

TSHWANE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS CALL

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for a TUT-SU collaborative postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Nature Conservation at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the Department of Botany and Zoology at Stellenbosch University (SU). The programme will allow a successful candidate to spend a year each at TUT and SU working on a coherent and multi-disciplinary research project. Renewal for a second year will be based on satisfactory performance during the first year. The academic hosts, Prof Tshifhiwa Nangammbi at TUT and Prof Conrad Matthee at SU, will provide mentorship. The project will also draw on the experience of Prof Ray Jansen (TUT) and Prof Sonja Matthee (SU).

Research field/area: *Phylogeny, Taxonomy, Microbiome Diversity and Pathogen Screening of Southern African Fleas*

By generating the first comprehensive phylogenetic framework for Southern African fleas, the project will improve species identification, resolve taxonomic uncertainties, and provide a robust evolutionary context for understanding host-parasite associations and parasite diversification. The integrated microbiome and pathogen screening component will improve understanding of flea-borne microorganisms and potential zoonotic pathogens, supporting a One Health approach to animal, human and environmental health.

Minimum requirements:

- A doctoral degree in Zoology/Parasitology/Genetics or related field obtained within the past five years.
- Applicants must have a proven track record of research publication in accredited or peer-reviewed journals.
- Be familiar with DNA sequence analyses and in particular also microbiome bio-informatic analyses.

Value of fellowship:

ZAR 350 000 per annum tax free

Interested candidates should submit the following documents to nangammbi@tut.ac.za and cam@sun.ac.za; detailed CV, certified copies of all relevant qualifications, ID or passport, and a one-page motivation from the candidate as to why they wish to pursue the fellowship.

Enquires: Prof Conrad Matthee, +27 21 808 3957 and Prof Tshifhiwa Nangammbi +27 12 382 5337

Closing date: **18 September 2026**