



## **JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW: FULL-SPECTRUM MARINE SUSTAINABILITY**

(Full-time 3-year contract)

**Marine and Antarctic Research centre for Innovation and Sustainability**

**Faculty of Science**

The Marine and Antarctic Research centre for Innovation and Sustainability (MARIS), a UCT-accredited research unit administratively hosted in the Department of Biological Sciences, invites applications for the position of **Junior Research Fellow: Full-spectrum marine sustainability**. MARIS is an interdisciplinary, multi-department and multi-faculty research unit, aggregator of competence and expertise that considers multiple bodies of knowledge (including academic and technological) in relation to societal benefits, with the overarching aim of producing knowledge and human capacity in marine and Antarctic research. The research is articulated into three foci, central to the UCT research strategy of Vision 2030: Antarctic and Southern Ocean, marine research on the southern African coast and shelf, and innovation in marine engineering. MARIS promotes and manages inter- and transdisciplinary marine research projects where more than one department is involved or where dedicated administrative expertise/effort is unavailable within any department. Administrative personnel, post-doctoral and research fellows are seen as shared assets in MARIS, independent of their formal positioning within the participating departments.

We seek a JRF equipped to develop transformative solutions that align ocean science with societal needs in the pursuit of full-spectrum marine sustainability, building on work conducted in the team around the SA Research in Marine Ecology and Fisheries (2008-2022). Using the southern Benguela upwelling system off the west and south coasts of South Africa and the Southern Ocean/Antarctica as case study areas, the JRF will undertake transdisciplinary research to explore how full-spectrum sustainability could be realised from an integrated governance perspective in the South African marine context. Specifically, the JRF will focus on engaging with and developing transdisciplinary methods and approaches that could further contribute to our 'toolbox' for sustainable ocean governance. The JRF will work at various scales at the science-policy-society interface. The focus of the research throughout will be as much on the product as it is on the process – not only will the incumbent gain crucial insights on governance in the marine social-ecological system (SES) of the case studies, but more importantly, learning from the implementation of the process will inform a potential blueprint for moving towards the SDGs in the South African marine context.

### **Requirements for the position:**

- PhD in a relevant field
- Post-doctoral experience (preferably two years) in inter- and transdisciplinary research in marine-social ecological systems,
- Research experience within the context of fisheries in the southern Benguela
- At least three first-authored publications from the incumbent's PhD and postdoctoral research in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate in research across the natural and social sciences
- Experience in research grant applications
- Excellent communication (oral and written) in English,
- Excellent interpersonal, planning and organisational skills.
- Ability to work effectively individually and as part of a team

**The following will be advantageous:**

- Experience in transdisciplinary research approaches within marine social-ecological systems, such as stakeholder analyses, conceptual and semi-quantitative modelling, and scenario-based approaches
- Experience in the development of ecosystem indices for management, such as the NOAA social vulnerability index, or the Ocean-Health Index
- Experience in mixed-methods research, drawing on a variety of disciplines
- Experience in research project management and postgraduate student supervision
- Experience in presenting at national and international academic meetings
- Experience in liaising with international researchers/stakeholders
- Fluency in Afrikaans and/or isiXhosa.

**Responsibilities:**

- Initiate and conduct research projects, taking responsibility for all areas of the research endeavour.
- Prepare and write manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Contribute to other research projects in MARIS as may be required.
- Prepare and write progress reports to funders and other relevant bodies.
- Supervise/co-supervise a limited number of postgraduate students engaged in Master's and/or PhD degrees.
- Contribute to the interdisciplinary objective of MARIS and participate in research grant applications for the financial sustainability of the centre.

The 2023 annual cost of employment, including benefits for a full-time position is between R 544,062 and R 753,904, depending on experience.

**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, signed and completed where relevant (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- Motivation letter that speaks to the specific requirements of the position, and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) with at least 3 contactable referees.

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.

**Queries:** [director.maris@uct.ac.za](mailto:director.maris@uct.ac.za)  
**Website:** <http://www.maris.uct.ac.za>  
**Reference number:** E230299  
**Closing date:** 27 August 2023

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UCT reserves the right not to appoint.