



LESLIE HILL CHAIR IN PLANT CONSERVATION

(Professor level)

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

The late Leslie Hill bequeathed to the University of Cape Town an endowment for the purpose of establishing a Chair in Plant Conservation, and requested that the University appoint to this chair professors whose "experience and research interests are in the preservation, ecology or management of indigenous plant species, and of native plant communities, in their natural terrestrial environment, including the control of alien vegetation and the interaction between the flora and the indigenous and introduced animals in that environment." He also requested that "following appointment, persons appointed to this chair will be required to devote particular attention to the conservation of the floral elements in the southwestern Cape Province of South Africa," and specified that "scientists whose primary research interests are in taxonomy, systematics, classification or physiology, or in any other botanical endeavour not directly related to conservation, shall not be appointed to this chair." The Leslie Hill Endowment, in the first instance, provides for the Chair's salary, with a portion of the residual income being made available to support the Chair's postgraduate students, research team and research, and to provide equipment for his/her work. While previous occupants of the Leslie Hill Chair have also served as Director of the Institute for Plant Conservation/Plant Conservation Unit, occupation of this role is not a specification of the endowment and while a close relationship of the Chair to the Plant Conservation Unit is preferred, this is negotiable.

We invite applications for the position of Leslie Hill Chair in Plant Conservation, at the level of Professor. In line with the terms of the endowment, the key objective of this position is to develop and maintain an internationally recognized research program in plant conservation involving postgraduate student training and having a clear focus on the Greater Cape flora.

Requirements for the job:

- A PhD and proven record of internationally recognized scholarship in the field of plant conservation, and a demonstrated commitment to stimulate research and student training in this field.
- A strong track record of supervising and graduating students at both MSc and PhD levels.
- A track record of attracting external funding.
- Evidence of academic leadership.

Responsibilities:

- To develop and maintain an internationally recognized research program in plant conservation involving postgraduate student training and having a clear focus on the Greater Cape flora. This should align with the terms and vision of the Leslie Hill Endowment and preferably with the vision of the Plant Conservation Unit.
- To raise independent funding to support his/her research program.
- To provide educational and research leadership in modern approaches to plant conservation.
- To contribute to academic leadership in the University at a professor level.
- To contribute to student training and teaching across all levels in the Department of Biological Sciences.
- To foster an inclusive and welcoming environment for students from a diversity of backgrounds.
- The Leslie Hill Chair is an *ex officio* member of the Leslie Hill Trust.

The annual remuneration packages for 2023, including benefits, is **R1 504 192**.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents **in a single pdf file** with the subject line "Leslie Hill Chair of Plant Conservation" followed by reference number to Ms Natasha Khan at recruitment06@uct.ac.za

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- A statement of no more than three pages outlining research expertise and interests, and presenting a vision of planned future research
- Letter of motivation
- Full CV.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete.

Reference number: E230239
Closing date: 18 June 2023
Faculty website: www.science.uct.ac.za
Departmental website: www.biologicalsciences.uct.ac.za

"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."

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.