28 August 2025

**RESEARCH DIVISION COMMUNIQUÉ**

FINAL REMINDER: SARAO-SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP 2026

Dear Staff

**PLEASE NOTE: BOTH NRF AND INTERNAL CLOSING DATE – 31 AUGUST 2025**

**NB**: ALL applications **MUST** be completed online on the NRF Connect website: [***https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za***](https://nrfconnect.nrf.ac.za)

**SARAO WILL CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM:**

* Exploiting available data from key radio astronomy instruments located in South Africa, i.e. MeerKAT, HERA, and the HartRAO facilities (astronomical VLBI, astrometry and geodesy). Amongst these, MeerKAT is the highest priority.
* Multi-wavelength projects with direct links to the above instruments may also be considered.

 OR

* Engineering topics that are directly related to the needs of building and operating radio telescopes (antenna, receiver, processing, data analysis and data recording systems associated with radio telescopes and geodesy instruments; real-time digital signal processing instrumentation for radio astronomy; hardware and data analysis systems for detecting, monitoring and locating sources of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI), including the use of telescope data.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

* Successful applicants must be able to commence with their postdoctoral fellowship in South Africa on, or before, 1 October 2026.
* Applicants who have been active in relevant research since obtaining their Doctoral degree. In the case of a break in research, an applicant must have obtained their Doctoral degree on, or after, 30 September 2021.
* Applicants who have postgraduate, and other research experience, which is relevant to radio astronomy or related engineering.
* Application must be supported by **AT LEAST TWO** letters of reference. Please ask at least two/faculty/research referees to submit letters of reference to study.research@sarao.ac.za , before **31 August 2025**.

**The following information must be included in the letter of reference:**

* + 1. The capacity in which the referee knows the applicant, and for how long they have known the applicant.
		2. The applicant’s research capabilities in terms of attitude, initiative, understanding of the subject, progress against deliverables, publications etc.
		3. Any other relevant comments regarding applicant.

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE:** If your application is not supported by two letters of reference SARAO will not consider your application

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**All required documents must be attached to the appropriate sections in the application form-**

* Identification Document or Passport copy
* All your university academic results, from the start of your university studies until now, and where relevant for all other degrees completed to date. **Please attach all your results as ONE PDF Document.**
* An up-to-date Curriculum Vitae.
* Supervisor/host agreement letter.
* Letter of motivation.
* Letters of reference.

For further queries kindly contact: **Ms Nondumiso Radebe** at radeben4@ukzn.ac.za or call Ext 8431 **COPYING** **Mrs Patricia Ngwenya** at ngwenyap@ukzn.ac.za or call Ext 3273.

**Issued by the University Research Division**