

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Empilisweni Initiative

The Empilisweni initiative seeks to recruit a post-doctoral research fellow to focus on the use of qualitative and quantitative methods to advance the use of quality improvement in implementation science. The Empilisweni Initiative is one of the NIH-funded u54 research initiative based in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Cape Town focused on improving cancer care delivery through implementation science frameworks in resource-limited settings. We are seeking an exceptional Postdoctoral Research Fellow to join our dynamic research team.

The postdoctoral fellowship will engage in the Empilisweni initiative to achieve the research goals of integrating Human Papillomavirus screening and treatment, using qualitative and quantitative methods to advance the use of quality improvement in implementation science.

This post-doctoral fellowship offers:

- Collaborative research environment with international partners
- Opportunity to contribute to groundbreaking implementation science research
- Mentorship from leading experts in the field
- Competitive postdoctoral stipend
- Research and conference travel support
- Duration: 1 year, with possibility of extension

Conditions of Award:

Eligible applicants must have completed their doctorate within the past 5 years and may not previously have held full-time permanent professional or academic posts.

The successful candidate will have:

- Strong background in implementation science methodologies and frameworks
- Experience in healthcare quality improvement initiatives
- Demonstrated publication record in peer-reviewed journals
- Excellent project management and leadership skills
- Strong analytical and research skills

Advantageous skills/experience include if the applicant has:

- Experience with cancer care delivery research
- Experience in mixed-methods research
- Background in health systems strengthening
- Experience working in resource-limited settings
- Published papers from their PhD

The successful candidate will be required to complete the following research deliverables:

- Development and implementation of quality improvement frameworks for HPV-based cervical cancer screening and treatment programs
- Integration of the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) with quality improvement methodologies
- Evaluation of implementation strategies for cancer care delivery in resource-limited settings
- Conduct scoping reviews on topics related to the research
- Support data collection
- Cleaning and management of the single patient viewer outputs
- Study outcome-related evaluations
- Prepare and edit study protocols and ethical approval packages
- Present research at seminars, workshops and conferences
- Prepare research findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals and other platforms (for examples, policy or research briefs).

The candidate will be supervised by A/ Prof Nomonde Mbatani and Dr Rakiya Saidu and will be mentored by a team of implementation science researchers, from UCT and Columbia University, New York.

Moreover, the candidate:

- May not hold any other fellowships without permission of their supervisor
- May not undertake employment of any nature without the permission of their supervisor; and
- Must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Value and Tenure:

The value of the fellowship is R534,000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications. Flexibility on a start date can be discussed. Renewal for a further year may be considered and is contingent of satisfactory academic progress and availability of funds.

Application Procedure:

Eligible candidates should provide the following in ONE SINGLE PDF:

- A letter describing research interest and the candidate's suitability for the fellowship, highlighting how they meet the requirements for the fellowship.
- A CV that includes details for all conference attendance, publications and any other scholarly research output, and the names of two academic referees who have taught/ supervised the candidate at university and can speak to their skills.

Enquiries and completed application should be forwarded to:

Dr Rakiya Saidu, email: rakiya.saidu@uct.ac.za

Closing date for receipt of applications: Two weeks from date of advertisement

Selection: Eligible applicants will be considered by a sub-committee convened by the Empilisweni Women's Initiative.

Please reference "**2025 Empilisweni Postdoctoral Research Fellow**" in the email subject line.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete, and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and/or to make no awards at all.