



## JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS

### CENTRE FOR INNOVATION IN LEARNING AND TEACHING (CILT)

### CASES OF OPEN LEARNING (COOL) PROJECT

The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT) seeks to appoint eight Junior Research Fellows on a 12 month, paid-on-claim contract, at R208 per hour to a maximum of R324 500, to work on the Cases of Open Learning (COOL) project effective from 16 Sept 2019 (or as soon as possible thereafter). This work will mostly be undertaken remotely by South African researchers, but will include a few site visits.

The COOL Project is funded by the European Union through the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and aims to investigate and interrogate [Open Learning](#)<sup>1</sup> in South African Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs). Researchers will undertake both desktop and qualitative field research and write up at least two case studies each concerning open learning activities at selected TVET colleges and HEIs. Together, the 16 case studies will be published by the DHET as booklets in a “knowledge series” and as chapters in a collected volume. In addition to being able to make a meaningful contribution to higher education in South Africa through these publications, researchers will be able to use the collected open data for their own publication interests (in academic journals, etc.) post-project.

#### Key Requirements

- A minimum of a Masters or PhD in Education, Social Sciences or cognate discipline, completed within the last three years, i.e. not before 2016
- Demonstrable experience of conducting literature reviews
- Demonstrable practical experience of conducting qualitative empirical research (e.g. interviewing)
- Demonstrable practical experience of analysing qualitative empirical data (e.g. thematic analysis) and using qualitative data analysis software (e.g. NVivo)
- Evidence of strong conceptual and analytical skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English
- Willingness to work with a team of researchers in the project
- Evidence of being a self-starter (initiative, problem solving, energetic)
- The ability to work independently within the given framework
- Comfortable navigating an online working environment

#### Operational requirements

- Access to a desktop or laptop computer
- Internet connectivity (data bundles will be provided)
- Willingness to travel within South Africa (travel and accommodation will be provided for separately)

#### Advantageous

- Knowledge of the TVET and HE sectors
- Knowledge of open education, open learning, open educational resources (OER), open data, etc.
- Knowledge of copyright and Creative Commons licencing
- Prior research in open education, open learning, OER, open data, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://pmg-assets.s3-website-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/170407openlearningframework-postschooleduc.pdf>

## Responsibilities

- Provide all the required details for the contracting process (including the need to have own computing device)
- In consultation with the COOL team write a proposal of maximum of 8 pages, undertake ethics clearance at institutions and develop a research data management plan
- Participate meaningfully in online and/or face-to-face research seminars
- Undertake desktop reviews and submit iterative drafts to the CILT Hub Team
- Respond to mentors' and external peer review comments and recommendations in writing
- In cooperation with the COOL contact identified institutions in order to arrange interviews
- Develop interview questions to suit specific institutional contexts
- Undertake interviews and upload audio files to a specified repository
- Work with the COOL team to curate, de-identify and publish data openly, where possible
- Use the conceptual and analytical frameworks, developed in the research seminars, to analyse qualitative data generated
- Following the case study outline provided by the COOL team, each researcher will write up his/her commissioned case studies
- Review publisher's typeset case studies and respond to queries which may arise in the publishing production process
- Prepare presentation(s) of case studies for the DHET conference, probably during the first quarter of 2021.

## Application process

- Please email the documents below in a single pdf file to Mr Ntobeko Mbuyisa at [ntobeko.mbuyisa@uct.ac.za](mailto:ntobeko.mbuyisa@uct.ac.za)
  - UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
  - Motivational letter
  - Curriculum Vitae (CV), and
  - Writing sample of prior research
- Please ensure that your Surname, Name(s) and COOL project are indicated in the subject line. An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and will be required to write and present a short response on the planned COOL project.
- Closing date: **3 September 2019**

*UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets. Our Employment Equity Policy is available: <http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf>*

*Special funding has been provided for this post with the aim of advancing diversity, and for this post we seek particularly to attract black South African women.*

CILT reserves the right not to appoint.