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Post-Doctoral Scholarship Call (2 Awards) Desmond Tutu Health Foundation

The Desmond Tutu Health Foundation invites applications for **two** funded **Post-Doctoral** scholarships for candidates seeking to undertake research embedded within active, funded global health research programmes. This opportunity is designed for research-ready candidates who wish to pursue a structured, publication-oriented post-doctoral fellowship with strong mentorship, clear academic milestones, and an emphasis on analytical skill development and research independence.

Scholarship Value and Tenure. Value: Up to R477,900 annually per award, up to two years, contingent upon satisfactory progress, including evidence of manuscript development. Funding contributes to tuition and living costs and must be held alongside formal post-doctoral registration. While post-doctoral registration is not required at the time of application, the final scholarship award can only be confirmed and activated once the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation receives official written evidence of the candidate's post-doctoral registration from the host university. Additional non-monetary resources may include university registration fees and tuition; a laptop; publication fees; mentored workshops, and conference attendance and travel accommodations as determined by Desmond Tutu Health Foundation. No other awards or scholarships of such nature may be held at the same time.

Research Environment. Successful candidates will be integrated into established, multidisciplinary research programmes with active data collection and publication pipelines. The post-doctoral structure emphasises: 1) Regular academic oversight aligned with post-doctoral requirements, 2) Structured writing support and expectations around manuscript development, 3) Engagement with interdisciplinary research teams, 4) Development and dissemination of analytical, conceptual, and scholarly expertise. This is an academically rigorous programme intended to support progression toward a research-intensive career pathway.

Eligibility and Candidate Profile. Applicants must meet university admission requirements for post-doctoral registration and demonstrate strong research experience. **Required:** A completed PhD degree (or equivalent) in a relevant discipline (e.g. MBCHB, public health, psychology, sociology, epidemiology, biostatistics, behavioural science, or related fields). South African citizenship/permanent residency. Demonstrated experience in qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods data analysis. Clear motivation to pursue an academic or research-focused career. **Advantageous:** Applicants with an interest in conducting research in East London (Eastern Cape), or with existing ties to the region, will be strongly encouraged as part of the programme's commitment to developing research capacity in this setting. Previous peer-reviewed publication(s) or manuscripts in preparation. Experience working on applied health research (e.g. HIV, PrEP, mental health, men's health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, or related areas). Evidence of strong academic writing and conceptual thinking in writing sample submission. Terms and conditions apply.

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Non-Profit Company: Registration no. 1999/005072/08: NPO no. 148-956

Public Benefit no. 18-11-12-51

Directors: Mr K Osborne (Chair); Prof L-G Bekker; Ms T Tutu-Gxashe; Mr P Grant; Dr A M Kubeka;

Mr R Appelbaum; Ms E M Agodi; Ms L Mlambo

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Expectations. Successful candidates will be expected to: 1) Maintain progress toward post-doctoral milestones, 2) Contribute to a publication trajectory during the post-doctoral tenure, 3) Participate in academic activities (seminars, research meetings), 4) Submit competitive grant applications during the post-doctoral tenure, aligned with research trajectory and mentorship support, 5) Engage actively with supervision, mentorship, and structured oversight.

Application Process. The application process is intentionally aligned with training and capacity-building principles, emphasising applicant initiative, ownership, and readiness for independent research. Applicants need to submit the following documents using the link provided:

1. Biosketch format curriculum vitae (CV), including qualitative/quantitative/mixed-methods research experience.
2. Research Concept (1 page): Background, problem statement, research aims, and significance, with alignment to a publication-focused post-doctorate.
3. Proposed post-doctoral plan (1 page): A structured two-year plan outlining milestones, outputs (e.g. manuscripts), coursework or training, and mentorship/ supervisory support.
4. Reciprocal innovation: Write one paragraph on how the research will benefit US population health.
5. Writing sample: One example of academic or technical writing (e.g. published paper, thesis or manuscript draft).
6. Copy of South African ID
7. Certified copy of PhD Certificate

Closing Date. 24 April 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application link: <https://redcap.link/86e40fif>

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