

MEMORIAL BOTANICAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: 2027

Value: Up to R275 000 for 12 months and R75 000 for research costs. The award does not include any benefits and is normally exempt from taxation.

Closing date: 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for this prestigious Fellowship focused on South African Botany. The object of the Fellowship is to enable a person who has exhibited proficiency in independent research to undertake research in systematic botany and geographical distribution of South African flora. The possibility of work on other aspects of the South African flora is not excluded.

The fellowship is open to any eligible person, South African or otherwise, who is capable of carrying out its objective and materially advancing the knowledge of the South African flora. Possession of a PhD degree which has been obtained no more than five years prior to start of this fellowship is a minimum requirement. Eligible candidates may not have previously held any academic or professional permanent positions. Candidates may apply for the fellowship prior to obtaining their PhD, but may not hold the fellowship until their PhD has been awarded.

The research to be conducted by the Fellow will be under the general supervision of the academic host at the University of Cape Town or South African National Botanical Institute, Kirstenbosch. As part of the Fellow's professional development, the successful candidate will be offered the opportunity to participate in limited teaching and supervision of senior students in the Biological Sciences Department.

The tenure of the Fellowship is 12 months, with the commencement date preferably within the first quarter of 2027.

The fellowship was initiated to commemorate General Jan Smuts' interest in South African Botany shortly after his death and was previously known as the Smuts Memorial Botanical Fellowship.

Applications must include the following:

1. A **cover letter** that includes a web-link to the applicant's Google Scholar profile
2. **Research Proposal** (maximum 2500 words) for one year of research (note that extensions of the fellowship for a second year are possible but are open to renewed competitive application and thus the proposal should only be for one year).
3. The applicant's full **curriculum vitae** including a list of publications (preferably with DOI numbers) and presentations delivered at conferences (include conference details).
4. Certified copies of all **academic transcripts** and degree certificates.
5. Candidates may state their case for being considered a **transformation** candidate in their cover letter.
6. **Three reports from referees.** The referees must be requested to email the references written for the attention of the Head of Department with email subject line of "Memorial post-doc" directly to the email address shown below by 30 September 2026.
7. **Written endorsement by the host** (principal investigator; normally a permanent staff at UCT or SANBI) of the proposed project that addresses 1) how the proposed research will fit in with and extend existing research efforts and 2) sources of additional funding that may be required for completion of the project. This should be written for the attention of the Head of Department and be emailed directly by the host with subject of "Memorial post-doc" to the email address shown below by 30 September 2026.

Applications will be considered by a sub-committee in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Applications (cover letter, proposal, curriculum vitae, academic transcripts,) must be submitted electronically in a single PDF file by 30 September 2026. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged.

Please ensure that the subject line of all emails includes “Memorial post-doc” and send to:
Natalie.Jodamus@uct.ac.za.

Information on faculty structure and academic departments may be found on the UCT website at
<http://www.uct.ac.za>

All applicants are subject to the policies surrounding the postdoctoral sector at the University of Cape Town. The funding may not be held concurrently with other substantial funding, unless with prior permission.

Further information is obtainable from: Ms Natalie Jodamus, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa.

Email: Natalie.Jodamus@uct.ac.za. Telephone number +27 21 6503627

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to make no awards at all; to cancel the award if the conditions are not met, and to effect changes to the conditions of award.

Our Mission is to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society.”