



2X POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (2026–2027) (PDRF/01/2026)

The Renewable and Sustainable Energy Research Centre at Sol Plaatje University (SPU), Kimberley, South Africa, invites applications for two Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (PDRF) positions hosted within the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Research (RaSER) Centre.

In response to increasing demand for clean, inclusive energy solutions, SPU established the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Research Centre. The Centre conducts multidisciplinary research to address the regional and local energy crisis while advancing globally competitive innovative solutions that are both environmentally responsible and socially just.

The Centre seeks to appoint dynamic postdoctoral researchers with a robust theoretical grounding and analytical foundation in renewable and sustainable energy systems. The fellowships offer an exceptional opportunity to contribute to RaSER Centre's global footprint and pioneer advancements in renewable and sustainable energy solutions. The fellowships will commence in August 2026, with opportunities to collaborate across SPU faculties and disciplines within the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences.

Description of Planned Research

The PDRFs in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Research will focus on, but not be limited to, the application of machine learning in renewable energy materials (solar energy) and transition fuels (oil and gas energy) to catalyse the transformation of regional and national energy research to support the energy transition.

The fellowship offers an exceptional opportunity for an early-career scholar to advance their research and publication agenda within a dynamic and supportive academic environment. The successful candidate will contribute to innovative and socially responsive research aligned with Sol Plaatje University's strategic priorities relating to research excellence, postgraduate development, digital transformation, community engagement, and inclusive education.

Applications are encouraged from scholars pursuing innovative research in the following areas of renewable energy research:

- Renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, biomass
- Renewable energy modelling, including first-principle and data-driven modelling
- Digitalisation and artificial intelligence in renewable energy
- Renewable energy materials development
- Transition fuels
- Energy storage technologies
- Green hydrogen technologies

The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate strong theoretical grounding, methodological competence, collaborative engagement, and the ability to produce original and high-impact research outputs. The fellowship will provide opportunities to collaborate with researchers within the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences and the other three faculties to enrich multidisciplinary research and the social justice impact agenda.

Minimum Requirements: • A PhD degree in a relevant field such as Physics, Chemistry, Materials Science, Environmental Science, Engineering, or related disciplines • The candidate must have completed doctoral studies within the past five years in a field relevant to the position • A proven publication record in renewable and sustainable energy disciplines • Evidence of publications in ISI and/or DHET-accredited journals • Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills • A clear project plan and achievable timelines demonstrating potential for original research outputs • Demonstrated capacity to conduct independent research

About the Fellowship: • Open to South African and international applicants for full-time research at Sol Plaatje University. Preference may be given to South African applicants • Successful applicants may not hold full-time salaried employment during the duration of the fellowship • Applicants selected for the fellowship must be willing to relocate to Sol Plaatje University for the duration of the fellowship. This is a residential fellowship, and recipients are expected to spend at least 80% of their fellowship period at SPU.

Duties and Deliverables: • Publish at least two (2) articles per year with the mentor(s) in DHET-accredited peer-reviewed journals • Contribute to conference proceedings and/or book chapters • Attend and present papers at relevant national and international conferences • Submit quarterly progress reports to the assigned mentor(s) • Participate in postgraduate mentoring and collaborative research activities within the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences • Research outputs must reflect the affiliation of the Sol Plaatje University, Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Research Centre.

Bursary Value: The fellow will receive a tax-free bursary of R280 000 per annum to cover living expenses, as well as an additional research fund of R40 000. The fellowship is awarded for one year, renewable subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funding.

Proposed starting date: No later than 01 August 2026

Application Procedure:

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

- Full Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copies of ID document/passport
- Certified copies of academic qualifications and transcripts
- Two professional reference letters from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic work
- A brief description of the proposed research project.

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

Applications and supporting documentation should be emailed to: post.doctoral@spu.ac.za

Subject line: "RaSER Centre Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDRF/01/2026)".

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. If no response has been received within 21 days of the closing date, applicants may assume that their applications were unsuccessful.