



University of Venda

Creating Future Leaders

Revenue and Financial Aid Directorate

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SUBJECT: W&RSETA Postdoctoral Research Fellowship 2025

The Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&RSETA), in collaboration with Research Leadership Chairs at top universities, is inviting applications for the prestigious **W&RSETA Postdoctoral Research Fellowship 2025**.

Why Apply for the W&RSETA Postdoctoral Research Fellowship?

The **W&RSETA Postdoctoral Research Fellowship** is designed to support two highly motivated candidates who are ready to embark on a 12-month research journey. Fellows will delve into sector-specific research on skills demand and supply, with a focus on:

- Market Trends
- Consumer Behaviour
- Workforce Transitions
- Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)

This research aims to address critical skills gaps, evaluate labour market trends, and explore the implications of 4IR technologies on workforce competencies. Successful candidates will have the unique opportunity to influence policy and practice, enhancing the wholesale and retail sector's capacity to adapt to technological advancements and evolving skills demands.

Key Responsibilities

As a **W&RSETA Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, you will:

- Support the implementation and update of the W&RSETA Research Agenda.
- Participate in ongoing research projects.
- Develop research tools, methodologies, and implementation plans.
- Conduct data gathering and analysis.

- Write comprehensive research reports.
- Present findings and contribute to the **W&RSETA summative research publication**.
- Engage with stakeholders within the **Wholesale and Retail sector**.

Eligibility Criteria:

- PhD qualification (preferably in Economics, Developmental Studies, Psychology, or a sector-related field).
- Proven ability to publish papers in accredited peer-reviewed journals.
- Experience with data analysis and large-scale data sets.
- South African citizenship, with preference given to applicants from designated groups.
- People living with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Research Focus Areas:

Applicants are required to submit a detailed research proposal on one of the following topics:

- **Advancing Retail Efficiency and Decision-Making through Data Science Techniques:** Exploring frameworks to enhance the wholesale and retail sector.
- **Blockchain Technology in Inventory Management:** Investigating cost-effective solutions for inventory control.
- **Determinants of Profitability for SMEs in South Africa's Wholesale and Retail Sector:** Analysing the factors influencing SME success.
- **Predictive Analytics for Enhanced Sales Forecasting:** Evaluating its impact on operational efficiency and strategic decision-making.

How to Apply?

Ready to make an impact? Here's how you can apply:

1. Prepare a **detailed research proposal** on one of the focus areas mentioned above.
2. Compile a **full CV** with contact details for three referees.
3. Include **certified copies of all qualifications and your ID** (not older than six months).
4. Send your application to **PostDoctoralFellow@wrseta.org.za** for the attention of the **Strategic Planning Specialist: Thozamile Thusani**.

Deadline for applications: 31 March 2025

Note: Late applications will not be accepted, and candidates who have previously benefitted from the programme are not eligible to apply.

Kind Regards



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Tshilidzi Ramulondi

Director: Revenue & Financial Aid

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