



POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Deadline: 17h00 20 February 2026

The DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development, at the Department of Commercial Law, University of Cape Town has one post-doctoral research fellowship available for 2025. We invite suitably qualified candidates to apply. The successful candidate will be one of three post-doctoral fellows and, as part of the team, be expected to participate in the Chair's research focus areas of intellectual property, innovation and development, as set out at www.ipchair.uct.ac.za. Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account the applicant's academic achievements and potential as a researcher. The applicant's research outputs contribute significantly to the selection for an award and a full list of research outputs, including publication records, must be included in the applicant's CV.

Conditions, Value and Tenure of the Fellowship

In addition to complying with the University's policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector, the fellow will be expected, under the auspices of the Chair, to prepare at least two subsidy-bearing journal articles (or the equivalent) for publication over the course of the 12-month duration of the fellowship. The fellow will also be expected to support the operation of the Chair actively and will be given opportunities to develop their professional profile through teaching and/or postgraduate supervision experience. This is a full-time position, based in Cape Town, and fellows may not hold any other full-time or part-time job or undertake any other work for remuneration for the duration of the fellowship.

The tenure of the fellowship is one year, renewable subject to satisfactory progress. The value of the fellowship for 2026 is R350 000 (tax-free). The fellowship does not include benefits or travel/relocation costs. The Chair will assist the fellow to seek conference funding and support the fellow's applications for additional research funding.

The release of funds is dependent on satisfactory progress. The fellow's performance will be evaluated formally per semester, for which purpose the submission of progress reports will be required in at dates specified by UCT.

Requirements

Applicants must:

- hold a PhD in Intellectual Property Law, or a related field, awarded within the last five years; or must provide proof that their PhD examination process will be successfully completed by the time the fellowship is taken up.
- provide evidence of strong scholarly performance (e.g. publications, participation in



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research projects, networks, conference presentations)

- demonstrate willingness and ability to be both a team player and a team leader, and conduct research in an interdisciplinary environment
- demonstrate good organizational and management skills; and excellent written and oral communication skills
- satisfy the relevant NRF criteria and comply with its rules and guidelines

Applicants must **not** have previously held full-time permanent professional or academic posts.

Applications

Applications should be sent to SARCHI-IP@uct.ac.za and should include:

1. The applicant's full *curriculum vitae* and list of publications;
2. The names and contact details of at least two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant OR letters of reference from at least two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside the applicant;
3. Certified copies of all academic transcripts and degree certificates;
4. A specimen of the applicant's writing, such as a journal article already published/ accepted for publication or a chapter from the applicant's doctoral thesis; and
5. A proposal of the coherent body of research to emanate from the fellowship, indicating the overarching research pursuit, and the workplan that will result in the required number of publications, with potential topics.

Further information about

- postdoctoral fellows at UCT can be found at:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/main/research/postdoc-research-fellowships>

- the chair can be found at: www.ipchair.uct.ac.za
- SARCHI Chairs at UCT can be found at:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/main/research/groups/south-african-research-chairs>

The Chair will consider only eligible and complete applications, submitted on or before **17h00 20 February 2026**.

The University reserves the right to disqualify ineligible and/or incomplete applications, and to change the conditions of award and/or to make no awards at all.

Professor Caroline Ncube

DSI/NRF South African Research Chair: Intellectual Property, Innovation and Development
19 January 2026



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