



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**  
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Geological Sciences Building, University of Cape Town

7701, Rondebosch, South Africa

Tel: +27 21 650 5598/2920

email:mark.new@acdi.uct.ac.za"

www.acdi.uct.ac.za

---

## Call for applications for ReSiDeR PhD fellowship programme

**Deadline:** 2019-09-20

**A call for applications for a PhD Scholarships in Remote Sensing for Urban and Rural Development & Resilience, prioritising staff and affiliates of UniVen, Fort Hare and UCT**

### Purpose

The impact of climate change is being felt more and more in both rural and urban environments, which each rely on natural resources under pressure from multiple demands for food security, livelihoods and development. The water crisis in Cape Town got global attention. Adaptation is needed in several domains. Better data – especially spatial- are needed for local planners to map changes in ecosystem stability and ecosystem services in both rural and urban conditions. High resolution satellite imagery and GIS can contribute a lot to quantify and locate issues and possible solutions.

Remote Sensing for Urban and Rural Development & Resilience (ReSiDeR) is a 4 year research project funded by VLIR-UOS ([www.vlir-uos.be](http://www.vlir-uos.be)) that responds to these challenges. The project partnership includes the University of Cape Town, University of Fort Hare and University of Venda from South Africa, and the KU Leuven in Belgium.

ReSiDeR will study trade-offs and win-win scenarios between rural and urban development and natural resources conservation under climate change. It will provide scientific support in the form of tools to develop sustainable development plans, taking into account the need to (1) map processes and features associated with climate change, (2) test and develop tools to assess resilience and trade-offs.

As part of ReSiDeR, this project brings together South African Universities and KU Leuven to offer **one sandwich PhD scholarship**. These PhD scholarship is intended to support staff capacity development at the University of Venda, the University of Fort Hare or the University of Cape Town. Hence, priority will be given to staff members of either institution, or candidates with affiliation or strong links to these institutions.

The (ACDI) is a cross - university initiative which supports interdisciplinary and collaborative research and training in climate change and development.

The PhD candidate will be supported via a structured sandwich PhD programme, including:

- A 24 month fellowship at KU Leuven (split in four periods) that provides for travel, accommodation, visa costs and stipend.
- The support of BSc and MSc students to conduct thesis research
- Interdisciplinary and inter-institutional co-supervision and expert advice
- The option of participating in an annual PhD summer school (2020 and 2021) on transdisciplinary research for climate change, which will be hosted at one of the South African university partners.

The PhD fellows are expected to spend 50% of their time at KU Leuven, Belgium and 50% of their time in South Africa in between time spent at KU Leuven. The starting date would be end of January 2020.

### **Call for application**

We therefore invite applications from candidates wishing to obtain a PhD relating to 'Remote Sensing for Urban and Rural Development & Resilience'. Priority will be given first to candidates who are staff members at either the University of Venda, University of Fort Hare, thereafter to candidates who are affiliated to these two institutions or who have strong links to these institutions.

Staff members should have permission from their university to spend in total 24 months away at KU Leuven and also spend the bulk of their time on PhD research during the 24 months in South Africa.

Candidates who have recently registered their PhDs in 2018 or 2019 and have not started their fieldwork/research are also encouraged to apply and may be awarded on condition that they re-align their research focus with the theme of this call (if not already aligned).

### **Conditions of employment**

The successful incumbent will be required to:

- Register as a PhD student at KU Leuven and join the Arenberg Doctoral school (<https://set.KULeuven.be/phd>)
- Candidates who did not obtain a MSc. at a Flemish university with distinction will have to successfully complete a 6-month pre-doctoral program (February 2020 – June 2020). Please check the following website for full details about the pre-doctoral program: <https://set.KULeuven.be/phd/predoc.htm>
- Comply with KU Leuven's approved policies, procedures and practices of the Arenberg doctoral school
- Comply with their own university's approved policies, procedures and practices for staff development;

The (ACDI) is a cross - university initiative which supports interdisciplinary and collaborative research and training in climate change and development.

