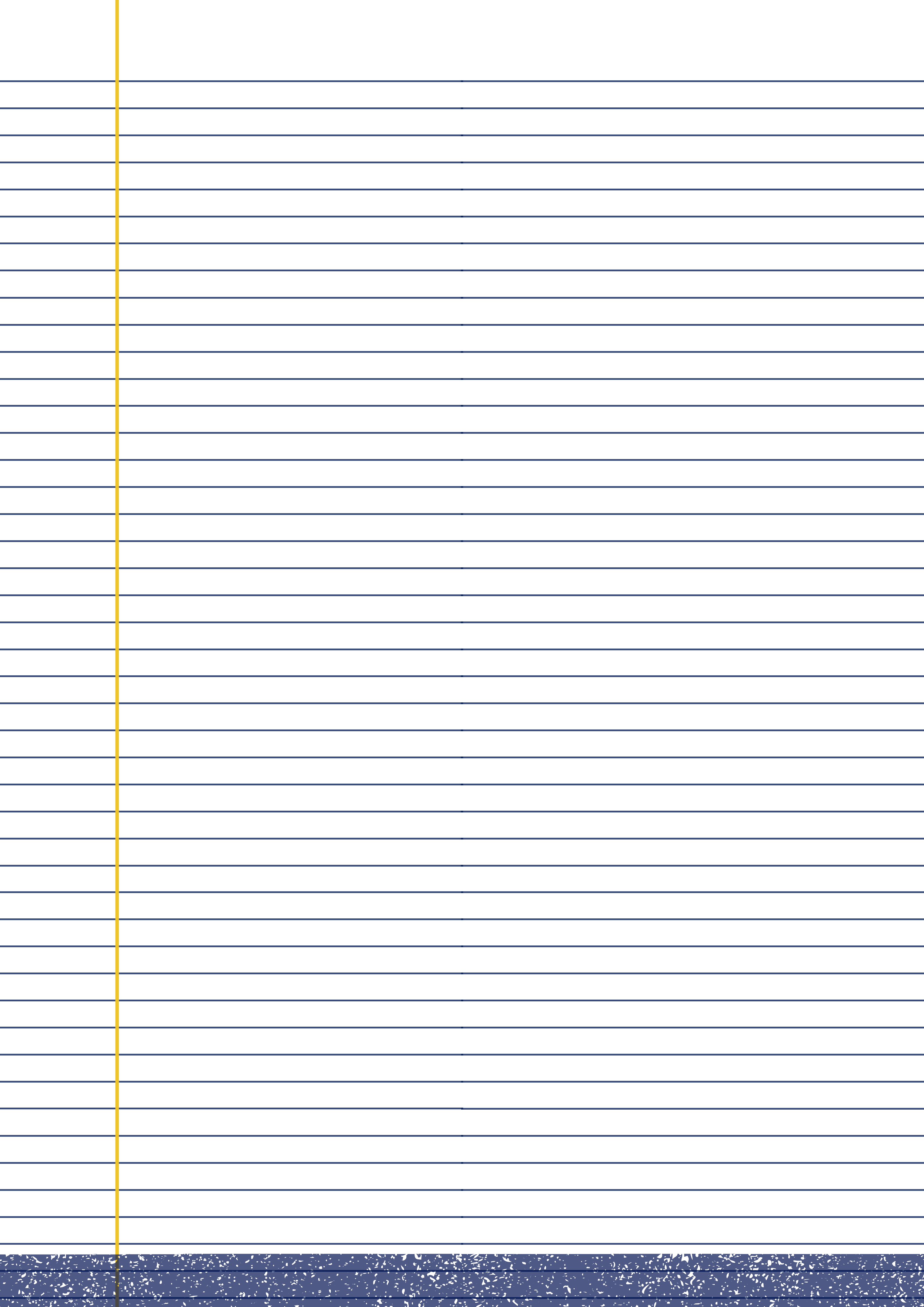


