

Masters funding opportunity for built environment / environmental science students

Future Water research institute, University of Cape Town

Project Title: Pathways to Water Resilient South African Cities Phase II (PaWS2)

Supported by the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (DANIDA), and in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, the Future Water (FW) research institute at UCT is seeking a dynamic and motivated postgraduate student researcher to join our team on the following project:

The Danida funded PaWS2 project aims to identify opportunities for integrating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) approaches including implementing nature-based solutions (NbS) like Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in urban water systems. The focus of the research will expand beyond technical stormwater harvesting (SWH) objectives to consider other hydrological functions, including developing guidelines and documenting lessons learned for processes of co-design and policy practicalities of transforming existing stormwater ponds into productive, multifunctional spaces in line with a SuDS approach, based on NbS principles. This work will be drawing on already in progress stormwater and landscaping interventions, and implementing new interventions at one site, as well as working with researchers already acting to develop a concise and user-friendly set of implementation guidelines for similar future efforts.

We are looking to recruit a postgraduate student from disciplines such as **Landscape Architecture, Ecology, Botany or a related field**, with qualitative research experience/interest to join our team. Among other methodologies, the student could be called upon to prepare concept plans / design charrettes and related landscape management and maintenance strategies, conduct biodiversity assessments and/or carry out stakeholder engagement and participant observation at our field site (Mitchell's Plain) and alongside the team's researchers. **We are particularly looking for students with an understanding of the environmental and social sciences and interest in socio-ecological transformations.** The candidate will be selected based on research experience/interest, a capacity for transdisciplinary, engaged research, and an ability to contribute to knowledge translation and stakeholder engagement work. The chosen candidate may use components of this research (and additional aspects they design) towards their dissertation requirements and will be expected to begin research in early 2024. Payment of a scholarship (partial funding support) will be commensurate with the successful applicant's qualifications and experience.

The suitable candidate will need to be registered as a postgraduate student at UCT in an appropriate discipline and will be expected to undertake some part of the following tasks:

1. Relevant policy and literature reviews;
2. Stakeholder workshops, surveys, and/or interviews;
3. Ongoing monitoring of field experimentation;
4. Stakeholder engagement, note taking and summarizing, including field reports
5. Development and evaluation of landscape management (and maintenance) plans for blue-green infrastructure and nature-based approaches

To apply, candidates are invited to send a cover letter outlining their interest in the position, CV including research experience and the contact details of two appropriate referees by e-mail to amber.abrams@uct.ac.za by no later than **30 October 2023 (NB: Email subject should read "PaWS Landscape management plan_YOUR SURNAME")**. Selection of the eligible candidate will be made by the Director of Future Water and a sub-committee drawn from academics in the institute. More information about the Future Water research institute is available at <http://futurewater.uct.ac.za>.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and to make no awards at all. In line with university transformation policies, preference will be given to applicants from designated groups.