Sustainability ⊕riented Cyber research Unit for the Built Environment
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UPPI PhD STUDENTSHIPS

Purpose	The UPPI PhD Studentship has been established to provide support to PhD candidates who will be required to join the Sustainability ⊕riented Cyber research Unit for the Built Environment - S⊕CUBE - and the Urban Real Estate Research Unit - URERU - and to participate in the Uzinzo Platform Project for Imbono (UPPI).
Project Details	The UPPI is entitled "*The Uzinzo Platform - A Unified Resilience Index and Decision-Support System for Infrastructure: Enabling Sustainable Pathways for Imbono*" and aims to define, develop, operationalise, and validate a scalable, context-sensitive, lifecycle-based resilience assessment and decision-support system for infrastructure projects across energy, water, food, and social sectors, tailored to Imbono-type delivery models in Sub-Saharan Africa. The three (3) year project will deliver the Uzinzo Platform which is a digital unified resilience assessment, enabling stakeholders to consistently evaluate infrastructure performance, explore improvement scenarios, and support data-driven pathways from current practice toward more positive outcomes. This responds to the need for a practical and integrated approach that moves beyond fragmented and siloed assessments. By combining stakeholder co-creation with advanced decision-support capabilities, the project will deliver a system that is both robust and directly applicable within Imbono's infrastructure portfolio. An additional key aim is to position Imbono as a thought leader in sustainable infrastructure delivery in the regions that it operates.
Call for application	Applicants should be eligible to register for CON6009W PhD in Construction Economics and Management. Preference will be given to applications from graduates previously supervised by academic staff employed by the Department of Construction Economics and Management at the University of Cape Town.
Conditions	The successful incumbent will be required to: - Register for full-time study in the relevant department/faculty - Comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postgraduate sector Although successful candidates will be permitted to take up part-time employment (maximum 20 hours per week) they may not hold scholarships/studentships and salaried/full-time employment concurrently. In order for recipients of scholarships/studentships to enjoy the "blanket" exemption of taxation allowed by the South African Revenue Services (SARS), the total annual income limit for a PhD scholarship is ZAR365,000. The services required in return for the award of the studentship will be in line with the research activities identified by the Principal Investigator (PI) of the UPPI, Professor Kathy Michell. The services will be aligned to the PhD scholar's own research. The supervisor(s) of the successful incumbent will be allocated from the UPPI team. The UPPI PhD Studentship adheres to UCT's policy on postgraduate funding

Value and tenure	The value of the studentship is: - A tax-free stipend of ZAR365,000 per annum to support living costs, sponsored by the UPPI, administered by S⊕CUBE and/or URERU UCT's PGFO - Tuition fees are covered by the UPPI, administered by S⊕CUBE and/or URERU - Support for conference attendance, fieldwork and additional costs as approved by S⊕CUBE and/or URERU and/or UCT's PGFO The tenure of the studentship is per 12-month period (continuous registration), renewable for a maximum of three (3) cycles (i.e. total 36-month duration). Renewal for each 12-month cycle will be considered on evidence of satisfactory progress and availability of funds. Although the UPPI has officially commenced (1 September 2026), the start date of the studentship is dependent on the necessary protocols being observed, eligibility requirements being met and the availability of the successful incumbent.
Academic Criteria	Eligible applicants should ideally have a master's level degree from the University of Cape Town, however, master's degrees from other equivalent institutions will be accepted.
Application requirements	All applications should include: - A letter of application - A one-page A4 research portfolio - Latest version of applicant's curriculum vitae - Copies of academic transcripts - Either names (and contact details) OR letters of reference from at least two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant should be a requirement. (This is not necessary if a previous supervisor is a member of S⊕CUBE or URERU.)
Selection Process	Eligible and complete applications will be considered by the Directors of S⊕CUBE and URERU and a sub-committee.
Closing date for applications	30 September 2026, 18h00.
Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries	Queries and/or application submissions are to be emailed to scube@uct.ac.za.
UCT's Indemnities	The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, The University of Cape Town reserves the right to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.