



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Research Fellowship Position

A new high profile, cutting edge research experiment in which growth and development is intensively monitored in various species of *Eucalyptus* is to be implanted on a ~9 ha area at Innovation Africa at the University of Pretoria. The project works in close collaboration with the IMPACT Open Air Laboratory (OAL) at Lourensford linked established by the EucXylo Group at Stellenbosch University (<https://eucxylo.sun.ac.za/open-air-lab/>). The OAL will focus on key experimental questions of environmental impact (in particular controlling for water availability) on tree growth and development, as well as pest, pathogen and microbiome interactions under these conditions; with the opportunity to develop other research questions around these core treatments.

A Research Fellow is sought to conduct research and to oversee and manage the establishment of this new experiment in close collaboration with the PIs (Prof Dave Drew and Prof Bernard Slippers) and other stakeholders and partners. The position will be within FABI and appointed for a minimum of one year but likely to be extended to two years.

### Job requirements

- Minimum of a PhD (ideally in last 5 years) in forest science, soil science, environmental science, natural resource management, plant ecophysiology, tree/forest pathology, or other relevant fields.
- Experience working in a field environment
- Strong people skills
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English
- Data management skills including ability to use software tools like R or Python

### Desirable

- Experience working with remotely sensed data (e.g. drone images or laser point clouds)
- Experience with digital sensors in field (e.g. temperature sensors, or sap flow sensors and dataloggers)

### Duties/responsibilities

- Initiate appropriate research projects around the core questions linked to the OAL
- Co-supervision of students allocated to the project
- To work closely with the Forestry industry partners who will provide germplasm for establishment at the site
- Close interaction with staff at the experimental farm at Innovation Africa
- Interaction with other academic/s around development and implementation of sensors
- Sourcing of applicable technology (e.g. weather stations and soil water sensors) in concert with PIs and other project partners
- To develop an Annual Plan of Operations for the site
- To update maps and site information

Starting date: Hopefully 1 August 2025

This position will be based in Pretoria.

Contact: [drew@sun.ac.za](mailto:drew@sun.ac.za) and [bernard.slippers@fabi.up.ac.za](mailto:bernard.slippers@fabi.up.ac.za)