



Sustainable Academic Capacity Building for Excellence through Research and Training (SACERT) Programme.

Providing Training in Chronic Stress and Mental Disorders Research

SACERT Faculty

USA

Gail E. Wyatt, Ph.D.

Norweeta G. Milburn, Ph.D.

Alison B. Hamilton, Ph.D.

Tamra Burns Loeb, Ph.D.

University of California
Los Angeles

Semel Institute for
Neuroscience & Human
Behavior

Department of Psychiatry
and Biobehavioral
Sciences

South Africa

Leickness Simbayi, DPhil

Deputy Chief Executive
Officer for Research
Human Science Research
Council

**Mashudu Davhana-
Maselesele, DPhil**

Mthatha Campus Rector,
Walter Sisulu University

Dan Stein, M.D., Ph.D.

Sharon Kleintjes, Ph.D.

University of Cape Town
Department of Psychiatry
and Mental Health

**Soraya Seedat, MBChB,
MMed (Psych), FC Psych,
PhD**

Stellenbosch University
Department of Psychiatry

The focus of the SACERT Scholarship

SACERT is a five-year (2021-2026) training programme aimed at supporting primarily underrepresented pre-doctoral students to complete their doctoral degrees at selected universities in South Africa. The programme also aims to improve the educational and mentoring climates of participating universities across the course of the programme.

South African students and academics who have commenced doctoral studies in chronic stress and mental disorders including substance abuse, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder across the life course are invited to apply for this scholarship.

The training is an international collaboration between University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and 12 South African universities and research institutions, with core faculty drawn from the University of Cape Town, the University of Stellenbosch, the Human Sciences Research Council and Walter Sisulu University.

What skills can scholars expect to develop through the scholarship?

The scholarship will enhance scholars' research skills in the areas of chronic stress and mental disorders, support their research productivity during the two-year tenure, strengthen their work through mentorship, provide opportunity to build and sustain links with a supportive network of scholars and mentors across participating universities, and assist with skills development to disseminate scholars' and mentors' research on chronic stress and mental disorders.

Scholars will also be exposed to opportunity for skills development in workload and time management, academic writing skills, grant writing skills and self-care and mental wellbeing skills.

Scholarship funding

Scholars will receive a stipend for the duration of the two-year training and mentoring period, as well as all expenses paid for the local and US-based workshops and internship.

Eligibility criteria

- South African citizens.
- Qualifications in nursing, medicine, social work, occupational therapy, psychology, psychiatry or public health.
- Registered for their doctoral degree with an advanced proposal for their study (nearing submission or submitted for ethics approval at their university).
- Focus of the study must be in the area of chronic stress or mental disorders.
- Ability to attend the workshops in South Africa, and to travel to UCLA for three months.
- Obtained a letter of support to participate in the programme from their universities.
- Willingness to complete post-training evaluations, provide 6 monthly evaluations for the first 2 years post internship, and complete an annual feedback form for 8 years thereafter.

Application process

The applicant should provide a completed application form, a 2-page summary of their doctoral study proposal, a CV, 3 references, a letter of support from the scholar's main dissertation supervisor, and a letter of endorsement from the department at which registered for the dissertation. Please contact Prof Sharon Kleintjes (cc Ms Nikita Titus) for enquiries using the subject line SACERT in your email to sr.kleintjes@uct.ac.za and nikita.titus@uct.ac.za

Important Dates

Application due to both Ms. Amber Smith
(AmberSmith@mednet.ucla.edu) and Ms
Nikita Titus (nikita.titus@uct.ac.za)

3 December 2021

Applicant interviews

Mid-December 2021

