



The political economy of alcohol in Southern Africa: Supply chains, key actors and policy responses in South Africa and Botswana

CALL FOR APPLICATION:

A PhD fellowship opportunity is available. The fellowship is funded by the University of Cape Town within the scope of the Collaboration for Harm Reduction and Alcohol Safety in the Environment (CHASE-SA) research project.

The successful candidate will be affiliated with the University of Cape Town, School of Public Health, to conduct research on alcohol supply chains and interventions to address alcohol-related harms in South Africa and Botswana. S/he will be directly supervised by Prof. Helen Walls (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), Prof. Leslie London and Dr Marsha Orgill (School of Public Health, University of Cape Town) and will become part of an interdisciplinary and transnational research group, including members from the University of Cape Town, the South African Medical Research Council, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, the University of Botswana and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The candidate will have access to study data and expertise, and granted opportunities to present study results locally and internationally.

PURPOSE:

The aim of the research project to be conducted by the successful candidate is to **map stakeholders and analyse alcohol supply chains in South Africa and Botswana to identify intervention points and evaluate current policy responses.**

The project includes various elements:

1. Identifying and mapping key stakeholders, their sources of power and influence, and key interests, involved in alcohol (e.g., its production, distribution, and regulation) in both countries.
2. Characterising alcohol supply chains in both countries, considering formal and informal distribution networks, key suppliers, and other market dynamics.
3. Examining alcohol supply chain impacts in both countries, considering health and health system outcomes, as well as environmental, economic and other key outcomes.
4. Identifying gaps in current legislation and regulations from the perspective of public health and providing recommendations for strengthening alcohol control regulations and policies in both countries.
5. Exploring opportunities for cross-country collaboration between South Africa and Botswana on alcohol supply chain policy and regulation to enhance regional alcohol control efforts.

The research work will involve a mixed-methods approach, including stakeholder analysis, supply chain analysis, documentary/policy review, and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders. The approach is outlined below under several headings corresponding to the study objectives. If you do not have prior experience in studying supply chains, you may be required to do a short course to develop these skills; this will be discussed further with the CHASE-SA team.

Given that the countries of interest in this PhD are South Africa and Botswana and will include fieldwork, it is ideal that the student be living in South Africa and/or Botswana.

CONDITIONS:

This is a four-year position. Funding is contingent on being accepted for the relevant degree. Successful applicants will have an additional six months to develop their proposal. They will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within six months of initial registration as per UCT's postgraduate studies policy.

Annual renewal of funding is contingent on satisfactory progress and agreed outcomes as per the signed MoU. The fellow will have six monthly formal review with supervisors to assess progress.

VALUE AND TENURE:

Remuneration of the fellowship is R315 000 tax-free annually in accordance with the SARS rules for tax exemption, with an inflationary increase of 5% per annum. The fellowship is funded for four years.

ACADEMIC CRITERIA:

We are seeking a candidate with values rooted in social justice and an interest in public health, with the following minimum qualifications and skills:

- Master's degree in either Public Health, Political Science, Business, Economics or related disciplines.
- Adequate background in qualitative research (including familiarity with structured literature reviews, documentary analysis and undertaking key informant interviews).
- Familiarity with reading and/or reviewing legal and/or policy documents
- Ability to work with qualitative data, analyse data, interpret and present results.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English.
- Good organizational and interpersonal skills.

Advantageous but not necessary skills are:

- Previous experience with supply chain analysis, scoping review protocols, and nVivo software.
- Exposure to methods and frameworks from health policy analysis.
- Peer-reviewed journal publications.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants are required to submit in one PDF document in this order:

- A one-page cover letter briefly describing their suitability and research interests,
- A detailed CV, highlighting their experience in each of the minimum requirements listed above, together with the name, telephone number and e-mail address of two referees.
- An example of first-authored written work (e.g., a journal article, master's thesis, etc.),
- All tertiary qualification certificates and academic transcripts.

Applications must be sent directly to Ms Tsakani Mtileni at tsakani.mtileni@uct.ac.za. Please use the email subject heading: **Application for Doctoral Fellowship: CHASE SA project.**

Enquiries can be directed to Dr Marsha Orgill at marsha.orgill@uct.ac.za.

Closing date: 20 June 2025

Website: <https://health.uct.ac.za/school-public-health>

UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets in accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at [Employment equity | University of Cape Town \(uct.ac.za\)](https://uct.ac.za/employment-equity).

UCT reserves the right not to appoint. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.