



POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

The University of the Free State (UFS) invites applications for postdoctoral fellowships in the UFS Research Chair in Poverty, Rights and Democracy. Candidates interested in pursuing an academic career in human rights, with a special interest in the relationship between human rights, democracy and poverty, are encouraged to apply.

The fellowships will enable outstanding doctoral graduates to obtain experience of research at a higher education institution under the mentorship of established researchers.

The fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, considering the applicants' academic achievements, publications and research potential, and the relevance of prior experience and expertise. The fellowships are for a period of one year, renewable for up to three years, subject to satisfactory performance.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Open to South African and foreign nationals for full-time research at the University of the Free State.
- Graduated with a PhD degree in a relevant discipline within the last five years.
- Successful applicants may not hold full-time salaried employment during the fellowship.
- Successful applicants must be able to relocate to the UFS for the fellowship.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO:

- Conduct research in the following areas: democracy, human rights and poverty and the relationship between those three concepts in the South African context.
- Author/co-author at least three (3) publications per year in the form of DHET– accredited scholarly journal articles or books/chapters in books. Renewal of the fellowship beyond the first year depends on satisfactory performance and the submission of an annual progress report.
- Initiate projects and seek funding for them.
- Register and reside as postdoctoral research fellow at the UFS.

VALUE OF THE FELLOWSHIP



- R 270 000 annual fellowship.
- R 30 000 additional research expenses fund.

To apply, please email the following documentation by Saturday, 11 July to brandjd@ufs.ac.za

- Motivation letter, including a 1-2 page outline of a relevant research project/plan
- Full CV, including a list of research publications, conference papers and other scholarly output
- Full transcripts of academic record and copy of doctoral degree certificate
- Copy of ID document (or copy of passport in the case of foreign applicants)
- Contact details of two academic referees who have taught/supervised the candidate.

Closing date: 11 July 2026.

Commencement of fellowship: As soon as possible but no later than 2 January 2027.

For enquiries, please contact Prof Danie Brand at brandjd@ufs.ac.za

