



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT)  
University Research Committee (URC) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH  
FELLOWSHIPS 2025  
CIRCULAR NO. CC01-2024

TO: THE EXECUTIVE; ALL DEANS; HEADS OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS; DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH UNITS; CENTRES AND INSTITUTES.

UCT's Research Committee (URC) Postdoctoral Fellowships have been established to enable excellent doctoral graduates to undertake two years of research and academic training as Postdoctoral Research Fellows at the University of Cape Town, starting in 2025. The aim is to provide an enabling and supportive environment for our next generation of transformed and diverse postdoctoral research fellows (PDRFs) to grow and flourish, increasing the capacity of the University to build a larger cohort of early career researchers. We want to nurture and prepare talented young scholars for academic career positions at UCT and other universities in Africa by helping them to build strong research portfolios and academic networks to ensure sustainability and longevity as they pursue their research careers.

Fellowship selection is highly competitive and based in the first instance on excellence in the context of the applicant's academic standing, research experience, productivity, and output and, secondly, on the relevance and fit of research experience and proposed focus to the host group's research focus and objectives.

The University of Cape Town invites applications for a **limited number** of URC Postdoctoral Research Fellowships to be taken up at the University Cape Town beginning in 2025

**Closing date: 09 September 2024**

**Value and tenure:**

The value of the Fellowships is fixed at **R325 000 per annum** and does not include any relocation expenses. The Fellowships carry no benefits and are compliant with the SARS rules for tax exemption. The URC Postdoctoral Fellowship is considered a PRIMARY AWARD and cannot be held concurrently with any other award without the prior consent of the University Research Committee. A maximum of 50% (R150 000) of the value of the award can be held concurrently with other postdoctoral fellowship(s) up to the overall limit of income from all sources of R543 000 pa.

**Awards are tenable for two years, subject to submission of a satisfactory progress reports every 6 months.**

**Eligibility:**

- All South African and foreign candidates are eligible, but applicants from underrepresented backgrounds could be given preference and applicants who graduated with the doctoral degree from universities other than UCT, or if graduating from UCT, from a different department / division / group to that in which the PhD was completed.
- Only applicants who were awarded the PhD degree no earlier than June 2020 and who are not yet in full time, permanent comprehensive academic or research posts are eligible.
- There is no restriction on any discipline or field of research.

**Application procedure:**

Applications must include the following:

- The completed application form including all required information and attachments.
- The applicant's full curriculum vitae detailing a full list of publications/research output.
- Reports from three referees, may be emailed directly to [pdocs@uct.ac.za](mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za)
- Certified copies of all academic transcripts. **Please do not include copies of certificates.**
- Applicant must submit the completed form along with supporting documents as ONE PDF to Principal Investigator with a request to complete section 13a and b (confidential report). The Principal Investigator must submit the full application and confidential report to the Postdoctoral Administration office by email to Emile Van Wyk at [pdocs@uct.ac.za](mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za) by the **closing date 09 September 2024**.

**Conditions:**

Information on conditions of these fellowships is available at [URC Conditions](#) Further information pertaining to Postdoctoral fellowships at <http://www.uct.ac.za/main/research/postdoc-research-fellowships> . Successful candidates will be required to comply with the University of Cape Town's approved [policies, procedures, and practises](#) for the postdoctoral sector.

Circular Approved by

**Professor Jeff Murugan -Acting; DVC**

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH & INTERNATIONALISATION





## 6. PARTICULARS OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Researcher with whom you wish to work:

Title, Name and Surname	Department	Contact number	Email address	Status (Indicate PI or Co-PI)

## 7. PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS RECEIVED

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## 8. EXPERIENCE TO DATE

Name of employer/institution	Capacity and/or type of work	Period

## 9. RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Please supply a publication list in the space provided below. Full references (i.e., authors, title, year, name of journal/publisher, volume, and page numbers) must be given. Conference proceedings, technical reports, patents, etc, should also be reported. **You may upload an additional page via the CV checklist button should the space provided be insufficient. PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS VITAL FOR YOUR APPLICATION**

## 10. FINANCIAL DETAILS

10.1. Please declare any other funding/income (from all sources) you have applied for, expect to receive or have already received in support of the postdoctoral research described in this application. Include details of other Fellowship Applications. ALL OTHER APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT IN 2025 MUST BE STATED.

Source of funding	Amount	From (month/year)	To (month/year)

10.2. Does any of the financial support received for your previous studies/activities bind you to a service contract?

YES		NO	
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## 11. REFEREES

Please provide the names (i.e., title, initials, surname), full postal as well as telephone, and e-mail addresses of three academic referees. **Candidates are required to download the referees report below and forward it to the respective referees for completion.** Referees must email the referee report directly to [pdocs@uct.ac.za](mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za)



[2024 URC Referee Report.rtf](#)

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE THAT THE REFEREE REPORTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE POSTGRADUATE FUNDING OFFICE.

