



FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Medicinal Plants

Type: Postdoctoral research fellowship linked to the research niche area of medicinal plants. The fellowship is a two-year fixed contract subject to satisfactory annual performance. The tax-free stipend is R300 000 per annum.

Introduction:

Applications are invited from highly motivated and outstanding candidates for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Medicinal Plant Chemistry and Natural Products Research. The successful candidate will join an active multidisciplinary research team focusing on the discovery of bioactive compounds from South African medicinal plants for the development of novel therapeutics against antimicrobial-resistant pathogens and biofilm-associated infections. The fellowship provides an opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research integrating Phytochemistry, Microbiology, Metabolomics, Molecular biology, and Chemistry approaches. The Fellowship will be awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account the applicant's research potential.

Requirements:

- A PhD degree (NQF Level 10) in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, or a related field, completed within the last five (5) years.
- Demonstrated experience in medicinal plant research and natural product isolation.
- Hands-on experience with chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques (HPLC, LC-MS/MS, GC-MS, NMR).
- Evidence of research productivity, including peer-reviewed publications in reputable journals, i.e., DHET-accredited.
- Excellent scientific writing and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary environment.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Isolation and purification of bioactive compounds from medicinal plants
- Phytochemical profiling using LC-MS/MS, GC-MS, HPLC, and NMR
- Structure elucidation of natural products
- Bioassay-guided fractionation
- Antimicrobial and antibiofilm activity evaluation
- Metabolomics analyses
- Scientific manuscript preparation and grant writing

- Supervision and mentoring of postgraduate students

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.

.....
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.