

Nico Fischer

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Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in X-ray Absorption Spectroscopy

Deadline for Applications: 31 August 2025 or until position is filled

Call for Applications

The Catalysis Institute at the University of Cape Town, in its Department of Chemical Engineering, seeks a motivated postdoctoral fellow to contribute to establish the first X-ray absorption spectrometer on the African continent – FAB-I, the First African Beamline.

Scope of Research

- The fellowship will support the installation, commissioning and operation of a laboratory X-ray absorption spectrometer, the first of its kind in Africa.

The Research Fellow will:

- Lead the process of installing and commissioning the spectrometer.
- Develop into a power user, receiving training on the instrument and providing training for other users at the Institute.
- Co-develop methodologies and structures to make the instrument available to African researchers beyond the Institute.
- Assist with the mentorship of undergraduate and postgraduate students and support project development within the Institute.
- Develop own research projects within the group of Prof Fischer making use of the spectrometer, demonstrating its potential impact.

Tenure and Value

The fellowship, valued **at R300,000 per annum** (excluding fringe benefits), and is renewable for one additional year based on performance and funding availability. The University will apply for SARS tax exemption on behalf of the successful candidate.

Conditions of the award:

- Applicants must hold a PhD in chemistry, chemical engineering, materials science, or a related field, granted within the last five years, or provide proof of thesis submission.
- Applicants must demonstrate previous experience in X-ray absorption spectroscopy.
- Candidates must register as postdoctoral fellows at the University of Cape Town and adhere to its postdoctoral policies and practices.
- Applicants may not have held prior full-time, permanent professional or academic positions.

Application Procedure

Suitable candidates must supply the following:

- a letter of application expressing research experience and interests with a special focus on previous experience in X-ray absorption.
- certified copies of all academic transcripts.
- a full CV, including details of publications; and
- names and addresses of at least two academic referees, with whom the applicant has worked.

Submit applications via email to: Nico.Fischer@uct.ac.za

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to:

- Incomplete or ineligible applications may be disqualified.
- The University reserves the right to modify the conditions of the award or to make no award.

Kind regards

Prof Nico Fischer