

Research Assistant / Masters funding opportunity for Postgraduate Students, 2023

Project Title: Pathways to Water Resilient South African Cities Phase II (PaWS2)

Future Water research institute, University of Cape Town

Supported by the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Danida), and in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, the Future Water (FW) research institute at UCT is seeking a dynamic and motivated postgraduate student researcher to join our team on the following project:

The Danida funded PaWS2 project continues research from PaWS1 that aims to identify opportunities for integrating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) approaches including implementing nature-based solutions (NBS) like Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in urban water systems. The student/researchers on this project will work alongside PaWS2 and an aligned project supported by the Water Research Commission, 'Implementation guideline for managed aquifer recharge in combination with blue-green infrastructure at local settlement level (WRC MAR-BGI). The focus of the research will expand beyond technical stormwater harvesting (SWH) objectives to consider other hydrological functions, including developing guidelines and documenting lessons learned for processes of co-design and policy practicalities of transforming existing stormwater ponds into productive, multifunctional spaces in line with a SuDS approach, based on BGI principles. This work will be drawing on already in progress stormwater interventions, and implementing new interventions at one site, as well as working with researchers already acting to develop a concise and user-friendly set of implementation guidelines for similar future efforts.

We are looking to recruit a postgraduate student from disciplines such as Civil Engineering, Environmental and Geographical Science, Sociology, Social Anthropology or another related field, but with qualitative research experience/interest to join our team. The student/researcher will join the team and among other methodologies, could be called upon to conduct participant observation in our field site and alongside the team's researchers. **We are particularly looking for students interested in ethnographic research and with an understanding of the environmental and social sciences.** The candidate will be selected based on research experience/interest, a capacity for transdisciplinary, engaged research, and an ability to contribute to knowledge translation and stakeholder engagement work. The chosen candidate may use components of this research (and additional aspects they design) towards their dissertation requirements and will be expected to begin research in early 2023. Payment will be commensurate with the successful applicant's qualifications and experience.

The suitable candidate must be registered / will need to register as a postgraduate student at UCT in an appropriate discipline and will be expected to undertake some part of the following tasks:

1. Relevant policy and literature reviews;
2. Stakeholder workshops, surveys, and/or interviews;
3. Ongoing monitoring of field experimentation;
3. Participant observation, note taking and summarizing, including field reports

To apply, candidates are invited to send a cover letter outlining their interest in the position, CV including research experience and the contact details of two appropriate referees by e-mail to amber.abrams@uct.ac.za by no later than **1 December 2022 (NB: Email subject should read "Implementation guideline for MAR Researcher_YOUR SURNAME")**. Selection of the eligible candidate will be made by the Director of Future Water and a sub-committee drawn from academics in the institute. More information about the Future Water research institute is available at <http://futurewater.uct.ac.za>.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and to make no awards at all. In line with university transformation policies, preference will be given to applicants from designated groups.