



SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER (Energy Economics) (Part-Time; 1-Year Contract, renewable for a 2nd year)

Energy Systems Research Group
Department of Chemical Engineering
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

The Energy Systems Research Group (ESRG), housed in the Department of Chemical Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Cape Town, has a strong reputation as South Africa's leading research group in this field. The ESRG combines quantitative modelling of energy and economic systems with policy analysis and field-based research, to generate and enhance knowledge of energy systems at sectoral, regional, national and continental scales, focused on South Africa, the SADC region and elsewhere in Africa. In SATIM, the group holds the only full energy sector model for South Africa, combining electricity and liquid fuels supply sectors on the supply side with industrial, transportation, commercial and residential users on the demand side. A dynamic linking of this energy systems model with a macroeconomic general equilibrium model allows for economic and policy analysis of energy systems decisions.

The ESRG has received funding to establish new contract posts to bolster its ability to conduct academic and socially responsive research in support of South Africa's just energy transition, national energy and climate change policy, and African and multilateral climate change policy. The programme will be executed in collaboration with Imperial College, UCL and Loughborough Universities and the Climate Compatible Growth programme. Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a part time (50%) post as a Senior Research Fellow, commencing 1 February 2024 or at the earliest possible time thereafter. The role requires technical expertise in applied economics, experience in undertaking and managing policy analysis in a think tank and/or government context; and a demonstrated ability to manage policy-oriented research. This post is advertised for a 1-year contract, renewable for a 2nd year depending on satisfactory performance and the availability of funding.

Requirements for position

- Either a PhD in economics with five years of work experience in energy and climate change-related policy analysis, or a Masters degree in economics with at least 10 years' work experience in energy and climate change-related policymaking and/or analysis;
- Five or more years' experience working as a practitioner in any of the three spheres of government, government agency, research institution or consultancy in a senior position;
- Experience in managing and leading applied research in a public sector / policy / planning environment with a focus on climate change, development, energy and/or poverty;
- Experience in use and evaluation of economic data sets for climate/energy/development policy analysis;
- Familiarity with and experience in developing and/or managing the development of economic growth projections at a national, regional or local level;
- Experience in managing relationships with funders and/or clients for large research projects;
- Fluency in written and spoken English.

Responsibilities

- Contribute to ongoing research projects at the ESRG in energy and climate policy.
- Translation of research into papers to be published in peer-reviewed academic journals.
- Assist with maintenance and enhancement of the ESRG's modelling ecosystem, as applicable.
- Assist in the production of research reports, policy briefs and other relevant outputs of the Group.
- Manage and/or assist in the management of research projects as required.
- Contribute to the ESRG's strategic planning process.
- Assist the ESRG in engagement with key policy stakeholders in government.
- Translate research findings for relevant non-academic audiences.
- Co-produce research with external non-academic partners, as required.

For further information about the position, please contact the Head of the Energy Systems Research Group, Professor Harro Von Blottnitz via email at Harro.VonBlottnitz@uct.ac.za

The annual cost of employment for this 50% position, including benefits, is in the range of **R 356219 - 513520**.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to Prof Harro von Blottnitz at

Harro.vonBlottnitz@uct.ac.za

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>);
- A letter of motivation; and
- Curriculum Vitae (CV).

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete and will be disqualified. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and will be required to undergo competency assessments as part of the selection process.

Telephone: 021 650 2512

Website: www.epse.uct.ac.za/esrg

Reference number: E231243

Closing date: 12 January 2024

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.hr.uct.ac.za/hr/policies/employ_equity.

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.