

Postdoctoral Position in the Grain Research Programme

We seek to hire a postdoctoral research fellow to conduct research on Northern Corn Leaf Blight (NCLB) within the Grain Research Programme. This position is part of an ongoing collaboration between FABI (the University of Pretoria), Grain SA and other industry partners.

NCLB is one of the most important foliar diseases affecting maize production across the world. It is caused by the fungus *Exserohilum turcicum*. The successful candidate will be expected to generate whole genomes sequences, complete population genetics and determine physiological race diversity of *Exserohilum turcicum*. The ideal candidate will have a background in one or more of the following disciplines: plant pathology, mycology and genetics (includes experience in whole genome sequencing and population genetics).

Required Qualifications: PhD in plant pathology, microbiology, genetics or closely related field; demonstrated analytical/statistical abilities and writing skills; ability to work independently and as part of a team (see <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/>); publication record; valid driver's license; and be able and willing to do physical fieldwork. Preference will be given to candidates with previous research experience post a PhD.

Responsibilities: The postdoc will be responsible for: 1) contributing to the design of experiments and future proposals related to NCLB; 2) supervising postgraduate students; 3) analysis and publication of ongoing projects; and 4) presenting results at professional, stakeholder and extension meetings.

Compensation: The compensation package for this position is very competitive and is dependent on experience.

Duration: 12 months, full-time initial appointment with the possibility of two years additional support, conditional on satisfactory performance (evaluated annually) and the availability of funds.

Review of applicants will commence on 17 May 2021 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.

Preferred start date: As soon as possible.

Application Process: Email to Prof Cobus M Visagie (cobus.visagie@fabi.up.ac.za) and Prof Bernard Slippers (bernard.slippers@fabi.up.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.

The logo for FABI (Fungal and Bacterial Infection Research Institute) is displayed in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font.