

**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 under our Employment Equity Plan.**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE**

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP  
July 2026 – June 2027  
DISCIPLINE OF BIOCHEMISTRY  
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE  
WESTVILLE CAMPUS**

**REFERENCE NO.: SAScBS 19/2026**

A postdoctoral fellowship position is available in the Nano-Gene and Drug Delivery research group on the Westville Campus. The postdoctoral scholar must have extensive experience in the synthesis of inorganic nanoparticles for use in CRISPR/Cas-based research. The candidate must be able to undertake flow cytometry, nanoparticle tracking analyses, drug and gene binding studies, and all cell culture-based assays. In addition, he/she must be able to prepare manuscripts for scientific journals and mentor postgraduate students. Only applicants with strong backgrounds and experience in the above will be considered. In addition, applicants must have excellent interpersonal and writing skills.

**Key research areas:** Inorganic nanoparticle synthesis, polymeric functionalization, chemical characterization, gene expression protocols, CRISPR/Cas9 sgRNA design, *in silico* mutational prediction and modelling, cloning, anticancer assays, gene silencing, drug delivery and release kinetics, mammalian cell culture, and related assays (cell cycle, apoptosis, etc).

**Minimum Requirements:**

- A PhD in Biochemistry obtained within the past five years
- Applicants must NOT be more than 45 years of age from the time of application
- Specialist knowledge in CRISPR/Cas workflow, in addition to nanoparticle synthesis, characterization, and applications.
- Evidence of publications in the area of nanomedicine in the last 5 years.
- Must be based at UKZN for the duration of the scholarship
- At least 5 years of experience in mammalian cell culture techniques/assays.
- Experience in selenium nanoparticle synthesis and characterization would be an advantage.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **16<sup>th</sup> June 2026**.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents in a single PDF to **Ms Shereen Samuels, e-mail: [samuels@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:samuels@ukzn.ac.za)** with the reference number in the subject line.

- A short letter of motivation, stating their expertise and experience on the topic.
- A full curriculum vitae, including a list of publications.
- Contact details for three referees.

The remuneration will be at the University's standard rates of pay. Please note that correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates.

**Late applications will not be considered. Please note that correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates. The University reserves the right not to make an appointment to this advertisement.**

*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.*