



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Non-Communicable Diseases

Fellowship Type: Postdoctoral research fellowship within the research niche area of Non-Communicable Diseases. The fellowship is a two-year fixed contract subject to satisfactory annual performance. The tax-free stipend is R300 000 per annum.

Introduction:

The University of Limpopo, through the Faculty of Health Sciences, invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). This fellowship offers an outstanding opportunity for an emerging researcher to advance an independent research career while contributing to innovative, multidisciplinary studies that address Africa's growing burden of NCDs. Research areas include diabetes, obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer, amongst others.

The successful Fellow will collaborate with multidisciplinary research teams to generate high-impact evidence, publish in leading peer-reviewed journals, secure competitive research funding, mentor postgraduate students, and build strategic national and international partnerships. Applicants with a strong research vision focused on improving health outcomes in Africa and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) are encouraged to apply.

Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Hold a Doctoral degree (NQF Level 10) in Public Health or a closely related health discipline, obtained within the past five (5) years.
- Demonstrate a strong and emerging research profile, supported by publications in accredited peer-reviewed journals.
- Have research expertise in one or more of the following areas: diabetes and metabolic diseases, obesity and nutrition, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases, or cancer prevention and control.
- Possess experience in quantitative, qualitative and/or mixed-methods research, with proficiency in relevant statistical and/or qualitative data analysis software (e.g. SPSS, Stata, R, SAS, NVivo or ATLAS.ti).
- Demonstrate excellence in scientific writing, including evidence of scholarly publications and experience in developing competitive research grant proposals.

- Be committed to conducting field-based research where required and be willing to reside within reasonable proximity to the University of Limpopo for the duration of the fellowship.
- Have excellent communication, organisational, computer, project management and data management skills, with the ability to work effectively both independently and within multidisciplinary research teams.
- Registration with a relevant professional body, where applicable, will be an added advantage.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful Postdoctoral Fellow will play a central role in advancing the University's research mission through the following responsibilities:

Research and Innovation

- Design and lead high-impact research that advances knowledge on non-communicable diseases and aligns with the Faculty's strategic research priorities.
- Develop an independent research portfolio while working collaboratively with academic mentors and multidisciplinary research teams.
- Conduct field-based and implementation research across community, clinical and health system settings.

Research Development and Project Delivery

- Prepare competitive grant applications to attract national and international research funding.
- Contribute to the planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting of research projects.
- Uphold the highest standards of research ethics, governance, financial accountability and data management throughout the research lifecycle.

Scholarly Excellence

- Publish original research in high-impact, DHET-accredited and internationally recognised peer-reviewed journals.
- Produce scholarly outputs including policy briefs, technical reports, book chapters and other knowledge products.
- Present research findings at scientific conferences and actively participate in seminars, workshops and academic colloquia.

Capacity Building and Mentorship

- Support the supervision and mentorship of Master's and PhD students.
- Contribute to postgraduate research training and initiatives that strengthen research capacity within the Faculty.
- Foster an inclusive, collaborative and intellectually stimulating research environment.

Partnerships and Knowledge Translation

- Establish and strengthen strategic collaborations with academic institutions, government, healthcare organisations, industry and community partners across South Africa, Africa and internationally.
- Translate research evidence into policies, programmes and interventions that improve population health and strengthen health systems.
- Promote meaningful stakeholder engagement to maximise the societal impact of research.

Innovation and Research Impact

- Identify opportunities for innovation, intellectual property development and research commercialisation where appropriate.
- Support proof-of-concept development and contribute to advancing research towards practical application and societal benefit.

Academic Citizenship

- Represent the Department and Faculty at scientific, professional and stakeholder forums.
- Actively contribute to initiatives that enhance the University's national and international research reputation and cultivate a culture of research excellence.

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.
- Policy briefs supporting evidence-informed health policy.
- Research reports for government and other 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.

