



School of Public Health  
Departement Openbare Gesondheid  
Isikolo Sempilo Yoluntu



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

PhD Fellowship  
Division of Public Health  
Medicine  
Faculty of Health Sciences

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**Developing a model for the evaluation of public health interventions on drinking patterns in the South African population**

**CALL FOR APPLICATION:**

A PhD fellowship opportunity is available. The fellowship is funded by the University of Cape Town within the scope of the Collaboration for Harm Reduction and Alcohol Safety in the Environment (CHASE-SA) research project.

The successful candidate will be affiliated with the University of Cape Town, School of Public Health to conduct research on the impact of interventions on drinking patterns and the alcohol environment in South Africa. He/she will be directly supervised by Dr Annibale Cois (School of Public Health, University of Cape Town) and Dr Sarah Cook (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), and will become part of an interdisciplinary and transnational research group, including members from the University of Cape Town, the South African Medical Research Council, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, the University of Botswana and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The candidate will have access to study data and expertise, and granted opportunities to present study results locally and internationally.

**PURPOSE:**

The aim of the research project to be conducted by the successful candidate is the **development of an epidemiological model for the evaluation of public health interventions on drinking patterns in the South African population.**

The project includes various elements:

1. Adaptation to sub-national (Provincial) level of the Bayesian model of alcohol consumption and attributable burden developed by the Burden of Disease Research Unit at the South African Medical Research Council.
2. Development of a predictive model for the estimation of the burden attributable to alcohol use in response to counterfactual scenarios of consumption (in terms of quantity and patterns).
3. Estimation of the health and economic implications of the implementation of public health intervention aimed at modifying current alcohol consumption patterns of the South African population.

The research work will include the secondary analysis of publicly available data from multiple surveys and data specifically collected for the CHASE-SA project in 6 South African communities in Gauteng and the Western Cape.

**CONDITIONS:**

This is a four-year position. Funding is contingent on being accepted for the relevant degree. Successful applicants will have an additional six months to develop their proposal. They will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) within six months of initial registration as per UCT's postgraduate studies policy.

Annual renewal of funding is contingent on satisfactory progress and agreed outcomes as per the signed MoU. The fellow will have six monthly formal review with supervisors to assess progress.

#### **VALUE AND TENURE:**

Remuneration of the fellowship is R315 000 tax free annually in accordance with the SARS rules for tax exemption, with an inflationary increase of 5% per annum.

#### **ACADEMIC CRITERIA:**

We are seeking a candidate with an interest in epidemiological modelling, with the following minimum qualifications and skills:

- MSc in Epidemiology, Public Health or related disciplines.
- Adequate background in statistics (including familiarity with the theory of probability, statistical estimation, generalised regression models).
- Knowledge of statistical software (Stata, R or equivalent) and programming languages (R and/or Python).
- Ability to work with databases, analyse data, interpret and present results.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English.
- Good organizational and interpersonal skills.

Advantageous but not necessary skills are:

- Exposure to Bayesian statistics and familiarity with Bayesian estimation software (Stan, WinBugs or equivalent).
- Previous experience in epidemiological modelling.
- Peer-reviewed journal publications.

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants are required to submit:

- A one-page cover letter briefly describing their suitability and research interests,
- A detailed CV, highlighting their experience in each of the minimum requirements listed above, together with the name, telephone number and e-mail address of two referees.
- All tertiary qualification certificates and academic transcripts

Applications must be sent directly to Ms Sharon Ferguson at [sharon.ferguson@uct.ac.za](mailto:sharon.ferguson@uct.ac.za). Please use the email subject heading: **Application for Doctoral Fellowship: CHASE SA project**

Enquiries can be directed to Dr Annibale Cois at [annibale.cois@uct.ac.za](mailto:annibale.cois@uct.ac.za).

**Closing date: 25 April 2025**

**Website: <https://health.uct.ac.za/school-public-health>**

*UCT 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. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at [Employment equity | University of Cape Town \(uct.ac.za\)](#).*

*UCT reserves the right not to appoint. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.*