

Call for Applicants

Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Hasso-Plattner Institute Research School at UCT

The Hasso-Plattner Institute (HPI) Research School at University of Cape Town, affiliated with the School of Information Technology at the University of Cape Town, annually grants PhD and Postdoctoral scholarships to qualifying students from the African continent in the fields of Computer Science (CS) and Information Systems (IS). We seek high-quality applications centred on ideas that revolve around proposing and evaluating solutions to problems of computer science and information systems that emerge in the African context.

The successful candidate will engage in original postdoctoral-level research under the supervision of one of the following members of the research school:

- **Jan Buys (CS)** > Natural Language Processing
- ~~**Irwin Brown (IS)** > ICT Innovations in Organisations and Society, and IS Management (not in 2022)~~
- **Josiah Chavula (CS)** > Network Measurements, Performance Engineering and Software Defined Networking
- **Melissa Densmore (CS)** > Human-Computer Interaction
- **Maria Keet (CS)** > Knowledge Engineering
- **Ulrike Rivett (IS)** > iCOMMS – Community Services
- **Lisa Seymour (IS)** > Enterprise Systems, Business Process Management, IS Education, ICT4D
- **Hussein Suleman (CS)** > Digital Libraries, Information Retrieval, and Educational Technology

Applicants must

- have obtained a doctoral degree in any relevant field within the past 5 years; supported by a good dissertation
- have held no previous professional or academic posts;
- be willing to take up the fellowship in February 2022;
- be based in Cape Town;
- secure a visa endorsed for research at UCT, if not a citizen or permanent resident of South Africa;
- demonstrate congruence between his/her research interests and one of the research areas outlined above;
- have an established or emerging publication record;
- be able to work in an interdisciplinary team environment;
- have good organizational and management skills;
- have good written and oral communication skills;
- be prepared to undertake limited teaching/supervision duties as part of his/her professional development;



- be prepared to register at the University of Cape Town as a postdoctoral research fellow and to comply with the policies and practices of the Postdoctoral Research Sector of the University.
- be proficient in English as attested by a recent score (obtained within 3 - 5 years before application for admission) of at least 570 (paper-based test) or 230 (computer-based test) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); or a recent overall band score of 7.0 (with no individual element of the test scoring below 6.0) on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). If your medium of education was in English then you are exempt from this requirement.

Value and tenure of the fellowship:

Postdoctoral fellows in the research school receive funding of EUR 1,050/month (paid quarterly in ZAR up to ZAR 17,000/month), a one-time equipment allowance of EUR 1000, and annual support of up to EUR 2000 for conference attendance. Postdoctoral fellowships are awarded for one year and are renewable for another year on approval of a progress report. The university will assist in providing relevant information, but the onus will be on the candidate to secure their own accommodation and costs of relocation.

Conditions of Award:

The successful candidate will be required to:

- register as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UCT
- enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a designated supervisor and adhere to the plans and agreements therein;
- submit at least one peer-reviewed publication within the period of the award, although final publication may occur later.
- comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector

Application Procedure

To apply, please submit a curriculum vitae (2-3 pages); Academic Transcripts; TOEFL/IELTS Results; A brief research proposal (2-3 pages) with a potential supervisor at UCT identified. Please submit *in a single PDF document*, comprising ALL the application materials, electronically to <https://limesurvey.uct.ac.za/index.php/693177?lang=en&source=pd-flyer>.

Your proposal must outline your research question(s) and proposed methodology for conducting the research. We will only consider proposals that fall within the core areas of our supervisors. It is advisable to consult the web pages and publications of potential supervisors, then to contact them by e-mail beforehand to determine if your areas of research interest align with theirs. However, please do not indiscriminately contact all staff in the School of IT at UCT. If you have more than one area of interest indicate this at the end of your research proposal. In the application you will also be asked to indicate up to three prospective supervisors.





*Applications open 15 June and close **15 August** each year for admission in February of the following year.*

Selection

Only eligible and complete applications will be considered. Shortlisted candidates will be expected to arrange for three reference letters to be submitted and be available for a video-conference interview in September. *Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*

Questions or requests for more information can be made to the Coordinator, Melissa Densmore, at melissa.densmore@uct.ac.za.

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

