

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

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE**

**SARCHI POSTDOCTORAL POSITION (1 POST)  
ONE-YEAR FIXED-TERM APPOINTMENT  
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE  
DISCIPLINE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES – ZOOLOGY  
PIETERMARITZBURG CAMPUS**

**REFERENCE NO.: SAScBS15/2026**

A DST/NRF South African Research Chair Initiative (SARCHI) postdoctoral position is available in the Discipline of Biological Sciences under the supervision of Prof Downs, SARCHI Research Chair in Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. The main aim of this postdoctoral position is to continue research on the effects of anthropogenic land-use changes on reptiles, birds, and mammals in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; to produce peer-reviewed publications; to present conference papers; to co-supervise postgraduates; and to provide stakeholder management feedback. The candidate needs to have experience with various research techniques, including catching herps and birds, collecting genetic samples, using camera traps/ acoustic monitors, and conducting statistical analyses of data to investigate the persistence and behavioural plasticity of selected southern African vertebrates. Additionally, the candidate must have previous experience fostering collaborations with other researchers in the field.

The incumbent will register as a postdoctoral student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and report to the SARCHI Research Chair in Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity, Pietermaritzburg campus.

**Minimum requirements:**

- Doctoral degree in Zoological or Ecological Sciences completed in the last five years, and must NOT be more than 45 years of age at the time of application.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in researching the presence and behaviour of wildlife, including field survey design and implementation.
- Experience in capturing and marking snakes, lizards and birds. For the latter, have a SAFRING ringing licence.
- A minimum of two international peer-reviewed journal publications in the past 2 years.
- Have a valid driver's license.

**Enquiries and details regarding this post may be directed to Prof. Colleen T. Downs at [Downs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Downs@ukzn.ac.za).**

**The closing date for receipt of applications is 22 Februray 2026.**

**Applicants are required to submit a detailed Curriculum Vitae, together with a cover letter indicating their experience in meeting the stipulated minimum requirements. Application documentation must be sent to Ms Preshnee Singh, e-mail: [SinghP7@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:SinghP7@ukzn.ac.za). The successful incumbent will commence duty in March 2026. Advert Reference Number MUST be clearly stated in the email subject line.**

**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 provision of the Personal Information is a requirement in terms of the University’s recruitment and selection process. The retention of any personal information is as a consequence of the University being bound by legislative requirements and / or good governance practices as well as record keeping for statistical purposes. 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.**