



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT)  
University Research Committee (URC) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH  
FELLOWSHIPS 2026  
CIRCULAR NO. CC01-2025

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 2026. 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 2026

**Closing date: 15 September 2025**

**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% (R162 500) 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 R590 321 pa.

**Awards are tenable for two years, subject to the 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 2021 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.**
- Applicants 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 15 September 2025**.

**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 [practices](#) for the postdoctoral sector.

Circular Approved by

**Professor J Murugan - Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research & Internationalisation**