



FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Food Security

Type: Postdoctoral research fellowship linked to the research niche area: Food Security (Resilient Food Systems). The fellowship is a two-year fixed contract subject to satisfactory annual performance. The tax-free stipend is R300 000 per annum.

Introduction: Climate change is placing increasing pressure on food and nutrition security by disrupting agricultural production systems, reducing food availability and accessibility, and threatening rural livelihoods. Strengthening food system resilience is therefore critical for ensuring sustainable agricultural development, improving nutrition outcomes, and enhancing the capacity of communities to adapt to climate-related challenges.

The research scope of the fellowship call aligns with SDG2 (Zero Hunger), which promotes food and nutrition security through sustainable agriculture, and SDG13 (Climate Action), which calls for strengthened resilience and climate adaptation. Applications are invited from postdoctoral fellowship researchers with a PhD in Agricultural Economics or a closely related discipline to contribute to cutting-edge research on resilient food systems. This fellowship aims to strengthen the university's research capacity and intellectual environment while providing structured training for the next generation of researchers.

The successful candidate will undertake interdisciplinary research that generates evidence to inform policy and practice, supports climate-smart and resilient agricultural development, and advances innovative, climate-resilient solutions for achieving long-term food and nutrition security.

Minimum Requirements:

- A PhD in Agricultural Economics or a closely related discipline (e.g., Resource Economics, Environmental Economics, Development Economics, Food Security, or Rural Development) obtained within the last five (5) years.
- Demonstrated research expertise in food and nutrition security, resilient food systems, climate-smart agriculture, climate adaptation, or sustainable agricultural development, supported by a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals.
- Proficiency in research design, quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis, and statistical/econometric software (e.g., SPSS, STATA, EViews, R, or similar), with experience in scientific writing.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to work independently and collaboratively in multidisciplinary and international research teams.
- Willingness to undertake fieldwork and engage with diverse stakeholders, including government, industry, farming communities, and development partners.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct high-quality interdisciplinary research on resilient food systems, climate change adaptation, as well as food and nutrition security in line with the project's objectives.
- Design and implement research activities, including data collection, management, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of findings.
- Publish high-quality research outputs in peer-reviewed journals and contribute to policy briefs, technical reports, and conference presentations.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary research teams and engage with academic, government, industry, and community stakeholders to promote evidence-based policy and practice.
- Contribute to the development of research proposals and support initiatives to secure external research funding.
- Assist in the supervision and mentorship of postgraduate students and contribute to capacity-building activities.
- Participate in project management activities, including ethics compliance, progress reporting, and knowledge dissemination.
- Promote the translation of research into innovative, climate-resilient solutions that strengthen sustainable food systems and enhance long-term food and nutrition security.

Desired attributes:

- A strong interest in advancing climate-resilient agriculture, food systems, and sustainable development.
- Commitment to research excellence, innovation, and societal impact.
- The ability to work independently while contributing effectively to collaborative research teams.
- Ability to work effectively with diverse stakeholders and multidisciplinary teams.

Expected outputs:

During the fellowship, the successful candidate will be expected to produce:

- At least 4 accredited journal publications over the two-year fellowship.
- Several conference presentations at national and international scientific meetings.
- At least one competitive external research grant application.
- Research reports for stakeholders.
- Contributions to postgraduate student supervision and capacity development.
- Collaborative publications with the host supervisor and research team.
- Participation in multidisciplinary research projects within the Faculty and University.

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CLOSING DATE: 23RD OCTOBER 2026

Please submit motivation letter clearly outlining your suitability and proposed research agenda, a detailed CV with all your names, addresses, contact details and e-mail address and include contact numbers of three (3) referees, certified copies of all qualifications including Matric / Grade 12 Certificate, academic transcripts, copies of selected recent peer-reviewed publications and a South African ID/ Passport should be forwarded to Human Resources Officer, e-mail applications recruitment15@ul.ac.za

Telephonic enquiries regarding conditions of service: **Ms NA Mbatsane (Tel 015 268 2800)**

It is the applicant's responsibility to have foreign obtained qualifications evaluated by the South African qualifications Authority. Please note that failure to submit the requested documents/information will result in your application not being considered.

The University of Limpopo is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All appointments will be made in accordance with University's Employment Equity Policy. Preference: **Postdoctoral Fellowship**, will be given to Males (African & Indian) and Female (African).

Correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only. Applicants who have not been contacted within 30 days of the closing date must consider their applicants as unsuccessful.

The University reserves the right not to make an appointment.