**Science Faculty PhD Fellowships for 2026**

*The Science Faculty offers 12 PhD fellowships for the 2026 academic year. All students (local and international) are eligible to apply. The fellowship is awarded to students with an excellent academic record, an academically strong proposal with evidence of original planned research, a realistic time frame for completion of the thesis within three years and appropriate supervisor(s). A committee chaired by the Dean will consider proposals received from departments for final approval.*

**Criteria and eligibility:**

* Excellent academic record
* Completed Master’s degree in appropriate field of research. Master’s dissertations under examination will be considered.
* Identified supervisor(s) and host department in the Faculty of Science, UCT

**Conditions of award**:

* Successful applicants must register for full-time doctoral study in the Science Faculty, University of Cape Town.
* The Faculty PhD Fellowship should be awarded only to new students.
* The PhD Fellowship must not be held concurrently with other formal bursaries, such as offered by the NRF or Department of Science and Innovation (DSI).
* Successful applicants must comply with the University’s policies, rules and procedures;
* Successful applicants must enter into and adhere to a bi-lateral Memorandum of Understanding with their supervisor(s) outlining the work-plan for the research project and time frame for completion of the degree/research.
* Successful applicants must present an annual seminar on progress at a special Science Faculty PhD Fellowship Research Day.
* Successful applicants are expected to produce a minimum of two DHET accredited publications during the course, or immediately after the completion, of their degree.
* Students who do not complete their studies within 3 years do not qualify for further support from the Science Faculty PhD Fellowship programme. Supervisors and students are responsible for resolving any funding requirements beyond 3 years of support.
* Students who register for the degree in the second semester will receive 50% of the grant for that year.

**Value:**

* Total value of R450 000 spread over three years, with student and supervisor deciding on an annual basis the portion to be allocated to bursary versus running and equipment costs. A maximum amount of R140 000 may be allocated as a bursary in any given year and a maximum component of R60 000 for running expenses in total, with a limit of R25 000 per annum.

**Closing date for applications 30 September 2025**

**Application Guidelines**

Interested applicants should contact the relevant Department in which they wish to study as soon as possible.

A completed and signed application form together with a CV, an academic transcript, and two references should be submitted to the Head of Department.

HODs must rank applications that have been received and forward them and their supporting documentation to Science Faculty Postgraduate Office (Ayesha Shaik [ayesha.shaik@uct.ac.za](mailto:ayesha.shaik@uct.ac.za)) for consideration by the Committee chaired by the Dean.

*Note: Candidates must also apply to the University through the Admissions Office\*1. Final award of fellowship is conditional on candidates being accepted into the Faculty of Science according to the criteria published in the Faculty handbook.*

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| --- | --- |
| **Personal information of applicant** | |
| **Full Name and Surname:** |  |
| **Academic Department:** |  |
| **Primary Supervisor:** |  |
| **Co-supervisor:** |  |
| **Co-supervisor:** |  |
| **Applicant/Student Number (if known)** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary of Academic record\*2, Awards and Publications** |
| **Institution that awarded BSc degree:** |
| **Year obtained:** |
| **Distinctions/awards:** |
|  |
| **Institution that awarded Honours degree:** |
| **Year obtained:** |
| **Distinctions/awards:** |
|  |
| **Institution that awarded Master’s degree:** |
| **Year obtained:** |
| **Distinctions/awards:** |
|  |
| **Peer reviewed DHET accredited publications to date:** |
|  |
|  |

\*1 <http://www.students.uct.ac.za/students/applications/apply/forms>

\*2 A copy of the applicants complete academic record should be attached to this application.

**Sources of available funding: (**please provide a summary of any other sources of funding that will be used to support the student’s expenses**)**

**All other sources of funding**

**A) Student support**

**B) Research support**

**PhD Proposal** (*word limits to be strictly adhered to and all content should be clear to a non-specialist reviewer*)

**1. Title of project proposal:**

**2. Research rationale, originality and aims:** (750 *word limit)*

word count:

**3. Planned research activities/methods during 3 year period:** (*500 word limit*)

word count:

**4. Motivation by Supervisor :** *(500 word limit)* **Date:**

**5. Comment by Head of Department: Date:**