

**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 the designated groups in accordance with our Employment Equity Plan**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE**

**FUNDED MSc STUDENT (x1)  
WASH R&D CENTRE, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS  
REF NO.: WASH09/2025**

The Water Sanitation & Hygiene Research & Development (WASH R&D) Centre in the School of Engineering is an externally funded team of professional researchers working on multidisciplinary research projects in the urban and industrial water and sanitation sector.

The WASH R&D Centre is looking to recruit one MSc student to provide full-time support to the project: Monitoring River Systems for Diarrhoeagenic Pathogens Towards the Development of a Predictive Framework for an Early Warning System.

The project is looking to assess the potential of integrating microbiological, physicochemical, environmental, and spatial data to predict diarrhoeal disease events associated with contaminated river systems impacted by informal settlements. The study will explore relationships between environmental drivers, water quality indicators, and the presence of diarrhoeagenic pathogens to determine the statistical likelihood of increased disease risk under specific conditions. The end point of the project is to develop and evaluate a data-driven predictive framework that supports the identification of conditions associated with diarrhoeal disease events, contributing towards the future implementation of an early warning system.

The incumbent will be responsible for supporting senior researchers as an embedded researcher, compiling and analysing generated datasets, identifying trends and patterns across multiple data sources, and contributing to the writing of reports and articles for peer-reviewed journals. S/he will also assist with preparing presentations for conference proceedings, strategic workshops, and seminars/forums.

**Minimum Requirements**

- An Honours degree in any relevant Science discipline
- Experience or demonstrable interest in water quality, environmental monitoring, or public health research
- Experience in conducting fieldwork and laboratory-based research
- Should be registered for a Master's degree at UKZN

**The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 13 February 2026.**

**The remuneration will be at the University standard rates of pay.**

**Applicants are required to submit their CVs together with a motivation letter on how they meet the requirements. Please forward all documents to Dr Danica Naidoo on [naidood7@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:naidood7@ukzn.ac.za)**

Kindly note that the University of KwaZulu-Natal ("the University") is required to process any Personal Information (as defined by the Protection of Personal Act, 2013 "POPIA") submitted by candidates when applying for positions at the University. The University will endeavour to ensure that the appropriate security measures are in place and implemented for both electronic and paper-based formats that are used for processing of the personal information recorded through this recruitment and selection process. We refer you to the University's relevant Section 18 notice at [http://vacancies.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/General\\_Documents/Section\\_18\\_Notice\\_-\\_Employees\\_and\\_Potential\\_Employees.sflb.ashx](http://vacancies.ukzn.ac.za/Libraries/General_Documents/Section_18_Notice_-_Employees_and_Potential_Employees.sflb.ashx)