



## **SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER**

*(Two-year fixed term contract)*

### **The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance Faculty of Commerce**

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#### **Introductory paragraph**

The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance (the Nelson Mandela School) seeks to appoint a Programme Coordinator on a two-year fixed term contract, starting soon. This is a varied and responsible position in a new and growing School. The school has developed a vibrant programme on Regional Integration and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The policy-relevant research and executive education work undertaken over the past five years has positioned the school as a leading institution in this regard.

This position will entail leading high-impact, policy-oriented research on key Phase II thematic areas, including Intellectual Property, Competition Law, Investment and Women and Youth in Trade Protocols, and Women and, Youth and Trade. The role involves tracking regulatory and institutional developments across African Union member states, producing research outputs such as policy briefs, technical reports, and stakeholder advisories, and translating complex trade negotiations into actionable policy recommendations. The position also involves supporting donor-funded research deliverables, contributing to executive education and capacity-building programmes, engaging policymakers and regional institutions, and strengthening the school's role as a knowledge hub for AfCFTA implementation and regional integration governance.

#### **Requirements for the position:**

- PhD (NQF 10) in relevant field (Development Studies/Political Sciences/Sociology/Economics/Public Policy/Instructional Design, etc.)
- Holds a national reputation for active engagement in the research field, making regular and substantial contributions to high-quality knowledge and research management over the last 5 years.
- Working knowledge of Africa's development, industrialisation, trade and investment, public policy debates and willingness to expand knowledge and skills in this area.
- At least 5 years project management experience including project planning and implementation.
- Demonstrates substantial and satisfactory experience in leadership and administration.
- Strong communication skills, verbal, written and presentations.
- Knowledge management skills.
- Able to work independently as well as being a team player.
- Proficient with MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, Outlook suite and online document collaboration skills.
- Flexibility and ability to work under pressure.
- Experience in working with high-level officials and demonstrating discretion and diplomacy.
- Willingness to travel in Africa

#### **The following will be advantageous:**

- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Proficiency in one or more of the African Union languages (in addition to English).

#### **Responsibilities:**

- AfCFTA Phase II policy research and knowledge production.
- Policy advisory and regulatory analysis.
- Donor-Funded project delivery and research management.
- Stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange.
- Support programme knowledge management.
- Capacity building and institutional leadership.

The 2026 annual cost of employment, including benefits, ranges between R586 266 and R1 207 358, depending on qualifications and experience.

**To apply**, please send your application to [NMSPG.Recruitment@uct.ac.za](mailto:NMSPG.Recruitment@uct.ac.za) in a single combined PDF. The subject of the email **must** quote the position name and reference number reflected on the advert.

Your application must include:

- A 1–2-page letter of motivation that speaks to the specific requirements of the position.
- HR 201 Application Form. The form may be downloaded from <https://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), including a list of research outputs.
- Certified copies of ID/passport and academic qualification certificates.
- Three referee names which must include their title and name, position details, relationship to you, their e-mail address, and telephone number. References may be requested by UCT at any stage of the selection process.

Any inquiries for this position are to be addressed to **Mr Vuyolwethu Kheswa** at [Vuyolwethu.Kheswa@uct.ac.za](mailto:Vuyolwethu.Kheswa@uct.ac.za) or 021 650 5921.

**Please do not send or submit job application/CV via this e-mail.**

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and may be required to undergo an assessment.

**Website:** <https://commerce.uct.ac.za/school-public-governance>

**Reference number:** E26408

**Closing date:** 30 April 2026

*"UCT is a designated employer and is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity, and redress in achieving its equity targets in accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets. Preference will be given to candidates from the under-represented designated groups. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at <https://uct.ac.za/oic/employment-equity>*

*When you apply for a position at UCT, we collect your personal information to assess your application, communicate with you, and coordinate interview logistics. Information such as race, gender, nationality, and disability status is used to support our Employment Equity obligations. We also verify your references, qualifications, conduct criminal and, for certain roles, credit checks. For more information about how the University of Cape Town uses personal information and your rights, please email [popia@uct.ac.za](mailto:popia@uct.ac.za).*

**The University reserves the right to extend the closing date for applications if deemed necessary and reserves the right to make no appointment.**