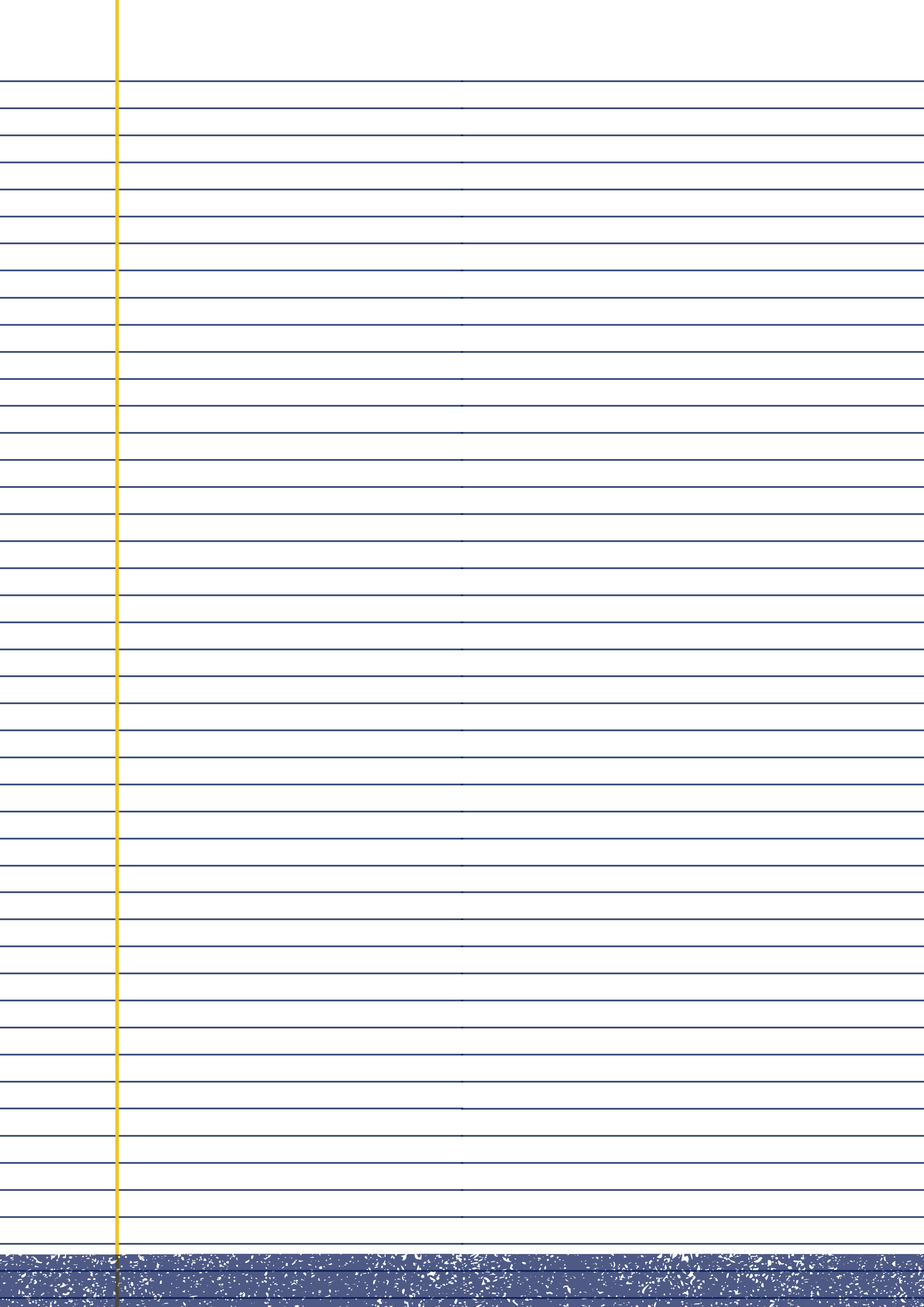


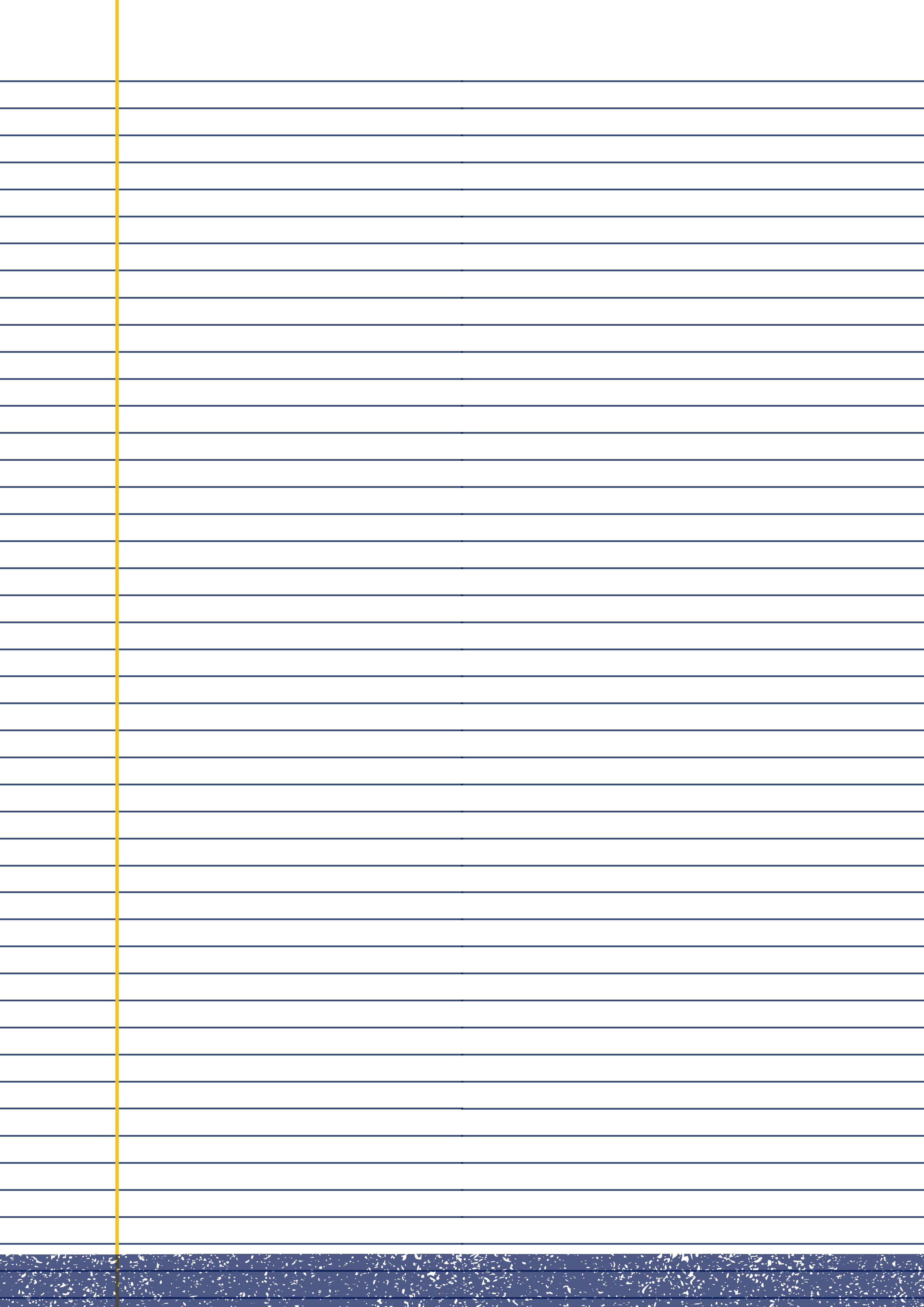


