

Advertisement: Two MSc Positions available in FABI focused on sunflower environmental responses

Two MSc positions are available in the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) and the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Pretoria.

The agricultural and forestry sectors are significant as they drive development on the continent. These sectors are critical for the future food security, drivers of the economy and critically linked to jobs. A major growing threat to our food security and economy is climate change and it is critical to understand how plants respond to these changes both on the physiological and molecular level.

1. *The first position will use cutting-edge phenotyping technologies such as the Phenospex PlantEye system and new low-cost high-throughput Raspberry Pi based systems to assess how sunflower responds to different environments associate with planting date.*

This candidate should be highly motivated and have a background in botany and plant physiology. The candidate will join a dynamic team as part of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) and the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, which has a depth of expertise in the relevant fields. This candidate will also collaborate closely with the Agricultural Research Council as part of a larger team working on this multi-disciplinary project.

2. *The second position will use transcriptomics to identify the regulatory mechanisms underlying flower response to temperature in sunflower.*

This candidate should be highly motivated and have a background in genetics, biotechnology or molecular biology. The candidate will join a dynamic team as part of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), the Bioinformatics Unit and the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at UP, which have a depth of expertise in the relevant fields.

Interested candidates should submit a full CV and at least two reference letters to Dr. Nicky Creux (Nicole.creux@fab.i.up.ac.za) by the 15 March 2020, but the search will continue until the ideal candidates are found.