



## **TECHNICAL OFFICER**

(Payclass 08; Permanent)

### **Department of Astronomy Faculty of Science**

The Department of Astronomy seeks to appoint a suitably qualified person to fill the position of Technical Officer as soon as possible for permanent appointment.

The main purpose of this position is to: 1) service, maintain and upgrade the department's optical telescopes and their related instruments and the department's radio telescope(s), and the UCT/IDIA Vislab in order to keep them in good working order for use in teaching, public outreach, and remote use by other universities; 2) provide training and support to academic staff, postgraduate students and undergraduate students and members of partner institutions on using the telescopes and instrumentation (both hardware and software); 3) collaborate with academic staff in developing undergraduate practical activities using the telescopes, and in developing supporting documentation (e.g. manuals, videos, code, etc.), and outreach materials.

#### **Requirements:**

- BSc in Astrophysics or Physics or BEng in electrical/mechanical engineering
- One year's relevant experience in using and maintaining optical and radio telescopes and teaching/tutoring experience.
- Demonstrated experience with small power tools and test equipment.
- Demonstrated experience with astronomy data analysis software packages, including Jupyter notebooks, for image and spectroscopic data processing and radio data processing and analysis.
- Programming skills to enable the set-up and/or supervision of remote telescope access and web repository.
- Working understanding of CCDs and spectrometers for small optical telescopes
- Working understanding of radio telescopes, receivers, and backends.
- Writing skills to enable development of practical manuals and assignments using optical and radio telescopes.
- Ability to lift heavy objects and for outside work, sometimes at large heights on telescope domes.
- Be self-motivated and able to work with own initiative.
- Ability to work flexible hours since much observing will take place at night.
- Excellent inter-personal skills, a good level of self-management and a team player

#### **Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:**

- Maintenance, repair, and upgrades of the department's optical and radio telescopes.
- Setting up the hardware and software to enable remote operation of the department's optical and radio telescopes.
- Support the UCT/IDIA Vislab team with operations including updating machines and hardware checks.
- Observations and UCT/IDIA Vislab training and support of Astronomy students, members of the department and institute partners where needed.
- Attendance and support at the yearly undergraduate field trip to SAAO, Sutherland.
- Developing and updating telescope user manuals, observational practical manuals, and training materials.
- Setting up and maintaining a website and online database to host documentation, manuals, and archived data.
- Maintaining telescope observing schedules for the department telescopes.
- Allocation of tutors for all Astronomy undergraduate courses
- Coordinate production of outreach materials and participate in departmental outreach initiatives.
- To help with ad hoc duties which arise from time to time.

The annual remuneration package, including benefits is negotiable between R448 889 and R528 105 per annum depending on skills and experience.

**To apply**, please e-mail the documents below in a **single pdf file** to [Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za](mailto:Roslyn.daniels@uct.ac.za)

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- Cover 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 and will be required to undergo a competency test and a pre-employment medical.

**Telephone:** 021 650 4437

**Website:** <https://science.uct.ac.za/department-astronomy>

**Reference number:** E26627

**Closing date:** 07 July 2026

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*When you apply for a position at UCT, we collect your personal information to assess your application, communicate with you, and coordinate interview logistics. Information such as race, gender, nationality, and disability status is used to support our Employment Equity obligations. We also verify your references, qualifications, conduct criminal and, for certain roles, credit checks. For more information about how the University of Cape Town uses personal information and your rights, please email [popia@uct.ac.za](mailto:popia@uct.ac.za).*

***The University reserves the right to extend the closing date for applications if deemed necessary and reserves the right to make no appointment.***