



College of Humanities

Applications are invited from the eligible young academics/scholars within the College of Humanities for the **Early Career Scholarship Programme**

Introduction

The College of Humanities at UKZN is committed to nurturing new generations of scholars to strengthen research, teaching and community engagement and build the intellectual leadership indispensable for an outstanding African university and democracy and development.

The College of Humanities has mobilised funding to support UKZN Humanities early career scholars to conduct research, supervise postgraduate students, attend conferences, and enhance their research, writing and supervision expertise as part of developing their academic careers.

The Fellowship

The successful applicants will be supported in one or more of the following ways:

- Award of an Early Career Research Fellowship. The Fellowship will provide teaching and administration relief for three months through funding for replacement teaching costs. Replacement costs will be as per official UKZN rates. The successful Fellow is expected to contribute three months of his/her sabbatical leave to constitute a total of six months of research leave (this is subject to the approval by the Discipline and School).
- Award of an Early Career Research Grant to undertake fieldwork.
- Early Career Development Activities related to writing, publishing, and supervising higher-degree candidates.
- Support attending conferences to present their work and establish scholarly and publishing networks.
- Limited Student Scholarships. To facilitate staff development and progression, competitively recruited master's students will be attached to the Early Career Research Fellows.

Eligibility

The College of Humanities Early Career Scholars Fellowship is targeted at College of Humanities academics who are employed on a full-time, permanent basis), possess a PhD, received their PhD less than 12 years ago and have an emerging and/or sustained track record of publishing, and supervision of postgraduate students.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- 40 years old or younger (Upon motivation, consideration may be given to candidates up to age 40).
- Be employed on a permanent basis at the College of Humanities, University of KwaZulu-Natal.
- Possess a doctoral degree from any recognised higher education institution awarded after 1 January 2014.
- Have received their PhD's less than 12 years ago.
- Have an emerging and/or sustained track record of publishing and postgraduate supervision.
- Have not been awarded a Mellon (or similar) early career fellowship.
- Provide confirmation from the Dean or Discipline Head that their PDP has been approved

In selecting applicants, consideration will be given to gender representation, diversity of disciplines and participation in previous or current research projects. Where the successful candidate is already supported by the UCDP or any other grant, the College Committee reserves the right to waive the 'teaching relief' or other components of the fellowship.

Enquiries and details regarding this opportunity may be directed to Professor Magidimisha-Chipungu, College of Humanities Email: magidimishah@ukzn.ac.za Tel: +2731 260 1353 and Professor Nirmala Gopal, College of Humanities Email: Gopal@ukzn.ac.za Tel: +2731 260 7896

Applications (see the accompanying Application Form)

The interested parties should send the Application form, together with supporting document to Lebohang Sibisi SibisiL@ukzn.ac.za, the Committee Officer, College of Humanities.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 20 July 2026



College of Humanities

College of Humanities Early Career Scholars Programme

Application Form

Please read the **Early Career Scholars Programme Call for Applications 2026** carefully in preparing your application.

Applications should be sent to the Committee Officer, College of Humanities:
Lebohang Sibisi

SibisiL@ukzn.ac.za by close of business on 20 July 2026 No late applications will be accepted.

[This is a new advertisement. Staff who applied previously must reapply.](#)

A. The following documents must accompany your application:

1. A motivational cover letter of not more than two pages in length. The letter should include a description of the applicant's academic career, detailing the ideas and experiences that have shaped and motivated his or her scholarly and intellectual work.
2. A pre-proposal for a research project. This is a short essay of three to four pages that provides (i) a summary of the applicant's proposed research/work, (ii) the purposes, goals, and objectives of the proposed research project, including the key research questions, (iii) an overview of existing literature and other sources for the project, (iv) the project's proposed theoretical background and methodological approach, (v) the significance/relevance of the project for African scholarship, (vi) the proposed activities and outputs, and (vii) a provisional time framework.
3. A full curriculum vitae, including peer-reviewed publications.
4. A certified copy of the applicant's doctoral certificate (or proof of PhD Degree completion).
5. Two letters of support from senior academics.

6. Confirmation from the Dean and Head of School, that the Fellow will be released from her/his workload to take up the fellowship (unless one of the letters of support, Point 5 above, is from the Dean & Head of School).

B. Applicant Eligibility Checklist (mark with X)

1. Were you born after 1 January 1986?

Yes	
No	

2. Please provide your South African ID /Passport Number.

ID/PASSPORT number	
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3. Please indicate your major discipline/field.

Discipline/Field	
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4. Are you a full-time member of staff at UKZN, College of Humanities **AND** have you retained this status post 1 January 2026?

Yes	
No	

5. Please provide your UKZN staff number

UKZN STAFF number	
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6. Will you maintain your UKZN employment status for the duration of the proposed fellowship period?

Yes	
No	

7. Was your doctoral degree officially conferred after 1 January 2014?

Yes	
No	

C. Administrative Information

Surname	
Given name and other names	
Date of birth	
Place of birth	
Gender	
Citizenship	
Country of residence	
Doctoral degree granting institution	
Title of dissertation	
Date the doctorate was officially granted	
Department of current employment	
Postal address	
E-mail address	
Alternative e-mail address (if any)	
Telephone (work)	
Mobile phone	

Descriptive project title
Abstract (summary of the project or topic, not more than 200 words)

Higher Education qualifications

Name of institution and country	Field of study	Dates of enrolment	Degree and year conferred

Post-doctoral fellowships or equivalent post-PhD research experience

Name of institution and country	Dates of the fellowship	Title of project	Research outputs

Have you undertaken any other research projects?

Funder	Date	Title of project	Project output (e.g. article, chapter, book, report, etc.)

Teaching experience

Name of institution and country	Years at institution	Course titles	Academic level (i.e. 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd year, Honours, etc.)

Experience outside the country of residence (include study, research, teaching, consulting, employment)

Institution	Dates in position	Position/Experience	Research outputs (if any)

List of academic publications

List relevant journal papers, book chapters, or books (please provide full bibliographic details)

Checklist of completed application documents (mark with X):

	Yes	No
1. Application form (this document)		
2. Motivation letter		
3. Pre-proposal		
4. Copy of curriculum vitae		
5. Certified Copy of doctoral certificate or Official Proof Of Degree Completion		
6. Letters of support x 2		
7. Dean's confirmation to release fellow (unless 1 of 6 above is from the Dean)		

By signing this application form, you declare to the best of your knowledge that the information provided herein is accurate and valid.

Signature:

Date: