RESEARCH OFFICER: ECOSYSTEM-BASED MODELLING APPROACHES FOR MARINE SUSTAINABILITY

(3-year contract)

Department of Biological Sciences

Faculty of Science

The Department of Biological Sciences invites applications for the position of Research Officer: Modelling for Marine Sustainability. This appointment is for a full-time, soft-funded, 3-year contract (T2) starting in January 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful candidate will be part of a dynamic team of researchers focused on multi-disciplinary work in the field of marine sustainability. We are looking for a researcher with keen interest and proven expertise in diverse marine ecosystem modelling techniques with particular applications in Southern African marine contexts.

Requirements for the position:

- PhD in a relevant field such as biological/oceanographic/climate science
- Post-PhD experience (at least three to five years) in developing and working with marine ecosystem modelling frameworks and system modelling (e.g. Atlantis, Ecopath with Ecosim).
- Research experience within the context of fisheries in southern Africa
- Demonstrable proficiency in quantitative data analysis
- A strong publication record with papers in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.
- Effective communication skills (oral and written)
- Planning and organisational skills

The following will be advantageous:

- Experience in conducting vulnerability and risk assessments, using trait-based assessments or Bayesian Belief Network modelling
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate in interdisciplinary research projects
- Experience in writing research grant applications
- Experience in management of research projects and supervision of postgraduate students
- Experience in presenting at national and international academic meetings including conferences
- Experience in liaising with international researchers/stakeholders
- Proven ability to work independently and as part of a team, and to operate in a deadline-driven environment

Responsibilities:

- Research – 1) conduct risk assessments for key South African marine sectors using Bayesian Belief Networks and 2) conduct climate change impact assessments for the southern Benguela ecosystem using ecosystem model ensembles.
- Contribute to other similar research projects in the Marine Sustainability Lab as may be required.
- Dissemination of project results (orally and written).
- Prepare and write manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Prepare and write progress reports to funders and other relevant bodies.
- Supervise/co-supervise postgraduate students.

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)
- Motivation letter, 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.

Telephone: 021 650 3469
Website: https://science.uct.ac.za/department-biological-sciences
Reference number: E230365
Closing date: 20 November 2023

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UCT reserves the right not to appoint.