UNISA | institute for sustainability and corporate citizenship

ADVERTISEMENT
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships hosted at the University of South Africa's Institute for Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship (ISCC). We seek outstanding individuals who have completed their Doctorate within the past five years. The fellowship is tenable for three years with an annual tax-free stipend of R360,000.

Minimum eligibility requirements

- Must be a South African citizen or a permanent resident.
- Applicants should be below 50 years old.
- An applicable NQF level 10 qualification (e.g., PhD, DPhil, DCom, LLD, DEd)
- Evidence of research (articles, research reports, supervision of postgraduate students)
- Demonstrate the ability to participate in community engagement
- Demonstrate an understanding of community engagement within the context of engaged research
- Evidence of participation in workplace committees
- Evidence of involvement in the broader national academic community and learned societies

Roles and responsibilities

- Conduct research and publish findings
- Present research outcomes at local and international conferences and workshops
- Translate technical findings into accessible materials for diverse audiences.
- Co-supervision of postgraduate students
- Contribute to other related research and capacity-building projects within the ICC
- Prepare proposals for research funding

Skills and requirements

- Good conceptualisation skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong interpersonal and teamwork abilities.
- Ability to work on multiple projects and meet deadlines
- Experience in co-supervision will be an advantage

Expected output

- Specific outputs include publishing at least 2 articles in reputable journals per annum.

How to apply

Interested candidates are encouraged to complete the application form and send it back together with the following documents as a single PDF document to novelml@unisa.ac.za:

- A Comprehensive Curriculum Vitae

Open Rubric

- Certified Copies (certification must be within the last six months) of:
  - identity document/passport
  - all educational qualifications
  - academic transcript/record
  - proof of SAQA verification for foreign qualifications
- A portfolio of previous projects or publications demonstrating relevant expertise

Additional requirement:

- Provide contact details of three contactable references, with one from your present employer (excluding your current line manager if you are a Unisa employee).

Important Notes:

- Unisa reserves the right to authenticate all qualifications without any further consent from the applicant.
- Late, incomplete, and incorrect applications will not be considered.
- Unisa is under no obligation to fill the advertised position

We welcome applications from persons with Disabilities

Closing date: 15 January 2027

Correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only. If you have not been contacted within two months after the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful.

Focus Area
ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Requirements specific to this position

- PhD with an undergraduate and/or master's degree in Information & Communication Technology, Computer Science, Disaster Management, Environmental Science or related discipline
- A 3-5 years' experience in ICT applications for disaster risk reduction and management
- Experience in developing and assessing digital technologies for disaster risk reduction and management
- Strong research background in ICT applications for disaster risk reduction, emergency management, or climate resilience.

Technical Skills

- Proficiency in data science, machine learning, or remote sensing tools (e.g. Python, R, TensorFlow, ArcGIS, QGIS, Google Earth Engine).
- Knowledge of global, regional and national DRR policies
- Experience in designing and developing ICT-based solutions for risk reduction, such as early warning systems, mobile applications, or decision support systems.
- Familiarity with cloud-based computing platforms (AWS, Google Cloud, or Azure) for data storage and processing.

Preferred Attributes

- Knowledge of international disaster risk reduction frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Practical experience with community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives that leverage ICT solutions.
- Understanding of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and their link to disaster risk management.
- Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams, including collaboration with policymakers, emergency response agencies, and technology developers.

Key Roles and Responsibilities specific for the position

Research and Innovation

- Conduct advanced research on ICT applications in disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, and emergency management.
- Develop and apply machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), and geospatial technologies for disaster risk assessment and response.
- Explore the use of big data analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), remote sensing, and GIS for disaster monitoring and resilience planning.
- Publish findings in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals and international conferences.
- Identify gaps in disaster management where ICT can enhance decision-making, response, and recovery efforts.
- Development of ICT-based Disaster Risk Reduction Solutions

Project Development and Management

- Foster engaged scholarship to ensure ICT-based DRR strategies that reflect the needs and realities of marginalised and vulnerable groups
- Work closely with government agencies, NGOs, private sector stakeholders, and academic institutions to implement ICT-driven DRR solutions.
- Collaborate with emergency response teams, meteorological agencies, and environmental scientists to improve disaster preparedness strategies.
- Engage with communities and policymakers to integrate indigenous knowledge with modern ICT-driven DRR solutions.
- Supervise and mentor postgraduate students working on ICT and DRR projects.
- Organize and facilitate training workshops, seminars, and hackathons on ICT for disaster resilience.
- Conduct training for emergency response personnel, local governments, and communities on the application of ICT in disaster preparedness and mitigation.