

Call for partners on the ACEP Phuhlisa programme (2024-2027)

A partnership between
Department of Science and Innovation,
South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity,
University of Fort Hare
Walter Sisulu University
University of Zululand and
University of the Western Cape.

SAIAB's key Human Capital Development initiative over the next three years (2024 – 2027) is the ACEP Phuhlisa Programme which is a strategic initiative that aims to promote postgraduate studies in marine science at Historically Black Universities (HBUs) with a goal to accelerate transformation in the marine science research community.



Vision

To produce a winning model for the development of a pipeline of high quality human capital in Marine Science* through

- Supervisor development
- Postgraduate student support
- Development of key partnerships between National Facilities and HBUs. Linking key strengths at HBUs with Marine Platforms and National Facilities: GIS platforms, Microbiology laboratories, Analytical expertise, Aquaculture and Geology

Research Areas

- Marine Biology / Marine Ecology
- Biochemistry
- Marine Geology
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Training programmes

- Academic support
- Life skills Development

*. Please note: Marine Science includes Coastal and Estuarine research

Financial support

- Project running costs via NRF GMSA
- Student bursaries via NRF HICD

Logistic support

Access to National Facility research equipment and expertise including:

- Off-shore research vessels
- Skippers
- 4x4 vehicles
- Estuarine boats
- Dive teams
- Submersible ROV
- Purpose built laboratories

Applicants should become familiar with the objectives of SAIAB and ACEP in order to align proposals to relevant research in marine science. The proposals should make a case for how the deliverable will serve to deepen our understanding of our coastal and marine environment. Applicants are encouraged to be specific and focused in their proposed research, drawing on their own research and experience.

Who Should Apply?

The programme aims to support researchers in Marine Science at Historically Black Universities. Any individual wanting to further their research interests in Marine Science as well as build capacity by means of training postgraduate students is encouraged to apply.

Accountabilities and Deliverables

- Researchers will be required to produce high quality research results with the aim to publish in ISI rated journals.
- Attend supervisor development training arranged or suggested by ACEP.
- Ensure that students attend academic training arranged by ACEP Phuhlisa.
- Provide quarterly and annual updates on student progress.
- Be a point of contact for all their students receiving ACEP Phuhlisa support.

Grant Details

Applicants should outline a detailed budget (R10,000 pa for honours, R25,000 pa for Masters and R40,000 PhD) for the use of funds for the period of April 2024 to March 2027. Funds should be used for research related running expenses, including travel and accommodation to allow researchers to collaborate with partners, costs of communication for collaboration, and other reasonable expenses within the scope of the proposed research.

***. Please note: Marine Science includes Coastal and Estuarine research**

Successful candidates will be guaranteed of the following support over the next 3 years:

1. Project running costs for 6 Honours, 3 MSc and/or PhD projects
2. Academic training courses for students
3. Writing coach to assist student with their report writing
4. Support for attending conferences.

Criteria for Selection

- Marine Science research track record
- Measurable research goals outlined for the research period April 2024 to March 2027
- Publication record in recognized journals
- Experience and qualifications of researcher proposed for the project
- Detail and feasibility of work plan proposed, including a detailed budget for use of funds.
- Evidence of engagement with research partners within National System of Innovation (NSI) and elsewhere.
- Evidence of feasibility of collaboration with other groups.

Award Process

Applications will be reviewed during the month of March 2024. An evaluation committee will meet to make the final selection and an announcement will be made shortly thereafter. Current members of the Phuhlisa partnership need to re-apply to be considered for the next phase and are not guaranteed a position on the programme.

How to Apply

Interested parties are encouraged to prepare and submit a detailed motivation and research plan including each of the following sections:

1. **Rational for the research.**
 2. **Literature review**
 3. **Aims and objectives**
 4. **Materials and methods**
 5. **Number of students,**
 6. **timelines**
1. Please use [this submission form](#) to upload your application.

Due date

Motivations must be submitted using the submission form by 31 January 2024. Successful candidates will be notified by 30 March 2024.

If you have any questions, comments or problems submitting, please email g.vanheerden@saiab.ac.za

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