

We invite application for the position of

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow

Forb Ecology Research Group (FERG)

The North-West University's Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management hosts a world-renowned group of researchers and invites suitable applications for the Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in the **Forb Ecology Research Group (FERG)** as a plant ecologist within the Ecological Interactions and Ecosystem Resilience (EIER) sub-programme. Interested candidates are invited to familiarize themselves with the research themes of EIER through [this link](#) or scan the QR code below.

This is a full-time Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) funded through the NWU Post-Doctoral programme. The fellowship carries a value of R249 000 (tax-free) per annum, once-off translocation costs, and R20 000 per annum research funding. The Unit currently has a number of positions available, and the PDF should commence as soon as possible. The fellowship is available for three years. The PDF position is reviewed on an annual basis and continuation thereof is subject to performance evaluation. The PDF will be based in Potchefstroom and hosted by Prof. Frances Siebert.



Scan QR code to view research themes in the Ecological Interactions and Ecosystem Resilience (EIER) sub-programme.

Key responsibilities:

- Perform research in grassland and/or savanna ecosystems on one/more of the following research topics:
 - Seed ecology of tropical/sub-tropical Savanna/Grassland plants;
 - Regeneration strategies and/or restoration of native plant species in grassy ecosystems;
 - Community ecology and/or rangeland ecology of savannas and grasslands;
 - Plant-herbivore interactions in grassy ecosystems;
 - Carbon storage potential in grassy ecosystems.
- Play an active role as an investigator in all aspects of the research project.
- Lead author of at least 3 papers per annum published in internationally accredited peer- review journals.
- Assist in capacity development at the NWU through active interaction, co-supervision and collaboration with post-graduate students and interns.

Minimum criteria:

- A PhD degree in Botany, Ecology, Environmental Science or a related field.
- The candidate must have proven skills (through publication) in the field of savanna/grassland ecology.
- Strong written and oral communication skills with a minimum of 3 ISI-rated publications in the discipline of Ecology as well as presentations at various national and international conferences.
- Strongly skilled in ecological statistics.
- Ability and willingness to conduct laboratory and fieldwork.
- Ability and willingness to provide guidance to postgraduate students in terms of ecological experimental design, scientific data management, statistical analyses, scientific writing, etc.
- Ability to work independently but also participate within the team to reach certain goals.
- Valid driver's license.

Desirable criteria:

- Experience in conducting ecological surveys and setting up greenhouse trials.
- Experience in general laboratory techniques.
- Student supervision and mentoring experience.

Applications and enquiries:

If you are interested in applying, please submit the following documentation:

1. A letter of motivation detailing your relevant experience and research interests, current research activities, and your interest in the project(s).
2. Latest academic transcript.
3. A Curriculum Vitae including a list of publications.
4. The names, contact details and relationship of at least three references (including doctoral supervisor).
5. Proof of completion of PhD or, in the case of a final year PhD candidate, a letter from your supervisor stating the expected date of submission of the PhD thesis.
6. Copy of identification document or passport.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The closing date for applications is **20 October 2023 at 12:00 (noon)**.

To submit an application or for further enquiries, contact Prof. Frances Siebert (frances.siebert@nwu.ac.za) with the subject line: **Postdoc Position: FERG OR** in the case of enquiries, with the subject line **EIER Postdoc Enquiry**.

The EIER sub-programme reserves the right not to appoint applicants to this position as advertised. Final appointments are dependent on approval by the supervisor and North-West University.