

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is committed to Employment Equity with the intention to promote representativity within the Institution. Preference will be given to applicants from the designated groups.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

1 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP POSITION

01 JULY 2026 – 30 JUNE 2028

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

REF NO:02/2026

A postdoctoral fellowship opportunity is available in a multidisciplinary research group spanning Statistics, Computer Science, and Genetics. We are seeking a highly motivated applicant with strong potential and ambition to become a leading scientist in the application of machine learning and statistical methods to biomedical data analysis. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing innovative machine learning and deep learning models, establishing a platform for rigorous, transparent, and reproducible testing of bioinformatic computational approaches, and supervising postgraduate students working on (but not limited to) the research areas outlined below:

- Extreme learning machine
- Optimization of deep forest models
- Protein-protein Interactions
- Statistical learning and predictive modelling
- Protein language models
- Protein function annotation
- Population genomics, and
- Short tandem repeat analysis

Minimum Requirements:

Applicants must be under the age of 45 years and have completed a doctoral degree within the past four years.

- PhD in Computer Science, Statistics, Data Science or equivalent.
- Experience in the design and application of machine learning models for practical, real-world bioinformatics problems.
- Experience in working with machine, deep learning, statistical modelling, predictive analytics or related.
- Exceptional Programming skills in BASH scripting, Python and/or R
- Experience in collaborative teamwork

The value of each postdoc will be R 250 000 as a stipend plus R 30 000 for running costs, with a total value of R 280 000 per annum for a period of two years

Enquiries and details regarding this post may be directed to Prof. Faustin Habyarimana via email: HabyarimanaF@ukzn.ac.za

The postdoctoral fellowship is a 12-month appointment, funded by the College of Agriculture, Engineering and Science (CAES) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). An extension of up to one year may be considered, contingent on exceptional research progress and outcomes.

Application procedure

Your complete application must be submitted not later than 19th June 2026. Applications must be submitted as one PDF file containing all materials to be given consideration. The file must include:

- A cover letter highlighting the applicant's experience in meeting each of the minimum requirements as listed above.
- Detailed CV
- Copy/list of at least two publications in Q1 journals relevant to machine learning, statistics, genomics, data science, biostatistics, experimental work in bioinformatics.
- Contact details of two referees
- Certified copy of the applicant's doctoral degree certificate or PhD award letter
- A certified copy of the applicant ID / permanent residency document/foreign national must have relevant permits.

Applications must be emailed to: HabyarimanaF@ukzn.ac.za on or before the closing date.

Late applications will not be considered. Successful individuals will be contacted on or before 30th June 2026. An online interview will take place. The research group reserves the right not to make an appointment for this advert. Should you not receive a reply or update by the 30th June 2026, kindly consider that your application has not been successful.