



SEFAKO MAKGATHO
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Research and Innovation Directorate

SMU/NRF POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS ADVERTISEMENT

The University strategy focuses on developing excellence in teaching and learning, growing research and innovation. The University seeks to increase research productivity by strategically investing in areas where potential excellence is nurtured. Amongst others, the University actively recruits and attracts postdoctoral research fellows, providing opportunities to contribute significantly to the development of postgraduates and to advance new scientific knowledge and innovation in their chosen research field.

Therefore, the Research and Innovation Directorate invites applicants with a relevant doctoral degree to apply for the following:

Postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Clinical Psychology, in the School of Medicine at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU)

We are seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Fellow to join an interdisciplinary research team at the intersection of clinical psychology, neuropsychology, psychoneuroimmunology, and oncology. The overarching aim of this fellowship is to advance understanding of cognition and disease states, with a focus on cancer-related cognitive dysfunction, its neurobiological underpinnings, and associated mechanisms. The project will investigate the following: biomarkers of cognitive dysfunction, including inflammatory markers; neurobehavioral and cognitive markers of cancer-related and treatment-related changes. Broader pathways linking cognition, obesity, diabetes, and HIV to disease outcomes may also be explored as needed. We invite applications from candidates with a PhD in Applied Psychology (clinical, neuropsychology, biological psychology), neuropsychology, or related interdisciplinary neuroscience fields, who are interested in contributing to dynamic, cross-cutting field research in resource-constrained settings to improve outcomes and quality of life.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will be expected to:

- Conduct independent research on an approved research niche under the supervision of an Established Researcher.
- Publish a minimum of three research articles or generate at least two research output units annually.
- Assist in the supervision/co-supervision of at least two postgraduate master's students and contribute to the development of the next generation of scientists in their field during the duration of their contract.
- Assist with writing/co-writing funding applications.
- Work well within a team.



Value for support

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship	Value (R)	Duration
	300 000 pa*	2 years**

* Value is tax-exempt

** Subject to annual submission of a satisfactory progress report

Minimum Requirements:

- Be a South African citizen or hold a permanent South African residency status in South Africa
- Applicant must have graduated with a PhD in a relevant field, e.g. Applied Psychology, Biological Psychology, Applied Neuroscience, Psychoneuroimmunology, **within the last five (5) years**, and must have a strong background in Interdisciplinary research.
- Demonstrate ability to conduct independent research.
- Evidence of published research in peer-reviewed journals in the related fields.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

In addition, the applicant should:

- Be proficient in statistical analysis, mixed-method research, and
- Proficiency in basic Structural Equation Modelling (SEM), R or Python would be an added advantage

The fellowship is tenable for one year with the possibility to extend to a second year, depending on satisfactory progress.

How to apply

Please send a motivating cover letter which summarises your relevant expertise and experience, Full CV with a list of publications or other scholarly outputs, Certified copies (within the last 6 months), of ID/ passport, academic transcripts and certificates, One-page summary of research interest and current contact details of two referees.

Applications must be submitted to Ms Fulufhelo Malamatsho at researchcapacity@smu.ac.za before or on **10 November 2025**. Enquiries should be sent to Prof. Antonio Lentoer via email antonio.lentoer@smu.ac.za

Late applications will not be considered.

It is the applicant's responsibility to have foreign qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). Failure to submit the requested documents/information will result in your application not being considered.

The University reserves the right not to make an appointment.

“Knowledge for quality health services”