



1X POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (PDRF/03/2026)

The Faculty of Education at Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley, South Africa, invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship position.

We are seeking a motivated and suitably qualified candidate who is eager to contribute to a vibrant and growing research environment and make a meaningful, lasting impact in their field of study. The fellowship will commence in August 2026, with opportunities to collaborate across disciplines and advance research excellence within the faculty.

HISTORY EDUCATION

Description of Planned Research

History Education / History Curriculum / History Textbook research / Historical literacy and/or Historical Consciousness

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (PDRF) in History Education is situated within the Faculty of Education at Sol Plaatje University (SPU) and responds to a context of significant national concern. Considering the Department of Basic Education's move toward making History a compulsory subject in Grades 10–12 and given the largely unfulfilled calls for the decolonisation and Africanisation of South Africa's knowledge systems, there is an urgent need for rigorous scholarship on the curricular content, pedagogical approaches, and epistemological underpinnings of History Education. SPU, named after Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje and located in Kimberley, a city profoundly shaped by histories of colonial dispossession and the marginalisation of Xam San and Griqua communities, offers a particularly rich and symbolically charged site from which to interrogate whose histories are foregrounded in official curricula and how these histories are remembered, represented, and taught. The Northern Cape remains one of the most neglected regions in South African History curricula and textbooks, further highlighting the importance of this fellowship as a critical scholarly intervention.

The fellowship is closely aligned with SPU's Strategic Plan 2025–2029, which prioritises intensifying research and expanding postgraduate studies, and identifies Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage Studies, including Khoi, Nama, and San Studies, as a central research focus. The PDRF will also advance the Faculty of Education's commitment to narrowing the gap between progressive curriculum policy and the realities of everyday classroom practice and will foster interdisciplinary collaboration with SPU's Centre for Creative Writing and African Languages, as well as its Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage Studies cluster. Applications are particularly encouraged from scholars undertaking innovative research in History Education, curriculum studies with a history focus, history textbook research, historical literacy/consciousness, and decolonial or African-centred approaches to the teaching and learning of History.

Minimum Requirements: • PhD degree in History Education, Curriculum Studies (with a history specialisation), or a closely related field, conferred within the past five years • Demonstrated research interest in History Education, History curriculum decolonisation, Africanisation, historical consciousness, or Indigenous Knowledge Systems • Evidence of publications in DHET-accredited journals • Open to all South African citizens and foreign nationals for full-time research at Sol Plaatje University; preference will be given to South African candidates • Successful applicants may not hold full-time salaried employment during the duration of the fellowship • Applicants must be able to relocate to SPU for the full duration of the award. This is a residential fellowship requiring the recipient to spend at least 80% of their postdoctoral stay at SPU • Excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills • A clear project plan with achievable timelines and a view to producing original research outputs; please list current and forthcoming research projects.

Duties and Deliverables: • Publish at least two (2) articles per year with the mentor in DHET-accredited, peer-reviewed journals • Contribute to book chapters and/or conference proceedings • Attend and present papers at national and/or international conferences that will lead to future publications • Submit quarterly progress reports to the assigned mentor(s) in a timely manner • Research publications will be published bearing only the affiliation of the Faculty of Education and Sol Plaatje University.

Bursary Value: The fellow will receive a flat rate, tax-free bursary of R280 000 for one year to cover living expenses, plus an additional R40 000 research expenses fund. The fellowship is awarded for a period of one year with an option of renewal, subject to the availability of funding and a satisfactory annual performance review.

Proposed starting date: No later than 1 August 2026 or as mutually agreed with the successful fellow.

Application Procedure

Each application must be accompanied by a completed application form and the following supporting documents:

- A full Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of ID document/passport
- Certified copies of academic records
- Two professional reference letters from individuals familiar with your work or who have supervised you in a professional capacity
- A brief description of proposed research Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted to post.doctoral@spu.ac.za with “Faculty of Education Post-Doctoral Fellowship + (PDRF/03/2026)” in the subject line.

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

Contact Details

For questions regarding the application process, project, or academic queries: post.doctoral@spu.ac.za

Applications close: 30 June 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.