



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
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Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Climate Data Science

About the positions:

The African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) and the Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG) are recruiting two postdoctoral research fellows (PDRFs) in climate data science, as part of a Wellcome Trust funded research project AFRIVERSE. AFRIVERSE aims to build African capacity and digital tools for climate-health impact attribution.

The PDRFs will be responsible for the development of a suite of climate data products for use in climate change attribution in Africa and for working with other project members to apply these data to health-impact attribution case studies. Additionally, the PDRFs will undertake and publish independent extreme weather event attribution studies using the data they have generated.

The PDRFs will also be part of a larger cohort of similar researchers at ACDI/CSAG working on climate change detection and attribution across multiple impact sectors. The PDRFs will participate in career development activities organised by ACDI/CSAG to develop transdisciplinary skills, share knowledge and experiences on actionable research, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

Value and tenure:

The value of the fellowship is ZAR 450,000 - 480,000 per year, tax-free, for three years, renewable annually subject to performance. Application for tax exemption of the fellowship stipend will be made by the University of Cape Town. Due to the collaborative nature of these positions, the post holders must be based in Cape Town.

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous three years or currently under examination in climate/atmospheric/ocean science, data science, or a closely allied subject.
- Experience in accessing, manipulating and analysing large climate datasets, such as CMIP5/6 and reanalysis products.
- Excellent technical ability to code in R and/or Python.
- Demonstrated ability to produce peer-reviewed research articles in international journals.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Desired

- Familiarity with climate-health impact and other types of impact modelling.
- Familiarity with climate change attribution methods.
- Good data visualisation skills.
- Working knowledge of Linux.
- Working knowledge of any modern web development framework and web data visualization libraries.
- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary research team setting.

- Keen interest and/or experience in creative science communication and public communication of science.
- Interest and/or experience in policy and practice engagement

Conditions of award:

- Applicants may not previously have held a full-time permanent academic post.
- The start date for the fellowship must be from 1 April to 31 June 2025.
- The PDRF will be required to register as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town.
- The PDRF will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures, and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Application requirements:

Applications should be submitted via the following online form:

<https://forms.gle/ZEhtqPhYPbnHEszU8>

The form will ask for your name, email, and contact number, and allow for an upload of your application document. The application should be a **single PDF** and contain:

- (i) An application letter no longer than 2 pages that includes a description of research expertise, how their expertise and skills match the job criteria, and an explanation on how they can work closely with non-climate scientists in an interdisciplinary research setting.
- (ii) A CV including a publication list (published, accepted, and submitted publications).
- (iii) Email addresses of two references who have been directly involved in their PhD and/or previous postdoctoral research.

Short-listed applicants may be required to provide further information, such as academic transcripts, and undertake a skills evaluation.

Closing date:

Midnight (GMT) on **Monday 24 February 2025** or until the position is filled.

If you have not heard from ACDI within one month of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted directly.

Contact details for questions about the application process: Natalie Murape MRPNAT001@myuct.ac.za

Contact for enquiries about the PDRF position or Afriverse project: Mark New mark.new@uct.ac.za

Additional information on ACDI and CSAG can be found at acdi.uct.ac.za and csag.uct.ac.za.

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