



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS | SDG POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The University of Cape Town invites applications for seven postdoctoral fellowships, the “SDG fellowships”, centred on research towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063 which, together, form a core focus for the research portfolio aligned with UCT’s Vision 2030. As such, UCT’s Vision 2030 for Research strives to unleash knowledge in, for and from Afrika\* to redefine and co-create a sustainable global future. The [Grand Challenges](#), identified as central to both the UCT Vision 2030 for Research and delivery on the SDGs, are central to UCT’s focus and will be central to the work of this team of SDG Fellows.

To explore core aspects for delivery on the SDGs in Africa, UCT hosted the [International Summit on the SDGs in Africa](#) in September 2021. Here we set out to explore multiple voices and perspectives on situating the SDG focus in Africa and set out to build a course of action towards their attainment to live on and direct our research beyond the summit itself. The summit explored seven thematic tracks, cross-cutting the SDGs. Multiple activities and initiatives have carried forward this vision. We realise the extent of these require dedicated support and thus, the idea of a cohort of SDG postdoctoral research fellows (PDRFs) was conceived. This group will be aligned with the different [thematic tracks](#) of the SDG Africa Summit that are as follows:

- Ethical, capable and enduring institutions
- Science, technology and innovation
- Strengthening circular economies at different scales
- Transdisciplinarity and engaged scholarship
- Building responsive and resilient systems
- New approaches to teaching and building capability
- Poverty and inequality

Each PDRF appointed will contribute to a specific thematic track in collaboration with their academic host(s), while also working as a member of the SDGs PDRF team across the university to build capacity and gain traction in UCT’s focus on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This teamwork is premised on our intent to further inter- and transdisciplinary work at UCT needed to deliver on the SDGs. To nurture these dual roles, the PDRFs will have both a thematic track host while the PDRF cohort will also be hosted by the DVC Research and Internationalisation.

Applications need to be written such that they are aligned with a selected thematic track from among the above, and specifically in respect of the framing for the associated working / position paper from the theme – find each of these under the relevant [thematic track](#).

\*UCT’s choice to spell Afrika in this way is an invitation to reclaim Afrika’s agency and use it to validate the global character of the local in the 21st century

The appointment must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures, and practices for the postdoctoral sector, and is subject to the rules and approval of the University of Cape Town.

The appointment is for one year at the outset, with a possible extension of two further years subject to budgetary approval and satisfactory annual progress. A PhD degree in an area related to the theme under which you apply is essential. Postdoctoral experience is a bonus; however, the candidate needs to be within five years from the date of award of their PhD for the duration of their PDRF at UCT and may not have held a full-time permanent academic or professional post, post award of PhD.

The current PDRF funding level is R300 000 per annum, typically tax free.

Interested candidates should send a CV, a research proposal (2-3 pages), and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent to Wilna Venter ([wilna.venter@uct.ac.za](mailto:wilna.venter@uct.ac.za)). Please use the following format in the subject line: YOURNAME, SDG Postdoc 2022. Screening of applications received by 18 September 2022 will start in September 2022 with awards made in October 2022. Following this, we will continue to screen further applications as received until all fellowships have been awarded. Any queries can be sent to Wilna Venter ([wilna.venter@uct.ac.za](mailto:wilna.venter@uct.ac.za)).

*The University of Cape Town reserves the right to:*

- *\_disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications*
- *\_change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all*