POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2026 - 2027)

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at Sol Plaatje University invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship in Economic Modelling and Arid Studies. The fellowship offers an ambitious early-career scholar the opportunity to build a strong publication profile, work with experienced mentors, and contribute to SPU's emerging niche in policy-relevant economic analysis of arid and desert economies. The position is to be taken up during 2026/2027.

Economic Modelling and Arid Studies - Ref (PDRF/10/2026)

Description of planned research

The successful candidate will conduct applied research on the structure, resilience and development prospects of arid and semi-arid regional economies, with particular relevance to Kimberley, the Northern Cape, South Africa and comparable regions. The work will use economywide, regional and econometric modelling to inform inclusive growth, diversification, sustainability and evidence-based policy. Research themes include:

- Applied economywide, CGE, SAM, microsimulation, input-output and regional multiplier analysis
- Econometric modelling of growth, employment, poverty, livelihoods, climate risk and regional development
- Economic diversification, resilience, strategic investment, infrastructure, renewable energy, water, agriculture, mining, tourism and value chains in arid regions
- Data innovation, policy simulation, scenario analysis and evidence-based decision-making for provincial and national development planning

The fellow will work under the mentorship of senior academics and researchers in the Accounting and Economics Department and the wider Faculty and University. The fellowship will support high-quality publications, postgraduate research development, external funding proposals, policy engagement and the longer-term development of SPU's research niche in economic modelling and arid studies.

Minimum requirements:

- **Doctoral qualification:** A PhD obtained within the past five years in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics, Environmental Economics, Regional Science, Applied Econometrics, Economic Modelling or a closely related field.
- **Modelling and quantitative skills:** Competence in at least one relevant approach, including economywide modelling, CGE/SAM analysis, microsimulation, input-output analysis, regional modelling, applied econometrics, spatial econometrics, panel data methods or policy simulation.
- **Research record:** Evidence of research and publications, or a strong manuscript pipeline, in economic modelling, development policy, regional economies, climate and sustainability, arid studies or related applied economics fields.
- **Software and communication:** Proficiency in relevant software such as Stata, R, Python, GAMS, GEMPACK, EViews, MATLAB, QGIS or related platforms will be an advantage. Excellent written, oral and interpersonal communication skills are required.
- **Project plan:** A clear research plan indicating objectives, data, methods, timelines and expected outputs.
- **Eligibility and residency:** Open to South African and international applicants, with preference given to South African applicants. Applicants must be 40 years or younger, may not hold full-time salaried employment during the fellowship, and must relocate to SPU in Kimberley for the award. This is a residential fellowship requiring at least 80% of the fellowship period at SPU.

Duties and deliverables

- Publish at least two (2) articles per year in DHET-accredited, peer-reviewed journals.
- Develop a research programme in economic modelling and arid studies with clear datasets, methods, timelines and publishable outputs.
- Contribute to book chapters, conference papers, policy briefs, working papers and research funding proposals.
- Present research at relevant conferences and seminars; submit quarterly progress reports to assigned mentor(s).
- Participate in postgraduate mentoring, research methods support and collaborative Faculty research activities. All outputs must reflect affiliation with Sol Plaatje University and the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.

Bursary value: R280 000 tax-free stipend for one year plus a once-off research expenses fund of R40 000. Renewal is subject to satisfactory annual performance and availability of funding.

Proposed starting date: 1 October 2026

Application procedure: Each application is to be accompanied by a completed application form (see download link below) with the following supporting documents:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copy of ID document or passport
- Certified copies of academic transcripts
- Two professional reference letters from individuals familiar with your work or who have supervised you in a professional capacity
- A brief description of the proposed research

Click here to download the application form.

Applications and supporting documentation to be sent to the following email address post.doctoral@spu.ac.za with "Post-Doctoral Fellowship + Reference No." in the subject line.

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

Applications close: 7 September 2026

Candidates from outside the borders of South Africa must ensure they have all required legal documentation.

Sol Plaatje University reserve the right not to fill this fellowship if no suitable candidates are identified.
If no response is received within 21 days of the closing date, candidates may assume their applications were unsuccessful.