



Simon
Van Blerk

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth:	03 December 1993
Languages:	English (Excellent), Afrikaans (Excellent)
Prof. membership:	Engineering Council of South Africa (Registered Professional Engineer, No. 202101790) South African Institute of Civil Engineers, No. 201401026
Years' Experience:	8 years
Countries worked in:	South Africa, UK, Zambia

CONTACT INFO

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ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering): University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2016

Pursuing a Master of Philosophy in Development Finance at Stellenbosch Business School (2025-2026)

FIELD OF SPECIALISATION

Simon is a professionally registered civil engineer with nine years of experience working in the water and land-development sectors with experience designing, planning and managing infrastructure projects in South Africa and the United Kingdom. Simon has over the course of his career worked closely with local government as an engineering consultant in addressing municipal infrastructure challenges. His work with local government as an engineering consultant included conducting feasibility studies, planning, and designing municipal infrastructure.

Simon's current role as a Senior Consultant at PDG involves working at the intersection of engineering infrastructure, finance, and governance within the municipal services sector. His work included research into alternative water tariffs, development charges, and long-term financial planning for local government.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Jan 24 – ongoing

PDG, Johannesburg, South Africa
Senior Consultant

Aug 22 – Dec 23

ARUP, Winchester, UK
Senior Engineer

Jan 20 – Jul 22

BVI Consulting Engineers, Upington, South Africa
Civil Engineer

Feb 17 – Dec 19

Bigen Group, Pretoria, South Africa
Civil Engineer

KEY PROJECTS

2024 (ongoing): African Countries Financial Planning, African Development Bank: Simon was the lead financial modeller for an African Development Bank project that involved the creation of Long-Term Financial Plans (LTFPs) and Integrated Investment Frameworks for multiple Africa countries (currently work is underway in Zambia with more countries to follow). Simon also led engagements with local authorities and water and sanitation companies during the course of the project. The LTFPs aim to project expenditures, revenues, and capital finances and are used as tools to help achieve target financial performance through the modelling of various scenarios and strategies. The purpose of an IIF is to estimate capital expenditure required to fund engineering services. It also estimates the operating and maintenance expenditure, as well as operating revenue, associated with the provision of the infrastructure.

2024 (ongoing): Review of Bulk Water Tariffs, SALGA: Simon led the annual review of the raw water tariffs, bulk water tariffs from waterboards, and Eskom retail tariffs on behalf of SALGA. The work involved reviewing the proposed tariffs, analysing the tariffs in terms of , checking compliance with price setting strategies, and commenting on the appropriateness and affordability of the tariffs for municipalities.

2024: Development Charges Calculator and Policy, Emfuleni Local Municipality: Designed and created the Development Charges (DC) calculator for ELM and calculated the unit costs for bulk engineering services including solid waste, electricity, water, sanitation, roads, and stormwater. Inputted into the DC policy.

2024: Innovative Water Tariffs, Water Research Commission: Simon assisted with research on innovative water tariff structures, particularly Consumption Based Fixed Charges, Water Tariff Menus, and Property Value Based Fixed Charges. His role involved researching, modelling, and analysing various water tariff structures to compare their effectiveness within the South African municipal context.

2024: Cape Town Housing Sector Plan, City of Cape Town (subcontracted to Pegasys): Simon was responsible for forecasting of engineering services operating and capital expenditure as part of the assessment of various housing strategies for the City of Cape Town.

2022 -23: Designed civil engineering infrastructure including stormwater drainage systems (traditional systems and SuDS), pressure networks, earthworks, and sewer networks. Acted as the civil engineering discipline lead for a large student accommodation development, which involved leading and managing a team of civil engineers, coordinating between multiple disciplines, liaising with the client and managing budget, scope, and deliverables. Responsible for commercial reporting and resource allocation on multiple projects, ensuring that projects are delivered on time and within budget.

2020-22: Designed civil infrastructure for township developments (roads, stormwater, sewer, and water designs). Prepared cost estimates, Bill of Quantities and administrated construction contracts for land development and municipal infrastructure projects. Worked with clients in the public sector to advise on infrastructure budget allocation and assisted with procuring grant funding by preparing funding applications and motivating projects to provincial and national funding bodies. Prepared feasibility reports for infrastructure projects such wastewater treatment facilities and new utility networks, including future demand forecasting and life-cycle cost estimates.

2017-19: Designed civil infrastructure as part of the Real Estate Land Development team, focusing on large-scale housing developments. Prepared bulk infrastructure phasing reports, grant applications, and tender documents. Prepared Bill of Quantities and cost estimates.