



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2-3 POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE UCT D-SCHOOL AFRIKA

The University of Cape Town invites applications for 2-3 Postdoctoral Scholarships based at the Hasso Platter School for Design Thinking – the [d-school Afrika](#). The d-school's main purpose is to positively impact society, at both the individual and organisational level, to contribute to *#unleashing human potential for a fair and just society*<sup>1</sup> at UCT and beyond. The d-school offers a range of programmes to both UCT staff and students, as well as to organisations in civil society, the public sector and the corporate sector.

The school is at an important phase of its development, entering a period of massive growth and visibility. Part of this expansion is to build a relevant and robust research and development programme which will be led by staff based in the d-school's [Learning and Discovery Lab](#) – 'Learning lab'. The Lab supports the d-school's programme stream and focuses on 3 clusters of activities:

- *Knowledge building and research development.*
- *Creating opportunities for dialogue and reflective praxis.*
- *Building learning and development collaborations with a wide range of partners.*

The postdoctoral scholars will report to the head of the Learning Lab. The scholars will be linked to several research and development projects driven through the Learning Lab. While the specific research projects have not yet been finalized but will be linked to the clusters above. This could involve:

- Working on research linked to a schools' partnerships project.
- Working on research programmes linked to the d-school's student-facing Foundation Programme.
- Working on research linked to a partnership with a leading financial service's provider.
- Scoping the knowledge management needs of the d-school.
- Working on research linked to positioning the d-school's thinking in the field of design thinking and bringing this work into a learning event planned for late Oct/Nov 2024.
- Link with transdisciplinary spaces/units on campus to position the d-school's work on campus and more broadly.

Irrespective of the specific projects, the expected activities and outcomes include:

- Research design, data gathering, and analysis.
- Demonstrating a growing understanding of the design thinking field and the role of research in the work.
- Participating in d-school meetings, activities, and gatherings.
- Handling administration work linked to the projects where appropriate.
- A willingness to take initiative, be forward-thinking, and open to new learning.
- Effective participation in diverse teams, an ability to communicate ideas, and a willingness to receive constructive feedback.
- Representing the d-school where appropriate on campus and more widely
- Meeting with Head of Learning Lab regularly and any other d-school staff and coaches as might be necessary.
- Contributing to the d-school teaching programme if appropriate, and if suitably qualified.

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<sup>1</sup> [UCT Vision 2030](#)

**Requirements:**

A PhD degree is essential. Postdoctoral experience is desirable; however, the candidate needs to be within five years from the date of award of their PhD for the duration of their post-doctoral scholarship at UCT and may not have held substantial a full-time permanent academic or professional post, post award of PhD.

The research work is both qualitative and quantitative and thus it is preferable that applicants have experience of both. Applicants also need to show an awareness of the multi/trans-disciplinary research and development context. Knowledge of design thinking will be an added advantage.

We are limiting our call to South Africans applicants.

The current PDRF funding level is R350,000 per annum and tax free. The appointment is for a one-year period, renewable for a second year subject to satisfactory progress. The appointment must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures, and practices for the postdoctoral sector, and is subject to the rules and approval of the University of Cape Town.

We do realise that design thinking is a specialist field and that there might not be a lot of experience at this level; applicants thus need to make a strong case for what they will bring to the role. Interested candidates should send:

- *An updated and current CV,*
- *A letter of introduction why we should consider you for one of the posts and what relevant experience you may bring,*
- *Three letters of recommendation*

All documentation is to be sent to [Janice.mcmillan@uct.ac.za](mailto:Janice.mcmillan@uct.ac.za) by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February with the aim of starting mid to late March 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter. Please send the application in **1 PDF file** is possible. Any queries can be sent to [Janice.mcmillan@uct.ac.za](mailto:Janice.mcmillan@uct.ac.za)

*The University of Cape Town reserves the right to:*

- *\_disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications.*
- *\_change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.*