2x PhD projects available

Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria & Stellenbosch University

Overview: The Wellcome Trust recently funded a new project titled 'CryptoADAPT: *Cryptococcus* adaptation to causing human disease in Africa through pathogen thermotolerance'. *Cryptococcus* is one of the most important opportunistic human fungal pathogens in the world, with mounting evidence that suggests its evolutionary origin in southern Africa. The project will combine ecology, experimental evolution, genomics and fungal biology to better understand how *Cryptococcus* evolve in natural African biodiversity hotspots to become human pathogens. CryptoADAPT bring together diverse partners from around the world, including FABI, Stellenbosch University, the University of the Witwatersrand, Centro de Investigação em Saúde de Manhiça (CISM) in Mozambique, the University of Zambia, Imperial College London (UK), and Duke University (USA).

Required Qualifications: MSc in microbiology, genetics or closely related field; demonstrated analytical/statistical abilities related to fungal isolations, ecology, genomics, systematics, taxonomy and writing skills; ability to work independently and as part of a team; strong publication record; and be able and willing to do physical fieldwork.

Compensation: The bursary for this position is very competitive.

Duration: 3-years.

Review of applicants will commence on 1 Oct 2025 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Preferred start date: March 2026.

Application Process: Email to Prof Cobus M Visagie (cobus.visagie@fabi.up.ac.za) and Prof Francois Roets (fr@sun.ac.za): 1) a cover letter that includes your research interests and qualifications and analytical and writing experience; 2) Curriculum Vitae; 3) 1–2 representative publications, and; 4) contact information for three referees

Yours sincerely,

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