- Commit to attending project team meetings as required;
- Be willing to be co-supervised by a supervisor from one partner institution;
- Commit to completing their doctoral degree (PhD) by 2023;
- Be willing to sign a Student-Supervisor agreement / social contract committing to participation in the programme; the achievement of specific yearly milestones; and a service obligation of at least one year at the university, after completion of the doctoral degree.

The ReSiDeR project offers:

- An appointment for **three** years in the ReSiDeR project with University of Cape Town, University of Fort Hare and University of Venda from South Africa, and KU Leuven in Belgium
- Coverage of costs for travel, insurance, tuition fee and housing in Leuven
- A stipend in Belgium of 960 Euro/month (pre-doc of 6 months) and of 1650 Euro/month (doctoral program of 18 months) is provided through VLIR-UOS. While in South Africa (24 months) the regular salary should be covered by the South African host institution in the case of the candidate being a member of staff. In cases where the candidate is not a member of staff receiving a salary, the project team will endeavour to find additional scholarship funds to cover the period in South Africa, but this is not guaranteed.

### **Academic criteria**

Applicants must have achieved their Master's degree from a related field. Candidates with a BSc. degree can be considered if they show evidence of high level research outputs like publications in international scientific A1 journals. Study results with cum laude in your student trajectory are not mandatory, but recommended.

We are interested in the following three skill sets, candidates should be experienced in at least one of these categories:

- Remote sensing
- GIS
- Computer programming/scripting skills for data processing, analysis and modelling

Candidates should have excellent communication skills and written/verbal knowledge of the English language.

The (ACDI) is a cross - university initiative which supports interdisciplinary and collaborative research and training in climate change and development.

## **Application requirements**

Applicants should submit

- (i) An application letter that includes a short description of their expertise and research interests, and how these relate to the position,
- (ii) A 5-6 p PhD research proposal
- (iii) A CV including a publication list,
- (iv) Copies of the most recent academic transcripts and/or certificates, and
- (v) Email addresses of at least two references who been directly involved in their masters or other research.
- (vi) Letter of support from Head of Department / Director supporting participation of the staff member under this programme;

## **Selection process:**

- Only eligible and complete applications will be considered by the selection committee.
- Interviews will take place as required until October 2019 and the successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible after their interview.
- We reserve the right not to appoint anyone to this position.

## **Closing date:**

Applications will be received until 20 September 2019.

## **Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries:**

Please submit your application to Nondumiso Mginywa ([nondumiso.mginywa@uct.ac.za](mailto:nondumiso.mginywa@uct.ac.za)) and Bruno Verbist ([Bruno.Verbist@ees.KULeuven.be](mailto:Bruno.Verbist@ees.KULeuven.be))

Please direct enquiries to the following contact points:

- For UFH: Dr Leocadia Zhou ([lzhou@ufh.ac.za](mailto:lzhou@ufh.ac.za))
- For UNIVEN: Dr Nthaduleni Nethengwe ([nthaduleni.nethengwe@univen.ac.za](mailto:nthaduleni.nethengwe@univen.ac.za))
- For KU Leuven: Dr Bruno Verbist ([Bruno.Verbist@ees.KULeuven.be](mailto:Bruno.Verbist@ees.KULeuven.be))
- For UCT: Leigh Cobban ([leigh.cobban@uct.ac.za](mailto:leigh.cobban@uct.ac.za))

## **Important to note:**

KU Leuven, 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.

The (ACDI) is a cross - university initiative which supports interdisciplinary and collaborative research and training in climate change and development.

KU Leuven, the University of Cape Town, the University of Fort Hare and the University of Venda reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications.

Should any other information be required please contact Nondumiso Mginywa, assistant Coordinator Education Portfolio: telephone 27 21650 3434 or email

[Nondumiso.mginywa@uct.ac.za](mailto:Nondumiso.mginywa@uct.ac.za)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark New". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Prof Mark New

Pro – V for Climate Change and Director, ACIDI

University of Cape Town