

NOTES

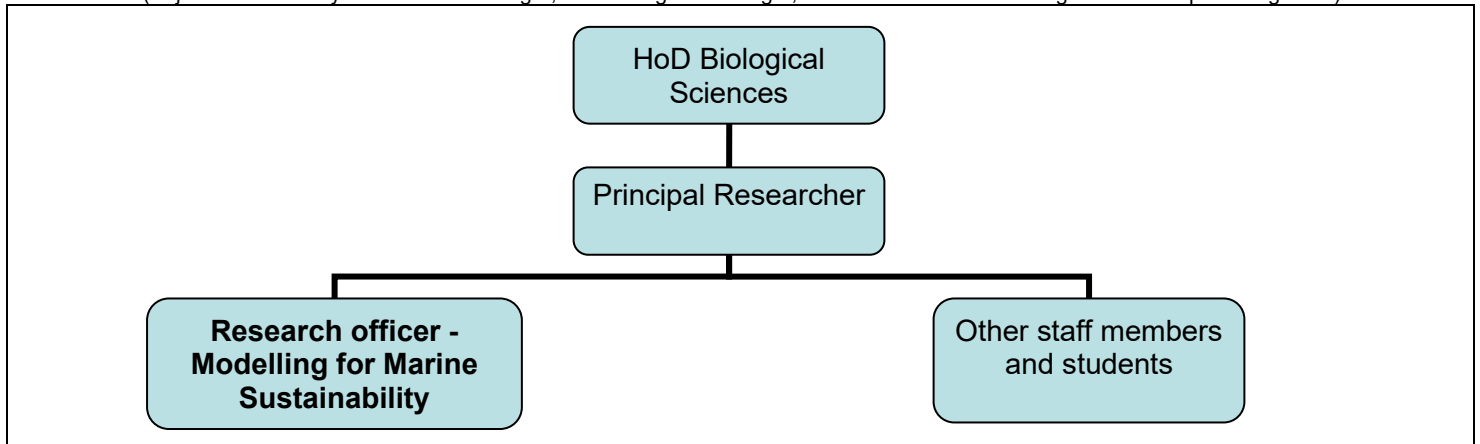
- Forms must be downloaded from the UCT website: <http://forms.uct.ac.za/forms.htm>
- This form serves as a template for the writing of position descriptions.
- A copy of this form is kept by the line manager and the position holder.

POSITION DETAILS

Position title	Research Officer		
Job title (HR Business Partner to provide)			
Position grade (if known)		Date last graded (if known)	
Academic faculty / PASS department	Faculty of Science		
Academic department / PASS unit	Department of Biological Sciences		
Division / section	Marine Sustainability		
Date of compilation	4 September 2023		

ORGANOGRAM

(Adjust as necessary. Include line manager, line manager's manager, all subordinates and colleagues. Include position grades)



PURPOSE

The main purpose of this position is to carry out tasks related to different types of systems modelling as outlined in local and international projects (NRF-funded Eco-ACE and EU-funded MISSION ATLANTIC project) at the Department of Biological Sciences, fulfilling contractual requirements of UCT. The incumbent will be responsible for meeting UCT's deliverables for certain work packages in international projects (e.g. EU projects), and will co-lead local projects such as the NRF-run Eco-ACE project. The incumbent will also contribute to global initiatives related to climate change and ecosystem modelling.

CONTENT

Key performance areas		% of time spent	Inputs (Responsibilities / activities / processes/ methods used)	Outputs (Expected results)
E.g.	General and office administration	25%	Takes, types up and distributes minutes and agendas for monthly departmental meeting. Greets visitors, enquires as to the nature of their visit and directs them to the appropriate staff member.	All staff members receive an electronic copy of accurate minutes and agendas, in the departmental template/format, a week before the meeting. Visitors are directed to appropriate staff member in a professional and efficient manner.
1	Research in international projects	50%	e.g. in 2024/2025, for the EU Mission Atlantic project, the researcher would develop Bayesian belief networks for the South African marine ecosystem, and test scenarios agreed within the broad MA team and extra relevant scenarios developed with experts, and would contribute to the deliverables of Work package (WP) 7 and other WPs as required.	e.g. in 2024/2025: the researcher would produce a risk assessment for key South African marine sectors using Bayesian Belief Networks, meet project deliverables and reports for WP7, and prepare two publications on this research for publication.
2	Research in local projects	35%	e.g. in 2024, for the NRF Eco-ACE project, the researcher would revise and disaggregate the Atlantis ecosystem model for the southern Benguela to include small-scale fisheries, run climate and adaptation scenarios with the revised model and undertake comparative work with other ecosystem models in the region	e.g. in 2024, revised climate change impact assessments for the southern Benguela system using model ensembles
3	Capacity development and supervision	10%	Supervise postgraduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the Marine Sustainability Lab, Biological Sciences	Student projects and theses Prepare and write manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
4	Writing funding applications	5%	Participate in funding applications and grant writing	Submission of grant applications that accounts for salary funding
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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Minimum qualifications	PhD in a relevant field			
Minimum experience (type and years)	At least five years' experience in developing and working with system modelling frameworks (e.g. Atlantis, Ecopath with Ecosim) for climate change and ecosystem-based management scenarios, with relevant publications in high-impact journals.			
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency in quantitative data analysis • Development and application of ecosystem modelling approaches, and qualitative modelling • Demonstrated ability to collaborate in interdisciplinary research projects • Proven experience in writing research grant applications • Excellent interpersonal, planning and organizational skills 			
Knowledge	Marine ecology, ecosystem modelling, climate change			
Professional registration or license requirements	NA			
Other requirements (If the position requires the handling of cash or finances, other requirements must include 'Ability to handle cash or finances'.)	Mentoring and training of postgraduate students in inter- and trans-disciplinary marine sciences Grant writing			
Competencies (Refer to UCT Competency Framework)	Competence	Level	Competence	Level
	Analytical thinking/problem solving	2	Conceptual thinking	2
	Planning and organization	2	Initiative	2
	Teamwork/Collaboration	2	Quality commitment	2
	Communication	2	Result focus	2

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Functions responsible for	Meeting the deliverables of the projects. Prepare research proposals to fulfill the Department of Biological Sciences objectives and cover salary cost.
Amount and kind of supervision received	Minimal. Independent researcher, who will collaborate with colleagues in research activities and publications
Amount and kind of supervision exercised	(Co)supervision of postgraduate students; training of researchers in marine ecosystem modelling and climate change impacts.
Decisions which can be made	Research directions and methodologies; Contribute to selection of postgraduate students and post-docs; Applications for research funding
Decisions which must be referred	Payments will be for signature of other PIs on relevant research grants; Appointments will be agreed with line manager and the relevant HOD

CONTACTS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Internal to UCT	Prof. Lynne Shannon and members of the Department of Biological Sciences
External to UCT	A number of partners from Horizon 2020 projects and colleagues from local universities such as Nelson Mandela University, University of Western Cape