



Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd
 (Registration No: 2002/008461/07)
 University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
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 2001
 PO Box 514, Wits, 2050
 South Africa

Position Title	Researcher: Migration Studies
Organization	Wits Commercial Enterprise (Pty) Ltd (“Enterprise Enterprise”); a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Reporting to	Head: African Centre for Migration Studies
Type of Contract	Fixed Term Contract (Two Years)
Closing Date	06 May 2024

Purpose/Description of Job

A Researcher is being sought to lead a two-year project titled: **“Strengthening Strategic Engagement and Movement Building for Migrant Rights in South & Southern Africa.”** This is part of a broader initiative by the [African Centre for Migration & Society’s](#) Wits-Oxford [Mobility Governance Lab](#) to understand and amplify effective rights-claiming strategies for mobile populations (immigrants, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and the internally displaced). Starting with South Africa, the project will build an evidence base (through research) and leverage it to amplify civil society advocacy regarding movement building for migrant rights across Southern and sub-Saharan Africa.

Through ongoing research or evaluation of the shifting policy and practice and convening traditional and new partners, the ACMS will create a safe space for debate, deliberation, and strategizing. These engagements are intended to facilitate strategic reflection among civil society partners while informing a robust scholarly agenda.

Research: Conducted in South Africa in a comparative perspective, the research will investigate the viability of migrant rights movement building in a context marked by xenophobia and discrimination; a fragmented civil society ecosystem; and heightening restrictions on political dissent and critique. It will involve desktop research, stakeholder interviews, and other approaches rooted in sound, social scientific methodologies. Findings will be shared with partners in six-month intervals, presented as guidance papers, and eventually compiled into comprehensive academic and sector-oriented publications.

Convene deliberation workshops: Supported by an administrative team at the ACMS, the researcher will be expected to convene three sub-national deliberation workshops and one national reflective meeting. Building on the evidence base produced, these workshops will assess the ecosystem’s strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and their outcomes will be used as guiding documents for the sector. Subsequent meetings will track progress and monitor the environment for new

opportunities and challenges. The project will conclude with a final national reflective meeting.

Develop a broader regional agenda: Over the two years, the researcher will develop an intellectual and funding strategy to expand the work outside borders in partners across the continent or in other world regions.

Actively participate in the life of the ACMS, contributing to its vision and mission. This will include but is not limited to i) postgraduate teaching and co-supervision; ii) public engagement and outreach activities, including participation in relevant academic, policy, and advocacy forums on migration governance and migrant rights; and iii) fundraising.

Kindly Note: This is an externally funded project, the successful candidate will be employed by Wits Enterprise and deployed to the relevant department in the University for the period of employment contract.

Activities and Responsibilities

- Working with project coordinators, develop a research protocol in line with the project research objectives.
- Apply for/obtain the research ethics clearance from the Wits Ethics Committee.
- Conduct research according to the developed protocol.
- Write research reports/briefs and develop and implement their dissemination plan.
- Coordinate the convening of deliberation workshops and other meetings that may be required.
- Write workshop and meeting reports to be shared with stakeholders.
- Create and maintain working partnerships with relevant stakeholders.
- Publish at least two academic articles per year in peer-reviewed and DHE-accredited journals. This can include co-authored articles with project coordinators or other ACMS members.
- Actively participate in the life of the ACMS, contributing to its vision and mission as outlined above.

Minimum Requirements

- A PhD in migration, socio-legal studies, or a related social science discipline and evidence of a robust intellectual agenda informed by social justice values. NB: the applicant must have held a PhD for a minimum of 2 years.
- A minimum of two years of research experience. This may include postdoctoral fellowships.

Desirable Experience and Qualifications

- A tertiary qualification (NQF 10 / PhD degree) and at least two years of research experience. This may include postdoctoral fellowships.
- Successful track record in fundraising.
- Postgraduate teaching and supervision experience
- An NRF rating.

Timeframe: two (2) years, starting 1 June 2024. The position can be extended beyond the initial two years, depending on performance and availability of funds.

Remuneration: ZAR 734 000 per annum (Wits salary band: Grade AC08)

Competencies (Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviours)

- A strong academic publishing record with a minimum of 3 articles in peer-reviewed journals and signs of continued publishing potential.
- Experience in project management and coordination of research/management of fieldwork teams.
- An ability to travel to other provinces in South Africa for research fieldwork and meetings.
- Working knowledge of the field of movement building and migration and human rights.
- Fluency in English with other South African and African languages an advantage.
- A demonstrated ability to work both independently and in collaboration with team members and partners.

Applications should include the following

- Cover letter outlining your reasons for applying for the position. This should include an overview of your qualifications and experience in line with the requirements outlined above. Additionally, this letter should outline your intellectual agenda and indicate how it is informed by social justice values.
- Full CV, including a description of your contribution in the case of co-authored publications.
- Evidence of award of PhD.
- 2 academic writing examples. These should be single-authored, or first-authored articles (not book chapters) published in internationally-recognized, peer-reviewed journals (as defined by the South African Department of Higher Education). In the case of a co-authored piece, you should describe your contribution.
- Details of two referees: in the case of shortlisted applicants, the referees will be contacted and asked to provide a short report commenting on the applicant's suitability for the position.

Follow link to apply:

<https://wits-enterprise.co.za/vacancies/33635/researcher-migration-studies/>

For any queries, contact Sonti Masike, Executive PA/HR Officer, by emailing:
recruitment.witsenterprise@wits.ac.za

Closing date: Monday, 6 May 2024 (close of business)

The University is committed to employment equity. Preference will be given to appointable applicants from the under-represented designated South African groups in terms of the relevant employment equity plans and policies of the University. The University retains the right not to make an appointment and to verify all information provided by candidates. Please note that correspondence will only be entered into with shortlisted candidates. The University reserves the right not to make an appointment or to re-advertise.