



AXA RESEARCH CHAIR (PROFESSOR OR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR): AFRICAN CLIMATE RISK

African Climate and Development Initiative

Faculty of Science

The AXA Research Fund supports climate research at the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) through a Successional Research Chair Programme in African Climate Risk. Three chairs have been supported, each for a five-year term, in succession. UCT is now recruiting the second chair in this programme, for the period 2024 to 2028. This is a fixed-term 5-year contract position.

The AXA Chair in African Climate Risk will undertake internationally recognized research in any area of climate risk in Africa, across the physical, mathematical, natural and social sciences. Research areas of interest in climate risk that align with ACDI's research strategy include but are not limited to: climate risk management, climate adaptation (including ecosystem-based adaptation), climate resilient development, extreme climate events and climate-related risks to people and ecosystems, and AI and machine learning applications in climate risk. Applications from researchers who take an interdisciplinary, outcomes-based, applied approach to their research are especially welcome.

The University of Cape Town is internationally recognised for its climate research and teaching. The ACDI, where the AXA Research Chair will be based, is a flagship interdisciplinary institute at UCT that plays a coordinating and enabling role for research and teaching in climate and development. It works in a hub-and-spoke model with core staff in the hub, and associates and collaborators located in other academic departments and research groupings across multiple faculties.

The AXA Research Chair in African Climate Risk is a highly prestigious position, one of only two such Research Chairs in Africa. The AXA endowment offers full salary support for the chair, along with start-up research funding, providing a base on which to consolidate and extend excellence in research. The chair holder will be expected to build on this start-up funding through external grants to establish a vibrant research group that collaborates with other research groupings at UCT and externally.

Requirements for the job at Associate Professor Level:

- PhD degree in a relevant discipline.
- A research track record in one or more areas of climate risk, ideally with an African focus and aligned to ACDI strategic priorities.
- International recognition for research in one or more areas of climate change.
- Successful postgraduate supervision at MSc and PhD level.
- Research leadership experience, such leading a research group, contributing to international science assessments, mentoring of postdoctoral researcher fellows.
- Excellent publication track record with evidence of recent productivity.
- A track record of sourcing independent funding.
- High quality teaching experience at the postgraduate level.
- Evidence of engaged and outcome-based research and knowledge translation.
- Active contribution to administration within current or previous institutions.

Additional requirements for the job at Professor Level:

- Recognised internationally as a leading researcher in one or more areas of climate change.
- Evidence of a strong, extended, track record of successful postgraduate supervision at MSc and PhD level, and mentoring of postdoctoral researchers.
- Success in winning substantial grant funding and leadership (or co-leadership) of large research projects.
- Substantial institutional management and leadership experience.
- Evidence of leadership in international science activities, such as advisory boards, editorial boards, and science assessments such as the IPCC.

Responsibilities:

- To develop and lead an innovative, Africa-relevant, internationally recognized research programme in climate risk.
- Produce academic publications in leading international journals to enhance knowledge in the field and to

actively contribute to knowledge translation for climate action in Africa.

- Build capacity in climate risk research in Africa through training of postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, especially from designated groups in South Africa, but also the wider African region.
- Contribute towards postgraduate teaching within the ACDI and/or other postgraduate programmes.
- Attract sustainable independent research funding.
- Contribute to the ACDI senior management activities, including holding a specific portfolio, within the ACDI.
- Contribute to the strategic development and direction of the discipline of African climate risk at UCT, nationally and internationally.

The annual 2023 cost of employment, including benefits at Associate Professor and Professor levels are R 1,232,882 and R1,504,192, respectively.

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

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- Motivational letter and Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Statement of research interests and vision
- The names of three 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.

Telephone:	021 650 3469
Reference number:	E230344
Closing date:	23 October 2023
Departmental website:	www.acdi.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.