

## **2 x PhDs in Palaeoecology: The role of fire, climate, and land use change as drivers of vegetation change in the Cape Floristic Kingdom, South Africa**

Application Deadline: 7 Feb 2019

We are seeking two palaeoecologists for PhDs that investigate the interactions between fire, climate, and vegetation in the biomes of the Western Cape, South Africa. The projects will utilise palaeoecological techniques (e.g. analysis of fossil pollen, charcoal, stable isotopes, fungal spores and radiocarbon dating) in order to examine vegetation ecotonal dynamics and associated changes in ecosystem services over decadal – millennial timescales.

PhD1: Fynbos – renosterveld – succulent karoo dynamics.

PhD2: Forest-fynbos dynamics on the Cape Town Peninsula

The duration of the projects is 3 years, ideally with a starting date in March 2019.

Possession of an MSc in palaeoecology, is a minimum requirement. Experience of pollen analysis and familiarity with pollen and vegetation from the Cape Floristic region is highly advantageous. In accordance with NRF policy, preference will be given to suitably qualified South African nationals, especially from designated groups, but candidates from outside South Africa are also encouraged to apply if they possess relevant palaeoecological skills.

Applications must include the following:

1. A motivating letter stating which project you are applying for, and outlining your suitability, skills and interests, including your ideas for approaching the research and which aspects of the project they are particularly interested in;
2. Your curriculum vitae including details of two contactable academic references; and
3. A copy of your academic record.

Applications must be submitted electronically as a single pdf to Lindsey Gillson (lindsey.gillson@uct.ac.za) by no later than 7 February 2019

Associate Professor Lindsey Gillson  
Plant Conservation Unit  
Department of Biological Sciences  
HW Pearson Building  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag X3  
Rondebosch 7701  
South Africa

Website Link:

[For further information, click here.](#)