

**College of Humanities**

**College of Humanities Early Career Scholars Programme**

***Call for Applications 2025***

**(Closing date: 28 August 2025)**

**Introduction**

The College of Humanities at UKZN is committed to nurturing new generations of scholars to strengthen research, teaching and community engagement and build the intellectual leadership indispensable for an outstanding African university and democracy and development.

The College of Humanities has mobilised funding to support UKZN Humanities early career scholars to conduct research, supervise postgraduate students, attend conferences, and enhance their research, writing and supervision expertise as part of developing their academic careers.

**The Fellowship**

Successful applicants will be supported in the following ways:

* Award of an Early Career Research Fellowship. The Fellowship will provide teaching and administration relief for three months through funding for replacement teaching costs. Replacement costs will be as per official UKZN rates. The successful Fellow is expected to contribute three months of his/her sabbatical leave to constitute a total of six months of research leave.
* Award of an Early Career Research Grant to undertake writing and publication.
* Early Career Development Activities related to writing, publishing, and supervising higher-degree candidates.
* Support attending conferences to present their work and establish scholarly and publishing networks.
* Student Scholarships. To facilitate staff development and progression, competitively recruited master’s students will be attached to the Early Career Research Fellows.

**Eligibility**

The College of Humanities Early Career Scholars Fellowship is targeted at College of Humanities academics who are employed on a full-time, permanent basis), possess a PhD, received their PhD less than 12 years ago and have an emerging and/or sustained track record of publishing, and supervision of postgraduate students.

To be eligible, applicants must:

* Be born, ideally, after the 1st of January 1978 (Upon motivation, consideration may be given to candidates up to age 50).
* Be employed on a full-time, permanent basis at UKZN.
* Possess a doctoral degree from any recognised higher education institution awarded after 1 January 2013.
* Have received their PhD’s less than 12 years ago.
* Have an emerging and/or sustained track record of publishing and postgraduate supervision.
* Have not been awarded a Mellon (or similar) early career fellowship.

In selecting applicants, consideration will be given to gender representation, diversity of disciplines and participation in previous or current research projects. Where the successful candidate is already supported by the UCDP or any other grant, the College Committee reserves the right to waive the ‘teaching relief’ or other components of the fellowship.

**Deadlines**

* Application deadline: 28 August 2025
* Selection: by 12 September 2025

**Enquiries**

Please address any enquiries to:

Professor Magidimisha-Chipungu, College of Humanities

Email: magidimishah@ukzn.ac.za Tel: +2731 260 1353

Professor Nirmala Gopal, College of Humanities

Email: Gopal@ukzn.ac.za Tel: +2731 260 7896

**Applications** (see the accompanying Application Form)

Applications should be sent to Committee Officer, College of Humanities: Lebohang Sibisi SibisiL@ukzn.ac.za



**College of Humanities**

**College of Humanities Early Career Scholars Programme**

**Application Form**

Please email the application and required additional documents by the deadline, **28 August 2025.**

Please read the **Early Career Scholars Programme *Call for Applications 2025*** carefully in preparing your application.

Applications should be sent to the Committee Officer, College of Humanities: Lebohang Sibisi

SibisiL@ukzn.ac.za by close of business on 28 August 2025. No late applications will be accepted.

This is a new advertisement. Staff who applied previously must reapply.

1. **The following documents must accompany your application:**
2. A motivational cover letter of not more than two pages in length. The letter should include a description of the applicant’s academic career, detailing the ideas and experiences that have shaped and motivated his or her scholarly and intellectual work.
3. A pre-proposal for a research project. This is a short essay of three to four pages that provides (i) a summary of the applicant’s proposed research/work, (ii) the purposes, goals, and objectives of the proposed research project, including the key research questions, (iii) an overview of existing literature and other sources for the project, (iv) the project’s proposed theoretical background and methodological approach, (v) the significance/relevance of the project for African scholarship, (vi) the proposed activities and outputs, and (vii) a provisional time framework.
4. A full curriculum vitae, including peer-reviewed publications.
5. A certified copy of the applicant’s doctoral certificate (or proof of PhD Degree completion).
6. Two letters of support from senior academics.
7. Confirmation from the Dean and Head of School, that the Fellow will be released from her/his workload to take up the fellowship (unless one of the letters of support, Point 5 above, is from the Dean & Head of School)
8. **Applicant Eligibility Checklist (mark with X)**

1. Were you born after 1 January 1978?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

2. Please provide your South African ID /Passport Number.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ID/PASSPORT number |  |

3. Please indicate your major discipline/field.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Discipline/Field |  |

4. Are you a full-time member of staff at UKZN, College of Humanities **AND** will you retain this status post 1 January 2025?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

5. Please provide your UKZN staff number

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UKZN STAFF number |  |

6. Will you maintain your UKZN employment status for the duration of the proposed fellowship period?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

7. Was your doctoral degree officially conferred after 1 January 2013?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yes |  |
| No |  |

1. **Administrative Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Surname |  |
| Given name and other names |  |
| Date of birth |  |
| Place of birth |  |
| Gender |  |
| Citizenship |  |
| Country of residence |  |
| Doctoral degree granting institution |  |
| Title of dissertation |  |
| Date the doctorate was officially granted |  |
| Department of current employment |  |
| Postal address |  |
| E-mail address |  |
| Alternative e-mail address (if any) |  |
| Telephone (work) |  |
| Mobile phone  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Descriptive project title** |
|  |
| **Abstract** (summary of the project or topic, not more than 200 words) |
|  |

**Higher Education qualifications**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of institution and country | Field of study | Dates of enrolment | Degree and year conferred |
|  |  |  |  |
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**Post-doctoral fellowships or equivalent post-PhD research experience**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of institution and country | Dates of the fellowship | Title of project | Research outputs |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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**Have you undertaken any other research projects?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Funder | Date | Title of project | Project output (e.g. article, chapter, book, report, etc. ) |
|  |  |  |  |
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**Teaching experience**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name of institution and country | Years at institution | Course titles | Academic level (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd year, Honours, etc.) |
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**Experience outside the country of residence** (include study, research, teaching, consulting, employment)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | Dates in position | Position/Experience | Research outputs (if any) |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**List of academic publications**

List relevant journal papers, book chapters, or books (please provide full bibliographic details)

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**Checklist of completed application documents (mark with X):**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| 1. Application form (this document)
 |  |  |
| 1. Motivation letter
 |  |  |
| 1. Pre-proposal
 |  |  |
| 1. Copy of curriculum vitae
 |  |  |
| 1. Certified Copy of doctoral certificate or Official Proof

Of Degree Completion |  |  |
| 1. Letters of support x 2
 |  |  |
| 1. Dean’s confirmation to release fellow (unless 1 of 6 above is from the

Dean |  |  |

By signing this application form, you declare to the best of your knowledge that the information provided herein is accurate and valid.

**Signature:**

**Date:**