

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

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT/TECHNICIAN (x 1)
(12-MONTH FIXED TERM)
DEPARTMENT OF VIROLOGY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
NELSON R MANDELA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Ref: DOV/RESEARCH ASSISTANT/TECH/APR2026**

The Department of Virology UKZN and NHLS based at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital in Durban. The Department of Virology has an opportunity for Masters Graduates in Medical Sciences who are interested in furthering their experience in Medical Virology. The incumbent will be required to be highly motivated, organized, meticulous, hard-working, and able to work independently. The incumbent will report to the Head of the Department.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Relevant Masters degree in Medical Sciences having medical-related modules/subjects such as Virology, Immunology, Molecular Biology
- Minimum 2 years' experience in a Medical Virology Laboratory
- Experience and skills in cell culture, working with liquid nitrogen and relevant equipment, reagent/chemical stock inventory and management
- Training and experience in Sanger and Next Generation sequencing of viruses
- Training and experience in pathogen bioinformatics
- Familiarity with research electronic data capturing systems such as REDCap
- Familiarity with Departments' Research
- Basic skills in diagnostic virology techniques such as nucleic acid amplification and immunoassays

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform Virology testing as per protocols
- Conform with the safety standards of the laboratory including working in Bio-safety level II conditions and with liquid nitrogen storage of viruses and cells
- Maintain a specimen storage inventory by storing and preserving tested specimens
- Responsible for the safe, secure handling and storage of materials related to laboratory work, including liquid nitrogen, consumables, reagents, and extracts/compounds to be tested
- Troubleshoot laboratory problems
- Maintain the safety, cleanliness, and security of the laboratory, including decontamination procedures
- Responsible for the maintenance of laboratory equipment, including scheduling servicing of equipment
- Manage and maintain clinical cohort databases

Applicants are required to submit:

Detailed CV highlighting their experience in each of the minimum requirements listed above

Certified copies of qualifications

Academic Transcript

List at least THREE referees with full names, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of academics who are available to comment on applicants' academic and research potential and competence.

Please forward all documents to Mrs Vaneshree Murugan, muruganv@ukzn.ac.za. Please quote the advert reference number – **DOV/RESEARCH ASSISTANT/TECH/APR2026**

Terms of appointment and Selection Process

The post will be offered on a one-year, fixed-term contract. The terms and conditions governing this appointment will be in compliance with those of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The position is potentially renewable, depending on the availability of funds.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Thursday, 16 April 2026**. The University, however, reserves the right in special circumstances to accept late applications or to extend the above date in order to facilitate further searches. The selection process will commence in **April 2026** and will continue until suitable candidates are appointed or a decision is taken not to fill the posts.

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