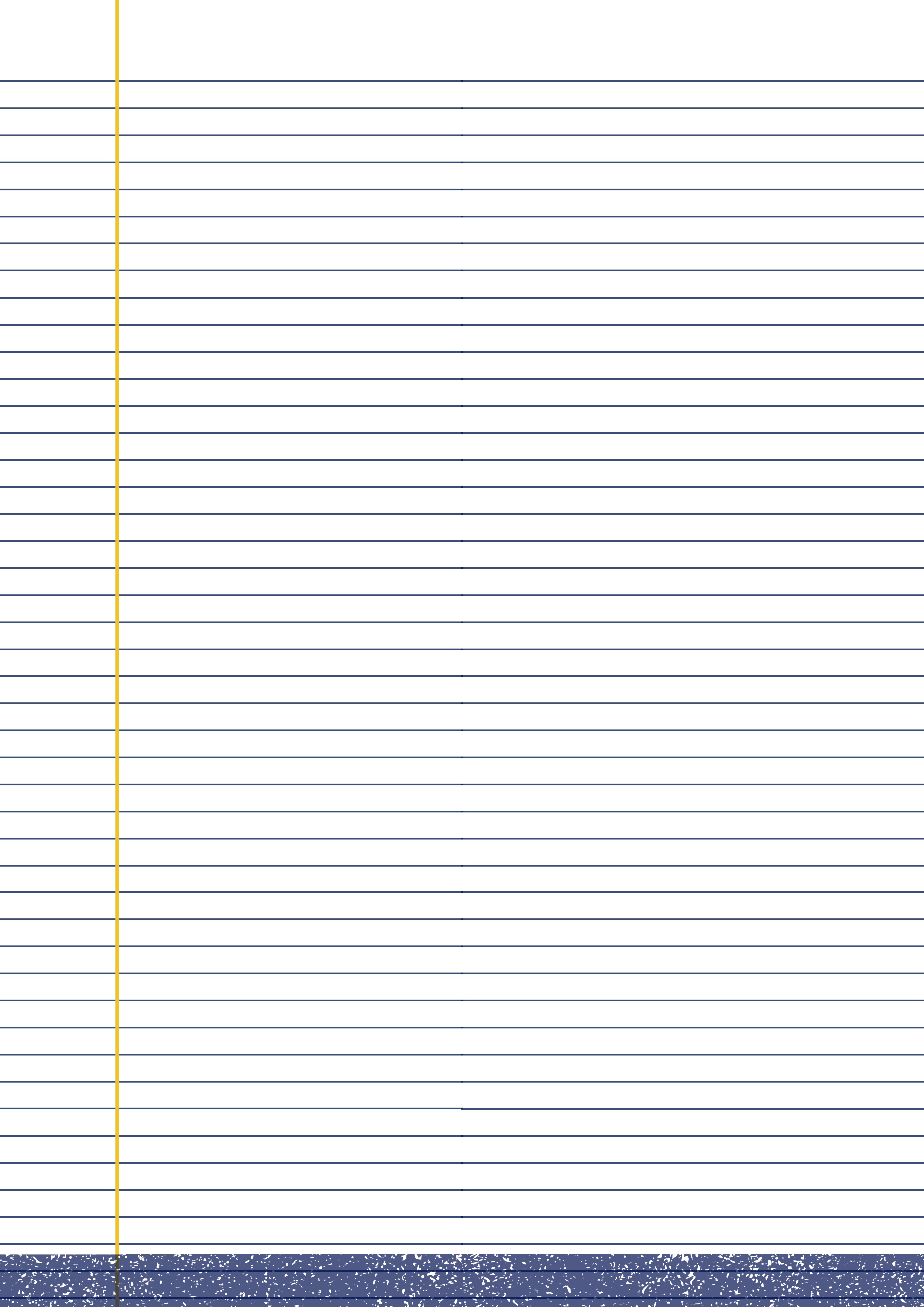












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