

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Quantitative Methods in the Centre for Social Science Research

The [Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub](#) (AARHub) in [Centre for Social Science Research](#) (CSSR) seeks to recruit a post-doctoral research fellow to focus on quantitative research methods. The CSSR is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Cape Town dedicated to conducting and building capacity for systematic, policy-relevant social science research in South Africa, the region and across Africa. Our teams work on translating mixed-methods multi-disciplinary research evidence into programmatic recommendations, and cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit and investment cases for potential interventions and combinations of interventions that improve the lives of adolescents and young people. Our unified goal is to promote high-quality evidence to improve the lives of adolescents in resource-limited settings. We welcome applications from participants with experience in innovative approaches and enthusiasm for these shared research and advocacy goals.

The postdoctoral fellowship will contribute by conducting quantitative analyses and providing methodological support, mentoring and advice to early career researchers conducting quantitative analyses at the CSSR, other departments at the University of Cape Town, and our partners at the University of Oxford. The fellow will also support two quantitative cohort studies led by A/Prof Elona Toska (CSSR, UCT) and Prof Lucie Cluver (Oxford University).

Conditions of Award:

Eligible applicants must have completed their doctorate within the past 5 years, and may not previously have held full-time permanent professional or academic posts.

The successful candidate will have:

- A doctorate in public health or a social science, including health economics;
- Experience conducting quantitative statistical methods to cross-sectional and longitudinal data from low- and middle-income countries; using software packages (Stata and R are preferred);
- Conducted quantitative research on adolescent health or HIV prevention in lower- and middle-income countries, including experience in data collection in sub-Saharan African countries;
- Published first-authored and co-authored papers in peer-reviewed publications of their field;
- Presented at conferences, seminars, and/or workshops ;
- The ability and willingness to teach and mentor quantitative methods;
- Experience working effectively as part of a team; and
- The ability to travel for work.

The successful candidate will be required to complete the following research deliverables:

- Plan and conduct quantitative data analyses on topics agreed with their advisor(s);
- Support quantitative data collection for existing studies in South Africa and neighbouring countries;
- Conduct literature reviews on topics related to research;
- Support data cleaning and management (as needed);
- Provide quantitative capacity-building support to early career researchers;
- Prepare and edit study protocols and ethical approval packages (as needed);
- Present research at seminars, workshops and conferences; and
- Prepare research findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals and other platforms (for examples, policy or research briefs).

Advantageous skills/experience include if the applicant has:

- Led quantitative research with adolescents and young people, including adolescent girls and young women;
- Experience conducting advanced quantitative data analyses using R or MPlus;
- Experience working on analyses of multiple databases or conducting meta-analyses;
- Previous experience conducting costing, cost-effectiveness or similar economic evaluation;
- The ability to communicate technical research considerations to policymakers in a non-technical manner;
- Published papers from their PhD, and/or
- Convened courses/supervised students.

The candidate will be supervised by A/ Prof Elona Toska and mentored by a team of senior researchers, including Prof Lucie Cluver.

Moreover, the candidate:

- May not hold any other fellowships without permission of their supervisor;
- May not undertake employment of any nature without the permission of their supervisor; and
- Must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Value and Tenure:

The value of the fellowship is R315,000 – R483,000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications. Flexibility on a start date can be discussed and the fellowship amount will be prorated in line with the starting date. Renewal for a further year may be considered and is contingent of satisfactory academic progress and availability of funds.

Application Procedure:

Eligible candidates should provide the following in ONE SINGLE PDF:

- A letter describing research interest and the candidate's suitability for the fellowship, highlighting how they meet the requirements for the fellowship.
- A CV that includes details for all conference attendance, publications and any other scholarly research output, and the names of two academic referees who have taught/ supervised the candidate at university and can speak to their skills.
- A published written sample of their work that includes quantitative research led by the applicant.

Enquiries and completed application should be forwarded to:

Amanda Swartz at amanda.swartz@uct.ac.za

Closing date for receipt of applications: February 12, 2024

Selection: Eligible applicants will be considered by a sub-committee convened by the CSSR.

Please reference “**2024 CSSR Quantitative Postdoctoral Research Fellow**” in the email subject line.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete, and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and/or to make no awards at all.