



POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Afromontane Research Unit, University of the Free State: Qwaqwa Campus

Alpine Pollination & Plant Reproductive Ecology in the Maloti-Drakensberg and other southern African Afromontane environments

The [Afromontane Research Unit](#) (ARU) is a Strategic Research Hub in the University of the Free State (UFS), and is the flagship research group of the Qwaqwa Campus (UFS-QQ). The vision of the ARU is to become 'A Continental Leader in African Mountain Research, with an immediate focus on the sustainable development of the Maloti-Drakensberg'.

The ARU is seeking a self-led, physically fit, Post-Doctoral Fellow to join the Plant Reproductive Ecology research team.

The Fellow will be actively involved in the following projects:

- Alpine and Montane pollination studies in the Maloti-Drakensberg as part of an EU Horizon2020 (Biodiversa) Project "RangeX" – a global collaboration with the Mountain Invasion Research Network (MIREN).
- Co-supervision and support of post-graduate students that are working on native and invasive species reproductive ecology in the eastern Free State.
- Contribute to projects focusing on pollination systems in southern African mountains (notably the Cape Fold Mountains and the eastern Great Escarpment).
- Contribute to funding proposal applications.

In addition to the above, the Fellow will also have the opportunity to be exposed to and contribute to the wide range of world-class mountain-related activities being driven by the ARU.

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

- One year with the option of renewing for a second year, depending on performance.
- The Fellowship is valued at ZAR220,000.00 for one year (12 months) with R30,000.00 for running costs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- A PhD degree in a relevant background discipline (e.g. Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Entomology, Zoology, or motivated other).
- Applicants should have obtained their Doctoral degree within five (5) years, or can show proof of pending graduation in 2021.
- Comfortable and competent in remote and rugged mountain field-sites, including at elevations >3,000 m.
- Applications from South African and international candidates are welcomed.
- Candidates may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- Valid passport (as this is a transboundary area) & valid drivers' license.
- Proficiency in English, both verbal and written.
- The following intellectual/experience background will be an advantage:
 - a. Basic taxonomic knowledge and experience with herbarium specimens.
 - b. A background in evolutionary biology, pollination &/or dispersal ecology.
 - c. Excellent data analysis and writing skills.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Motivation Letter (1 page).
- Full Curriculum Vitae (CV) (including a list of academic outputs to date).
- Full transcripts of academic record.
- Copy of degree certificates.
- Copy of South African identity document or Passport (international candidates).
- Signed letters of recommendation from three academic references.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by telephone/MS Teams. Applicants who do not hear any response to their application by **30th September 2021** can assume that they have not been successful. The UFS reserves the right to re-advertise for this post if a suitable candidate is not found.

Extended Application Deadline: 31st August 2021

Contact Person:

Dr Sandy-Lynn Steenhuisen

Department of Plant Sciences & Afromontane Research Unit

University of the Free State: Qwaqwa Campus

Private Bag X13, Phuthaditjhaba, 9866, South Africa

Email: steenhuisens@ufs.ac.za

