PhD Candidate

Call for PhD Candidate: Psychiatric Genetics Group

We are looking for a motivated PhD student to join the Psychiatric Genetics Group within the Centre for Brain-Behaviour at the UCT Neuroscience Institute. The PhD candidate will be supervised by Dr Megan Campbell in the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The successful candidate will be supported by grants awarded to Dr Campbell. A stipend will be offered and continuation after the first year will be contingent on satisfactory academic progress.

Research scope

The doctoral project will align with key research priorities within psychiatric genomics. The successful candidate will conduct large-scale genomic analyses, statistical genetics, or computational genomics, with a dedicated focus on developing and applying analytical methodologies optimised for diverse and admixed populations.

Position Details & Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will receive specialised training tailored to the technical scope of the project. In addition to primary research activities, the candidate will be expected to contribute to broader project operations, including community engagement initiatives.

Start Date

This scholarship is tenable from early 2027.

Requirements

We particularly encourage applications from students with a background or strong interest in genetics, bioinformatics, neuroscience, or related disciplines. Experience working with large datasets, as well as experience working in R and Python and utilizing command line tools, would be beneficial. Applicants should have strong analytical and writing skills.

Application procedure

Submit your application as a single consolidated PDF file via email to **bronwyn.malagas@uct.ac.za**. Ensure the subject line clearly states: **"PhD Application"**. The application must include:

1. A cover letter, outlining your research interests and alignment with the group's research directions.
2. A full curriculum vitae.
3. The names and contact details of two academic referees.

Closing date for applications: 16 October 2026

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview and may undergo a computational/analytical competency assessment. UCT reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications; to change the conditions of award; and/or to make no awards at all.