

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Postdoctoral fellowship (12 or 18 months) in Francophone literature and post/decolonial thought

The **University of Cape Town** (UCT) stands at the forefront of African Higher Education in the field of Humanities and offers a wide array of dynamic programmes and interdisciplinary connections aiming at a critical engagement with issues pertaining to the global South, to social, political, and ecological transformation, to post-/decolonial cultural identities and well as related questions.

The Faculty of Humanities' **French Section**, located within the **School of Languages and Literatures** (SLL), has been focussing over the last years increasingly on such questions of transformation and interdisciplinarity from a Global South perspective which had a profound impact on the study of literature and the arts. It has led to modes of textual and formal analysis which are productively articulated with epistemological, philosophical, anthropological, or political reflections, notably on the implications of colonial and postcolonial histories *on* and *through* the text / work of art.

In this very sense, the French Section's teaching and research agenda in the field of literature now puts strong emphasis on new critical approaches, decentred methodologies, and "canon" diversification. **"Francophone" literature** (the production of writers from Africa, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and beyond) as well as concepts from **post/decolonial, intercultural, and transnational theory** feature in all components of the Section's pedagogical offer and hold a central place in recent scientific events initiated and coordinated by its academics. The intensification of its international partnerships and institutional cooperation, but also various research projects of the Section members adhere to this transformational framework and contribute to the dynamics of establishing our academic unit as a francophone "hub" within the Southern African Educational sector.

In order to foster this intellectual endeavour, we invite applications for a **postdoctoral fellowship** to conduct research supervised and mentored by a Principal Investigator in the field of contemporary Francophone literature and de-/postcolonial thought. This fellowship, tenable for either 12 or 18 months, is meant to allow undertaking research and gain professional experience for a future academic career.

Postdoctoral research proposals should be related to the following broad fields/topics *within Francophone literature*:

- Post/Decolonial Cultural identities
- Migration and/or Diaspora
- Mobility and Circulation
- 'Afropolitanism', 'Afrotopia'
- Creolisation and/or Hybridity
- Postcolonial Spatial identities ('contact zones', islands, urban spaces, 'ecotones')
- Global South eco-poetics
- Post/Decolonial memory
- Post/Decolonial graphic literature (*bande dessinée*)
- (Text-image) Intermediality

Comparative approaches (within the Francophone world) are particularly welcome. Alignment with the research foci at the School may be advantageous.

NB. Informal enquiry about research projects may be addressed to markus.arnold@uct.ac.za.

Criteria:

- A doctoral degree in French/Francophone literature or a closely related field (the PhD degree must have been completed between 2020 and 2025);
- High proficiency in spoken and written French (equivalent to C1-C2 levels of the CEFR);
- Good (B1-2) English language skills (UCT is an Anglophone environment; while the research will be conducted in French, the fellow is expected to be able to present his/her work in English and engage with the larger local and national academic community). Appropriate English proficiency will also be a precondition to be considered for tutoring / teaching in certain courses at the Department.



Value of the Fellowship:

- 280.000 ZAR for one year, with an opportunity to extend the fellowship for another six month-period, subject to successful performance (the value of the 18 months fellowship is 420.000 ZAR). The fellowship is not taxable.

N.B. The fellow will be able to complement the stipend with remunerated activities at the department. See below.

Conditions of the award:

- The successful applicant will be required to...
 - o live in/relocate to Cape Town;
 - o comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector;
 - o commit to attending departmental and research meetings as required.
- Please note that...
 - o postdoctoral research fellowships are only available to individuals who have completed the doctoral degree within the past 5 years (that is including but not before 2020);
 - o applicants may not previously have held full-time permanent professional or academic posts;
 - o the fellowship can only start and the stipend can only be paid once the fellow has been *registered on site* with the Postdoctoral Office; UCT will not be held liable for delays in visa procedures if any;
 - o no benefits or allowances are included in the value of the fellowship.
- N.B. (1): The successful candidate may, as part of their professional development, be requested to participate in *remunerated* departmental activities such as limited teaching and co-supervision and duties incidental thereto. Postdoctoral fellows are permitted to undertake part-time employment for no more than 12 hours per week; such remuneration is taxable.
- N.B. (2): They may also be invited to become an assistant to the editor of the journal *French Studies in Southern Africa* (<https://journals.co.za/journal/french>).

To apply:

Applicants should submit the following documents (*in French*) in one **single combined pdf**:

- (1) an **application letter** that includes a short description of your expertise and research interests, and how these relate to the position;
- (2) a **writing sample** of single authored piece;
- (3) a **CV**, including a publication list;
- (4) Copies of the most recent academic **transcripts** and/or **certificates**;
- (5) a 2-page **research concept note**, with your view and ideas about the research of this position;

In addition to this pdf, candidates should ask two academics (who have been directly involved in their work) to send **reference letters** directly to the contact below.

Selection process:

- Only eligible and complete applications will be considered by the selection committee.
- Interviews of shortlisted candidates are likely to take place within two weeks after the deadline.

Calendar / deadline:

- Applications received before **the 18th of August 2025** are guaranteed consideration.
- Applications received thereafter may be considered if the position has not been filled.
- The position intends to be filled as soon as possible and the selected candidate would need to be located in Cape Town within one month after acceptance of the position (unless in the case of visa procedures).

Please submit your application, as **one single combined pdf**, to markus.arnold@uct.ac.za.

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All applicants are subject to the policies, procedures and rules surrounding the postdoctoral sector at UCT. The French Section and the Faculty of Humanities reserve the right to a) disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications; b) change the conditions of the award or to make no awards at all.