

FMG - EPPI PROGRAMME

2026

PHD AND MSC POSITIONS

The **FMG (Forest Molecular Genetics) - EPPI (Eucalyptus Pine Pathogens Interactions) Programme** at the University of Pretoria focuses on the genetic control of tree resilience, growth, development and responses to pest & diseases and climate variables in *Eucalyptus* and Pine species, with a view to enhance properties for timber, pulp, paper and biomaterials production.

We work in close collaboration with South African forestry companies to develop capacity and resources for biotechnology research, tree genomics and molecular breeding.

The FMG-EPPI programme is seeking **three postgraduate students (1 PhD and 2 MScs)** to support a research focus on tree molecular genetics and genomics and in the area of tree resilience to abiotic & biotic stress.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

- ✓ **PhD (Genetics/Bioinformatics)** - This project aims to determine the contribution of genetics and environment to *Pinus patula* productivity.
- ✓ **MSc (Genetics)** - This project aims to determine QTLs linked to resistance against fungal pathogens in *Eucalyptus*.
- ✓ **MSc (Genetics)** - This project focuses on the development of pine somatic embryogenesis.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ✓ The projects are fully funded (PhD - 3 years, MSc - 2 years) and offers a competitive bursary for a qualified student, providing financial support for the duration of the degree.

CLOSING DATE

12 FEBRUARY 2026

APPLY NOW



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



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To apply or submit an expression of interest, please send your resume, cover letter and academic transcripts to Dr Ronishree Mangwanda (FMG - EPPI Programme Manager) ronishree.mangwanda@up.ac.za