

## Call for applications: postgraduate scholarships

### ***UCT Campus Sustainability project – Khusela-Ikamva Initiative Work package: Water Sensitive Campus***

#### **Future Water research institute, University of Cape Town**

The Future Water (FW) research institute at UCT is seeking dynamic and motivated postgraduate student researchers to join a diverse multi-disciplinary team. The research is aligned to the University of Cape Town (UCT) campus sustainability project, the *Khusela-Ikamva* (isi-Xhosa for “secure the future”) initiative as part of the work package on sustainable water management (see below for details). We are looking to fill the following student position (partially funded bursary or research assistant position) over the remaining 1.5 years of the project until June 2026:

1. Masters (Science Engagement, Social Sciences)

#### *Work package: Water Sensitive Campus*

*The project will develop and test opportunities to help transform UCT into a water sensitive ‘no-drop wasted’, net zero water campus by seeking to embed a more holistic approach to water management at the University in line with Water Sensitive Design principles. This will be achieved by: assessing opportunities to harvest rain & stormwater on UCT’s main campuses; carrying out preliminary cost benefit analyses on the most promising of these; and selecting one or two that could be implemented as exemplars/test cases in a Living Lab approach at a selected location that is most feasible and has maximum reach in terms of engaging and learning with the UCT community. This work will actively support and build on UCT’s Sustainable Water Management Strategy, UCTSWMS (2019) – the project will provide academic input into the proposed DHET-funded ‘green precinct’ on Lower Campus (another Living Lab) should it go ahead, and the Water Working Group, established to monitor progress against the UCTSWMS. Research into stormwater on campus is one key area of focus. Efforts will feed into and/or complement projects being undertaken by other team members, for example, in exploring attitudes and practices related to these interventions through a social science lens.*

Suitable candidates will need to be registered as a postgraduate student at UCT in an appropriate discipline (see above for list of targeted disciplines) and must have a keen interest in team-based research which focuses on the challenges faced in attempts to alleviate water scarcity, and on means to address those challenges. Candidates 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. Student researchers may use components of this research (and additional aspects they design) towards their dissertation research or mini-thesis requirements.

Future Water provides excellent skills development and mentorship opportunities for student researchers intending to pursue an academic or research career. The fellowship duration varies according to post, but researchers will be expected to begin research no later than February 2025, depending on the position/s sought. The value of the scholarship will be commensurate with the applicant’s qualifications and experience as will be discussed with the successful candidates.

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 via the [google form](#) by no later than **31 January 2025**. For any complications with submissions please email to [amber.abrams@uct.ac.za](mailto:amber.abrams@uct.ac.za) and [danielle.cloete@uct.ac.za](mailto:danielle.cloete@uct.ac.za) (NB: Email subject should read “Sustainable Campus Researcher\_YOUR SURNAME”). Selection of eligible candidates 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.*