



SAF-ADAPT

South Africa / Flanders
Climate Adaptation
Research and Training
Partnership

Call for applications:
SAF-ADAPT fully funded Masters Scholarships in Climate Change Adaptation

Closing Date: 30 October 2020

Applications are invited for:

- 2 fully funded Masters scholarships, registered at UNIVEN. The scholarships are for 2 years each (research Masters only).

South Africa faces considerable challenges adapting to climate change. While the research capacity and evidence base focused on climate change impacts is strong, the existing evidence base for adaptation and capacity to apply this knowledge is less well developed. There is therefore a need to generate new research evidence to support adaptation, and to build the adaptation community of practice across government, universities, NGOs, CBOs and the private sector. The SAF-ADAPT project aims to respond to these challenges.

The South Africa / Flanders Climate Adaptation Research and Training Partnership (SAF-ADAPT) project is funded by the Government of Flanders, and is a 4.5-year collaborative project between three South African universities (UCT, UFH and UNIVEN), KLIMOS, a consortium of six Belgian universities, and the SA Adaptation Network, a community of practice of adaptation researchers and practitioners spanning civil society, government and academia. It aims to fill critical adaptation research gaps and enhance the capacity of South African universities and individuals, especially early career researchers, to generate and communicate research evidence for impact, and build the capacity of those tasked with climate adaptation to deliver on their mandates.

SAF-ADAPT scholarships are available to Masters students whose research interests relate to these topics, and particularly the following core themes: locally-led adaptation, urban and/or rural climate resilience, social safety nets, food and/or water security, nature-based solutions, disaster prevention, economics and financing of adaptation, climate change and health, sustainable housing, land-use change and ecosystem services, risk vulnerability assessment, adaptive capacity and the limits to climate change adaptation.

The research will be place-based, with a focus on one or more locations in the Limpopo provinces of South Africa.

There may also be opportunities for training through summer schools, co-supervision between universities and exchange grants.



KU LEUVEN

Criteria

All students applying for a Masters degree should have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or an Honours degree in Environmental Sciences, or equivalent to be eligible

Applications are particularly invited from South African citizens, especially women and candidates from previously disadvantaged groups. Outstanding applicants from other southern African countries will also be considered. Preference will be given to students who can work independently, are well organized and who will be willing to participate in and exchange activities with the partner universities (UNIVEN, UFH, UCT and Ku Leuven. Candidates should have excellent communication skills and written/verbal knowledge of the English language.

Value

Masters full-time 24 months: R105 000 pa

Reasonable running costs and travel expenses will be covered

Conditions of award

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Apply, and be accepted, for study at the University of Venda
- Comply with the university's approved policies, procedures and practices
- Commit to attending project team meetings as required;
- Commit to complete their degree within the stipulated period (2 years)

To apply

Applicants should submit in a **single combined PDF**:

- (i) An application letter that includes a short description of your expertise and research interests, and how these relate to the position;
- (ii) A CV, including a list of any publications (if any) on which you have been an author
- (iii) Copies of the most recent academic transcripts and/or certificates;
- (iv) Email addresses of at least two academic references who have been directly involved in your work.

Selection process:

- Only eligible and complete applications will be considered by the selection committee.
- If you have not heard within one month of the deadline, please assume your application has been unsuccessful.
- Interviews of short-listed candidates are likely take place in the first week of November 2020.

Closing date: Applications received **before midday on 30 October 2020** are guaranteed consideration. Applications received thereafter may be considered if the position has not been filled.

Please submit your application, as single combined PDF to Dr. NS Nethengwe, nthaduleni.nethengwe@univen.ac.za
Please include in the subject of the email that you are applying for the Masters scholarship.

Please direct enquiries to the following contact point:

- Dr NS Nethengwe, nthaduleni.nethengwe@univen.ac.za

The University of Cape Town, the University of Fort Hare and the University of Venda reserve the right to make no award at all, to cancel the award if the conditions are not met, and to effect changes to the conditions of the award.

