



**Centre for Statistics in Ecology, the
Environment and Conservation
(SEEC)**

Department of Statistical Sciences
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701
South Africa
www.seec.uct.ac.za



Vacancy: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Quantitative Ecology and Environmental Data Science

The centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (SEEC) is an interdisciplinary research group working at the intersection between statistics, ecology and environmental science with the aim to advance our understanding of ecological systems and inform evidence-based environmental decision-making. We are looking for a postdoc to join our team and contribute to our research programme, which comprises a number of projects in the general field of population ecology, species distributions, biodiversity data pipelines and ecological forecasting. We address pressing conservation questions such as how to manage biodiversity under climate change and land use change in the terrestrial, marine and freshwater realms. We use data from a broad range of sources, including remote sensing, acoustic sensors and citizen science projects.

We are looking for a person who can contribute with cutting edge research to any of our projects or contribute new angles within our research ambit (see www.seec.uct.ac.za). We are looking for a person with a PhD either in ecology with a strong statistical component, in applied statistics with a strong ecological component or in biodiversity informatics with a strong statistical component. Candidates must be able to demonstrate strong quantitative skills, have experience working with large data sets and have experience carrying out sophisticated statistical analyses in R or Python. Demonstrated ability to set up reproducible workflows is essential. This is a full-time position based at the University of Cape Town.

Conditions of Award

- The fellowship is only available to individuals who have achieved the doctoral degree within the past five years.
- Applicants may not previously have held any full-time academic or professional posts.
- The successful candidate will be required to register as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town.
- The successful candidate will be required to comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Value and tenure

The value of the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship is R300,000 per annum for up to two years. The second year will be contingent on satisfactory academic progress and availability of funds. An additional R15,000 will be available annually for conference attendance and/or travel costs, awarded on motivation. The fellowship does not include any benefits. International applicants are welcome to apply. UCT will provide supporting documentation for visa applications, but visa costs and application remain the responsibility of the candidate. Relocation costs are excluded and at own expense. The fellowship is exempt from taxation.

The fellowship is expected to commence before the end of 2026.

Application Process

To apply, send a letter of application including your project idea and how it fits within SEEC's research programme, a CV including a list of publications, conference presentations and software expertise, together with copies of academic transcripts, a copy of the relevant thesis (if no publications have emerged from this work yet), and names (and contact details) from two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant.

Applications as a single pdf file should be emailed to:

Res Altwegg, Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa, res.altwegg@uct.ac.za

BY NO LATER THAN 7 June 2026

For more information or to discuss potential projects contact Res Altwegg (res.altwegg@uct.ac.za), Jasper Slingsby (jasper.slingsby@uct.ac.za), Natasha Karenyi (natasha.karenyi@uct.ac.za), Vernon Visser (vernon.visser@uct.ac.za), Murray Christian (murray.christian@uct.ac.za) or Ané Cloete (ane.cloete@uct.ac.za).

Selection process

Selection of eligible candidates will be made by the team of project leaders. The University of Cape Town reserves the right to: disqualify ineligible, incomplete, inappropriate and/or late applications, and to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.