	Referee 1	Referee 2	Referee 3
Name			
Contact Address			
Contact number			
Email address			

## 12. DECLARATION BY APPLICANT

I certify that the information supplied in this application is correct and, if my application is successful, I understand that I will be subject to, and will abide by the policies, requirements and rules surrounding the postdoctoral sector of the University of Cape Town, and the conditions of the UCT URC postdoctoral fellowship.

I understand that my application will only be considered if:

I have graduated with a Doctoral degree no earlier than **June 2020**

I have not yet established an academic career and have not, been employed as a full-time professional or academic. I have declared, on this form, details of any previous employment or postdoctoral research undertaken.

I have declared on this document my anticipated income in **2025**, from all sources.

I undertake to comply with all the Conditions and Criteria of the UCT URC Postdoctoral Fellowships.

Signature of applicant:	Date:
Signature of witness:	Date:

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Applicant must submit completed form along with supporting documents to Principal Investigator with a request to complete section 13a and b (confidential report). The Principal Investigator must submit the full application and confidential report to the Postdoctoral Administration office by email to [pdocs@uct.ac.za](mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za) no later than the closing date **09 September 2024**.

Full curriculum vitae detailing a <b>full list</b> of publications/research output	Combine with completed application form
<b>Certified copies of all academic transcripts.</b> <i>Please do not include copies of certificates</i>	Combine with completed application form
<b>Certificate indicating that you have met the requirements for the doctoral degree to be awarded. See number 2.</b>	Combine with completed application form
Reports from three referees	Must be emailed directly to <a href="mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za">pdocs@uct.ac.za</a>
Report by host principal investigator of the proposed project	The principal investigator must submit the full application and confidential report to the Postdoctoral Administration office by email to Emile Van Wyk at <a href="mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za">pdocs@uct.ac.za</a> no later than the closing date <b>09 September 2024</b> .

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

ONCE THIS FORM HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT, IT MUST BE HANDED TO THE PROPOSED PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR FURTHER COMPLETION. THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IS NOTIFIED THAT THIS SECTION (No's. 13 a AND b) IS **CONFIDENTIAL**. BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN, THIS FORM MUST BE **EMAILED DIRECTLY TO THE POSTDOCTORAL ADMINISTRATION AREA AT [pdocs@uct.ac.za](mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za)**

**BY NO LATER THAN 09 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**LATE, INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS AND/OR INAPPROPRIATE APPLICATIONS (WHERE THE APPLICANT IS INELIGIBLE IN TERMS OF THE APPLICATION CRITERIA) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

#### **13(a) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE HOST (PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR) OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Please explain how the applicant and this study will contribute to your research. Attach one extra page if necessary.

#### **13(b) PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

*Please indicate your preliminary assessment of the application (type X) in the appropriate block*

I believe that:

The academic standing of the applicant is <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Unacceptable		Good		Very Good		Outstanding	
The programme of research the candidate wishes to undertake is <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Not Clear		Adequate		Worthwhile		Most Important	
The library facilities in Cape Town would be <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Inadequate		Adequate		Good		Excellent	
The laboratory facilities available here would be <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Inadequate		Adequate		Good		Excellent	
The departmental space and all other facilities including equipment available would be <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Inadequate				Adequate			

Please use this space to describe the space and equipment you will provide:

Appropriate funds to support the Fellow's work <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Are already available				Are unlikely to be available		
The award of a 12-month Fellowship to enable the applicant to work in this department would be <small>(Please type X where applicable)</small>	Unsuitable		Desirable		Welcomed		Enthusiastically Welcomed

#### **DECLARATION BY APPLICANT.**

IF ANY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT HAS MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE FOR THESE AWARDS, IT IS COMPULSORY TO RANK SUCH CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF MERIT (EG. THE BEST CANDIDATE SHOULD BE RANKED NO. "Rank 1")

#### **RANKING OF THIS CANDIDATE**

(Rank 1, Rank 2, Rank 3, Rank 4, Rank 5 to Rank 10)

*Please note that there is little purpose in pursuing an application unless there is a clear commitment by a department to provide necessary facilities. Equally, a department which has made such a commitment must be ready to stand by it if the candidate is successful.*

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – Full Names (please print)		Signature:
Date		

SIGNATURE INDICATING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSED POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER BY THE OF HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF THE HOST DEPARTMENT WHERE THIS RESEARCH IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT – Full Names (please print):		Signature:
Department		
Date		

**Applicant must submit completed form along with supporting documents as ONE DOCUMENT to his/her Principal Investigator with a request to complete section 13a and b (confidential report). The Principal Investigator must submit the full application and confidential report to the Postdoctoral Administration area by email to [pdocs@uct.ac.za](mailto:pdocs@uct.ac.za) no later than the closing date 09 September 2024.**