



## **1 X POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2026–2027) INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION (PDRF/005/2026)**

**Sol Plaatje University (SPU) invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Interprofessional Education (IPE), Leadership and Health Professions Education (HPE). The fellowship is linked to a growing research programme focused on strengthening health professions education, interprofessional collaborative practice, leadership development, curriculum transformation, digital innovation, and workforce preparedness within African higher education and healthcare systems. The successful candidate will contribute to nationally and internationally relevant research addressing the future of health professions education and collaborative healthcare practice in Africa.**

### **INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION**

#### **Description of Planned Research**

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship will focus on advancing scholarship in one or more of the following areas:

##### **Health Professions Education**

Curriculum transformation and competency-based education • Clinical education and workplace learning  
• Graduate attributes and workforce preparedness • Teaching, learning and assessment innovations  
• Decolonisation and contextualisation of health professions curricula

##### **Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice**

Interprofessional learning and collaborative practice models • Development and evaluation of interprofessional competencies • Team-based healthcare education • Collaborative practice in primary healthcare settings • Health systems strengthening through interprofessional approaches

##### **Leadership and Faculty Development**

Leadership development in higher education • Academic leadership and succession planning • Faculty development and capacity strengthening • Research leadership development • Women in leadership and health professions education

##### **Digital Innovation in Health Professions Education**

Virtual reality and immersive learning technologies • Artificial intelligence in health professions education • Digital pedagogies and simulation-based learning • Telehealth and digital healthcare education • Technology-enhanced learning in resource-constrained contexts

##### **Social Accountability and Community Engagement**

Community-engaged scholarship • Living Labs and experiential learning • SDG-aligned health professions education  
• Social accountability of health professions programmes • Community-based interprofessional education

**The fellowship aligns with Sol Plaatje University's strategic commitment to research excellence, innovation, postgraduate development, community engagement, internationalisation, and sustainable development.**

## Minimum Requirements

**Applicants must:** • Hold a PhD in Health Professions Education, Medical Education, Physiotherapy, Nursing Education, Public Health, Higher Education Studies, Interprofessional Education, Educational Leadership, or a related field • Have completed their doctoral degree within the last five (5) years • Demonstrate evidence of scholarly publications in DHET-accredited and/or international peer-reviewed journals • Demonstrate interest in one or more of the fellowship research themes • Possess strong qualitative and/or mixed-methods research expertise • Have excellent academic writing and communication skills • Be willing to work collaboratively within interdisciplinary and international research teams • Be available to undertake the fellowship on a full-time basis.

**Preference may be given to applicants whose research aligns with:** • Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice • Leadership in Health Professions Education • Faculty Development • Digital Innovation in Health Professions Education • Curriculum Transformation • Research Capacity Development

## Duties and Deliverables

**The successful fellow will be expected to:** • Publish a minimum of two (2) DHET-accredited journal articles annually • Participate in collaborative research projects and grant development activities • Present research findings at national and international conferences • Contribute to postgraduate supervision and mentorship activities • Participate in faculty development and leadership development initiatives • Support the development of research proposals and funding applications • Submit quarterly progress reports • Contribute to the advancement of SPU's research, innovation, and postgraduate agenda.

**Research outputs arising from the fellowship must acknowledge Sol Plaatje University and the Research Office as the institutional affiliation.**

## Opportunities Available to the Fellow

**The successful fellow will have opportunities to:** • Collaborate with national and international research networks • Engage in interdisciplinary research initiatives • Participate in internationalisation and global engagement activities • Contribute to research capacity strengthening programmes • Participate in leadership development initiatives • Co-supervise postgraduate students • Contribute to the development of Living Lab and community-engaged research initiatives.

## Bursary Value

The fellow will receive: • A tax-free stipend of R280 000 per annum • Research support funding of R40 000 once off • Access to research infrastructure and professional development opportunities.

**The fellowship is awarded for one year and may be renewed subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funding.**

**Proposed Starting Date: No later than 1 October 2026.**

## Application Requirements

**Applications must include:**

- Full Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of academic qualifications
- Certified copy of ID or passport
- Two academic reference letters
- A two-page research proposal aligned with one or more fellowship themes
- A motivation letter outlining suitability for the fellowship

[Click here to download the application form.](#)

## Application Submission

Applications and supporting documents should be submitted electronically to: [post.doctoral@spu.ac.za](mailto:post.doctoral@spu.ac.za)

Subject Line: "PDRF/005/2026 – Interprofessional Education, Leadership and Health Professions Education"

**Closing Date: 15 July 2026**

*Sol Plaatje University reserves the right not to fill this fellowship if no suitable candidates are identified.  
Applicants who do not receive a response within 21 days of the closing date may assume that their applications were unsuccessful.*