



## SENIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

(Pay class 09; 3-year contract)

### Biogeochemistry Research Infrastructure Platform - BIOGRIP FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The Biogeochemistry Research Infrastructure Platform (BIOGRIP) invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Senior Scientific Officer in the Stable Light Isotope Laboratory based in the Department of Archaeology, UCT. This will be a 3-year contract appointment, to start as soon as possible.

BIOGRIP consists of a network of analytical laboratories grouped into four nodes, each hosted by a South African university. Each node specializes in an aspect of biogeochemical research, with a central hub that manages and coordinates the platform. The nodes support both discipline-specific research and larger-scale integrated and interdisciplinary efforts. The resultant facility will be internationally competitive in its scope and capacity and will integrate with and support other RI platforms in South Africa.

The Senior Scientific Officer will support the laboratory manager and will be responsible for the day-to-day preparation and analysis of samples in the Stable Light Isotope Laboratory, using gas source mass spectrometers and related equipment. In addition, the SSO will help develop the capability to measure sulphur isotopes (a new addition to the laboratory). The successful applicant will prepare, weigh, and measure samples (keeping track of data quality) and calibrate the results. They will also liaise with users concerning their analytical requirements, advise and assist users wishing to carry out their own sample preparation and analysis, keep records of analytical procedures used in the laboratory, monitor use of consumables, keep track of samples run for billing purposes and help train new users/students.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JOB:

- A BSc (Honours) in one of Biological Science, Geology, Chemistry, Archaeology, Oceanography or equivalent.
- At least two years' post-qualification laboratory experience including one year's experience with gas-source mass spectrometers and peripheral devices such as CHNS analysers and gas bench extraction systems, or similar.
- Experience with computers and their interfacing to equipment.
- Experience in trouble-shooting minor instrument problems and carrying out basic maintenance and repairs when necessary.
- Excellent interpersonal teamwork and communication skills.
- Good working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word is required.

#### ADVANTAGES:

- MSc or equivalent qualification in disciplines listed above
- Knowledge of basic programming relevant to instrumentation (R, LabVIEW, etc)

#### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Research and Project Management:** Take primary responsibility for analysing samples using the mass spectrometers
- **Laboratory management and equipment maintenance:** Equipment maintenance, troubleshooting, assistance in basic repairs
- **Education and training:** Provide technical and scientific assistance to undergraduate (BSc) and post-graduate (masters and doctoral) students in the use of equipment and running of samples, especially for sulphur isotopes
- **Purchasing and stock management:** Manage and control consumables, materials and chemicals for the laboratory in conjunction with the laboratory manager.

The 2022 annual cost of employment, including benefits is between R439,276 and R516,794.

**To apply**, please e-mail the documents below in **a single pdf file** to Ms Natasha Khan at [recruitment06@uct.ac.za](mailto:recruitment06@uct.ac.za)

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- Motivation letter that speaks to the specific requirements of the position, and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please ensure the title and reference number are indicated in the subject line.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and will be required to undergo an assessment and a credit check.

**Telephone:** 021 650 3469

**Website:** [www.uct.ac.za](http://www.uct.ac.za)

**Reference number:** E230106

**Closing date:** 08 February 2023

*"UCT is a designated employer and 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. Preference will be given to candidates from the under-represented designated groups. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at [www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf](http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf)*

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.