

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is committed to meeting the objectives of Employment Equity to improve representativity 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

**POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER
TWO-YEAR FIXED-TERM APPOINTMENT
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCES
DISCIPLINE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
PIETERMARTIZBURG CAMPUS**

REFERENCE NO.: SAScBS 18/2026

A postdoctoral fellowship is currently available in **Redox Systems Biology**. The project will be undertaken in the lab of Prof Ché Pillay (UKZN), in collaboration with Prof Johann Rohwer (Stellenbosch University) and Dr Elizabeth Veal (University of Newcastle, UK). This position is funded by the National Research Foundation (South Africa) for an initial period of one year, which may be renewable for a further year. This project focuses on the recovery dynamics following oxidative stress within the model organism *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*. Oxidative stress triggers profound metabolic, signalling, and transcriptional changes within cells, but the recovery trajectories of cells after this stress have received less attention. This project aims to determine how the thiol redox systems reset following an oxidative insult. The preferred incumbent must have a strong skill set in yeast molecular cell biology, while expertise in CRISPR/Cas technology and Python-based data analysis is an advantage. S/he must be prepared to invest in building those skills they might be lacking and travel to collaborator labs. The incumbent will also be required to participate in general laboratory operations and to train and supervise postgraduate students.

Minimum Requirements:

- A PhD in Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology or a related field obtained within the last five years.
- Candidates must be under 45 years of age at the time of application.
- Evidence of recent peer-reviewed publication(s) in accredited journals.
- Demonstrable experience with molecular cell biology techniques.

Comprehensive applications are invited, comprising the following:

- A cover letter summarising your background and interests, and how your skills match those required for the project.
- A detailed CV including ISI-listed publications.
- Letters of support and contact details of two academic referees.
- An academic transcript listing the award of a PhD thesis.
- A representative publication.

Enquiries and details regarding this post may be directed to Prof Ché Pillay (pillayc3@ukzn.ac.za). The closing date for receipt of applications is **15 June 2026**. The remuneration will be in line with the UKZN fixed-term appointment rates.

Application documentation must be sent to Ms Tanya Karalic, e-mail: KaralicT@ukzn.ac.za. Advert Reference number **MUST** be clearly stated in the subject line. Late applications will not be considered.

Please note that correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates. The School of Agriculture and Science reserves the right not to make an appointment.

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.