

CALL FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



The University of Venda (UNIVEN) is pleased to announce postdoctoral research fellowship opportunities within its newly established Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in Mining Research Hub. The Hub is committed to advancing innovative, policy-relevant, and translational research that promotes the health, safety, and well-being of workers in the mining sector. The Hub's interdisciplinary research agenda integrates occupational health sciences, public health, epidemiology, environmental health, digital health, injury and disease surveillance, artificial intelligence (AI), and health systems strengthening, with a strong focus on translating research into practice, policy, and entrepreneurship.

Successful postdoctoral fellows will conduct high-impact research addressing key occupational health and safety priorities, including exposure assessment, disease surveillance, gender-responsive workplace health, environmental and biological hazards, and digital/AI-enabled monitoring and surveillance systems. Fellows will contribute to shaping evidence-based policies, strengthening health systems, driving innovation and entrepreneurial activity, and improving worker well-being across the mining sector.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- The Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (PDRF) is open to interested candidates who wish to undertake postdoctoral research at UNIVEN,
- Applicants must have obtained their PhD within 5 (five) years prior to applying for a PDRF with UNIVEN,
- Applicants must hold a PhD in occupational health, occupational hygiene, public health, epidemiology, environmental health, digital health, or a closely related field. Interdisciplinary backgrounds that integrate health, mining, policy, gender studies, or technology applications in occupational safety are also encouraged.
- Applicants who hold a PhD certificate or who have proof that they have completed their PhD may apply.
- Evidence of published research output, or potential to produce high-quality research that can be published in accredited dissemination channels.
- Priority will be given to South African citizens/permanent residents who meet the above requirements.

DURATION AND VALUE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- The fellowship is awarded for a period of one (1) year, renewable for three years based on performance. The fellowship will start on 1 April 2026 and end on 31 March 2029.
- The value of the fellowship is R320 000.00 per annum (tax-free), of which R250 000.00 is payable as a stipend, whereas R70 000.00 is for running costs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please email the following documentation in a single PDF file to Lindiwe.Zungu@univen.ac.za by **11 March 2026**.

- Motivation letter, outlining the candidate's relevant expertise and experience.
- Full CV of the candidate listing research publications, conference papers, and other scholarly outputs.
- Certified copies of full academic transcript and doctoral degree certificate.
- Certified copy of ID document.
- Reference letters from 2 academic referees.