

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is committed to Employment Equity with the intention to promote representivity within the Institution. Preference will be given to applicants from designated groups in accordance with the Employment Equity Plan.

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The University of KwaZulu-Natal is one of the top Universities in South Africa and in the top 500 Universities globally. The Schools in the College of Health Sciences have a long-standing tradition in research and teaching, with vibrant postgraduate research programmes.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Programme aims to provide opportunities for exceptional postdoctoral candidates to conduct scholarly inquiry, publish, and increase knowledge in the fields of academic development practice as well as teaching and learning in higher education. Candidates who hold PhD in Health Sciences (as per the four listed Schools) or a relevant PhD in an allied discipline are encouraged to apply.

BACKGROUND

The Lung Health and Asthma Research Group, led by **Professor Refiloe Masekela**, Dean and Head of the School of Medicine at the **University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)** and **NIHR Global Health Research Professor**, invites applications for a **Postdoctoral Researcher** position. The group's research focuses on **asthma epidemiology, paediatric lung physiology, and chronic respiratory diseases** in low- and middle-income settings, with a strong emphasis on improving access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and equitable healthcare for children in Africa. The successful candidate will contribute to multidisciplinary projects investigating environmental and genetic determinants of asthma, implementation of lung health interventions, and capacity-building initiatives across the continent.

Ideal applicants will hold a **PhD in Public Health, Epidemiology, or Biomedical Sciences** with demonstrated experience in quantitative or clinical research. Strong statistical analysis skills, familiarity with large health datasets, and a publication record in global or respiratory health will be advantageous.

The position requires an independent and motivated researcher who thrives in collaborative, multicultural teams and is committed to impactful, policy-relevant research. This postdoctoral opportunity provides a platform for academic growth within an internationally connected network including the **Global Asthma Network** and **Africa Health Research Institute**, offering exposure to high-impact global health research and mentorship in grant development, authorship, and scientific leadership.

1. VALUE PER ANNUM: R280 000 (inclusive of R30 000 running expenses). Please note that Post-doctoral Fellows are not appointed as employees of the university; therefore, they are not eligible for employee benefits but are awarded tax-free stipends.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- A Doctoral degree obtained within the last five years
- Published at least three first author papers in Q1 rated journals

- Lead and contribute to the high productivity of the school of medicine
- Carry out other duties consistent with a post-doctoral fellowship
- Abide by UKZN's policies, rules and procedures for post-doctoral fellows as well as codes of conduct.
- Additionally, the successful applicant will be required to publish a minimum of 2 research papers per annum in DHET/ISI accredited journals; preferably Q1 rated journals.
- The fellowship is a one-year contract. However, renewal beyond the first year will depend on satisfactory performance in that year and the availability of funding.
- All Non-SA candidates should be in possession of a valid work permit or South African visa (not study visa/permit) to qualify.
- Our HR Policy does not recognize study visas/permits. If in possession of a study visa/permit, it must have a condition which states that the candidate is pursuing post-doctoral duties.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

- a. **Apply by submitting your applications to Ms. Bathobile Mbuyane**
- b. Supporting documents must be **EMAILED as ONE Combined PDF Document** to Mbuyaneb@ukzn.ac.za. Tel 031 260 4216

4. CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATIONS: **15 November 2025**

5. POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP START DATE: 01 December 2025

6. **The following supporting documents must be EMAILED as ONE Combined PDF Document.** Supporting documents submitted to any other email account **will not be considered nor opened.**
- a) A full Curriculum Vitae
 - b) Copies of **Degree certificates.**
 - c) A copy of the **identity document or passport.**
 - d) **Visa** (for International Researchers only)
 - e) Medical certificate (**required for International Researchers only. For SA Citizens and SA Permanent Residents, it is not required.**)
 - f) **Two** reference letters, one of which must be from the **Doctoral Supervisor.**

Applications with incomplete documents will **not be** considered.