POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2026 - 2027)

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley, South Africa, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for a postdoctoral fellowship position. We are seeking postdoctoral fellows who are ready to contribute to this vibrant research environment and make a lasting impact. The position is available to be taken up in 2026.

Public Management and Administration - Ref (PD/09/2025)

Description of planned research

We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to conduct research in public management/administration, which will contribute towards public policy, Africanised public administration, corruption and ethics. The successful candidate will have experience and will work on contributing to research outputs within these areas. The research will explore (but is not limited to) the following themes:

- Public policy
- Public finance management
- Corruption in the public service
- Africanised public administration/indigenous governance
- Ethics in the public service
- Government of National Unity
- Innovation in the public service.

The fellowship will allow the successful candidate to collaborate with distinguished researchers in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and to conduct interdisciplinary research in other fields in the Faculty.

Minimum requirements:

- PhD in Public Management/Administration or a related field obtained in the past five years.
- Proven strong networking and analytical skills.
- Proven ability to write proposals for research funding.
- Publications in accredited journals that contribute to real-world solutions in public management and innovation.
- Prior experience of involvement in projects in some of the above focus areas is a necessity.
- Willingness to teach university programmes and short courses.
- Open to all South Africans and foreign nationals for full-time research at the Sol Plaatje University. However, preference will be given to South African applicants.
- Successful applicants must be younger than 40 years of age and may not hold full-time salaried employment during the duration of the fellowship.
- Applicants who are selected for the fellowship must be able to relocate to the SPU in Kimberley for the full duration of the award. This is a residential fellowship, which means that the recipient is obligated to spend at least 80% of their postdoctoral stay at SPU.
- Excellent written and oral presentation and interpersonal skills.
- A project plan and achievable timelines with 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 in DHET-accredited, peer-reviewed journals.
- Contribute to book chapters and/or conference proceedings.
- Present at academic conferences to support future publications.
- Submit quarterly progress reports to assigned mentor(s).
- All research publications must reflect affiliation with Sol Plaatje University and the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences only.

Bursary value: The fellows will receive a flat rate tax-free bursary of R280 000 for one year (to cover living expenses) and R40 000 additional research expenses fund. The fellowship is awarded for aperiod of one year with an option of renewal subject to availability of funding and satisfactory annual performance review.

Proposed starting date: 1 September 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: 15 August 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.