



## Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences Postdoctoral Position in Genetic Epidemiology

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The Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics & Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences are seeking an African Postdoctoral Researcher to work on development of resources and analyses within the H3ABioNet consortium ([www.h3abionet.org](http://www.h3abionet.org)). This is a pan-African bioinformatics network that is funded by the NIH Common Fund to develop bioinformatics skills and infrastructure across the continent, and to support bioinformatics and data analysis requirements of research within the the Human Heredity and Health in Africa programme ([www.h3africa.org](http://www.h3africa.org)). This is a one year appointment in the first instance, with the possibility to extend for up to three years depending on funding availability and Postdoctoral Researcher's performance.

### Specific responsibilities

The focus of this postdoctoral position is to explore and develop appropriate statistical and modelling methodologies for genetic epidemiology research. This includes integrating large-scale genotype and other genome-wide datasets with comprehensive clinical and environmental data, and to examine causal associations of exposures with disease outcomes. We are interested in candidates with a strong interest and background in the development of appropriate statistical models for such data. Successful candidates will be responsible for the development and application of up to date methodologies that are applicable to datasets generated by the H3Africa consortium in particular, as well as other data sets. Additionally the candidate will be responsible for the development of training resource material, and assisting with provision of short course training workshops based on the development of these methodologies.

### Qualifications

Successful applicants must hold post-graduate qualifications in a closely related field such as statistics, biostatistics, mathematics, computational biology/bioinformatics or epidemiology; and must have obtained a Ph D degree in a related field.

Emphasis will also be placed on personal aptitude. It is important that applicants have good collaborative skills, and have the ability to work across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Successful candidates are highly motivated and exhibit a commitment to building a career path within genetic epidemiology. In addition, successful candidates must demonstrate fluent English language skills as this is our day-to-day working language.

The position will include structured mentorship and support for applying for additional funds.

### Specific requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a citizen of an African country
- Have obtained a postgraduate degree in a closely related field (preferably statistics, mathematics, computational biology/bioinformatics, biostatistics, epidemiology);
- Be willing to take up the fellowship as soon as possible
- Be prepared to register at the University of Cape Town as a postdoctoral research fellow and to comply with the policies and practices of the Postdoctoral Research Sector of the University, including signing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the appointment.



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- Have experience in using statistical modeling methodologies and their application to datasets
- Must be proficient in R or a similar statistical language

The following will also be advantageous:

- Proficiency in a scripting language e.g. python, unix
- Teaching experience
- Previous publications in peer-reviewed journals

### General Conditions of Award:

1. Only individuals who have achieved the doctoral degree within the past 5 years are eligible to apply
2. Applicants may not previously (since their PhD) have held full-time professional or academic positions
3. The successful candidate may, as part of their professional development, be required to participate in departmental activities such as limited teaching and supervision and duties incidental thereto
4. The successful incumbent will be required to comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

### General information

We offer:

- Challenging and stimulating work and a good work environment
- Postdoctoral research fellowships are considered non-taxable

Only short listed applicants will be contacted to be invited to an interview.

The fellowship has a tax-free value of R250 000 to R300 000 per annum, depending on qualifications and experience.

The position is available with immediate effect.

### How to apply:

The application must include a concise summary of their education, qualifications, previous experience, and motivation for the position. In addition, the application should contain the following attachments:

1. CV, diplomas, certificates and references, including up to 5 academic works that the student may wish to have taken into account for assessment of the application. If it is difficult to identify applicants' contribution to joint work, the applicant must include a brief description of his or her contribution.
2. Statement from at least one former mentor/supervisor/tutor/teacher
3. Contact information for two references (including email addresses and telephone number)
4. Other relevant information



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Candidates from non-English speaking countries must be willing to provide official documentation of their English competence if requested

Questions about this postdoctoral opportunity may be addressed to Dr Nicki Tiffin at the University of Cape Town ([nicki.tiffin@uct.ac.za](mailto:nicki.tiffin@uct.ac.za), telephone +27 21 483 0886)

Applications are to be submitted electronically as a single pdf file to [nicki.tiffin@uct.ac.za](mailto:nicki.tiffin@uct.ac.za) by **30 November 2017**.