



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

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Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Climate-Health Impacts Attribution

About the positions:

The [African Climate and Development Initiative](#) (ACDI) and [ASCEND](#) are recruiting three postdoctoral research fellows (PDRFs) in climate change and health data analysis, as part of a Wellcome Trust funded research project AFRIVERSE. AFRIVERSE aims to build capacity and digital tools for climate-health impacts attribution in Africa, and to use these tools to undertake targeted climate-health attribution studies.

Each PDRF will work with a team of African and other international scientists to develop climate-health epidemiological models, which will be used to detect and attribute climate-associated influences on human health outcomes. The PDRFs will work closely with both climate and health scientists in AFRIVERSE to undertake the climate-health attribution analyses.

The three health impacts being studied are: (i) indoor heat-stress and heat-illness in low-income homes in South Africa, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Kenya (mentored/supervised by Prof Mark New, UCT); (ii) hospital emergency admissions across South Africa, Cameroon and Kenya (mentored/supervised by Dr Thandi Kapwata, SAMRC); (iii) non-communicable diseases in low-income neighborhoods in South Africa, Ghana, Jamaica, Seychelles and Illinois, USA (mentored/supervised by Prof Lara Dugas (UCT). The teams for each impacts-attribution theme will meet regularly at ASCEND, UCT's climate synthesis centre, to design and undertake the research, and the PDRFs will lead on the implementation of the research and co-lead the writing of research articles emerging from the research. Further information on the AFRIVERSE teams can be found at <https://ascendclimate.org/synthesis-teams>.

The PDRFs will be based full-time at ACDI. They will also be part of a larger cohort of similar researchers at ACDI/ASCEND working on climate change and development-related topics with other teams. The PDRFs will participate in career development activities organised for the wider cohort of ASCEND PDRFs to develop transdisciplinary skills, share knowledge on what works for 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.

Academic / experience criteria:

Required

- A PhD, awarded within the previous three years or currently under examination, in epidemiology, biostatistics, public health, environmental health, or a closely related discipline
- Excellent epidemiological (or similar) modelling skills.
- Experience in synthesizing and managing large datasets.
- Excellent technical ability to code in R, Python and/or other statistical programming languages.
- Experience in working in a virtual and interdisciplinary research team setting.
- 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 modelling.
- Experience working with climate data from meteorological stations, reanalysis products and/or climate model projections.
- Excellent data visualisation skills.
- 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 in the period 1 April - 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 online at: <https://forms.gle/WqQv8jhGsFw9gPk97>. The application materials should be combined as a **single PDF** and contain:

- (i) an application letter no longer than 2 pages that includes their preferred health team topic (indoor heat illness, hospital emergency admissions or non-communicable diseases), a description of research expertise and skills, and these match the job criteria, and explanation on how they can work as part of the transdisciplinary synthesis team in line with the project objectives described above.
- (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 3 March 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 enquiries about the PDRF and Afriverse: mark.new@uct.ac.za

Contact for enquiries about ASCEND: christopher.trisos@uct.ac.za

Additional information on ACDI and ASCEND can be found at <https://acdi.uct.ac.za> and <https://ascendclimate.org>.

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.