ICGEB DSI WE-STAR Cape Town Postdoctoral Fellowships

Postdoctoral training scheme for WomEn ScienTists in AfRica

Closing Date: 13 September 2024

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) have partnered to offer early-career women scientists from the African* Continent, mobility fellowships for 12 months (non-renewable) at the ICGEB laboratories in Cape Town (South Africa), to perform research work on biotechnology and related fields, including Health (Infectious Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases), Sustainable and Effective Agriculture as well as Bioinformatics.

The ICGEB invites applications from highly motivated postdoctoral women researchers from all countries in the African* Continent, for a 12-month Fellowship, wishing to pursue research in a world-class scientific environment.

Programme Activities:

The WE-STAR Postdoctoral Fellowship scheme aims to increase the participation of African women in the field of life sciences by providing early career scientists from the African* Continent an opportunity for a mobility period at the ICGEB Cape Town laboratories, a world-class scientific environment, to exchange knowledge and ideas with an internationally exposed lab, while interacting, peer learning and developing independent thought and critical view.

The Fellowship will promote skills transfer, also providing mentoring and networking opportunities to women scientists to enhance their research capacities and foster the development of a scientific community in Africa, that is more gender balanced.

Fellows will have the opportunity to advance their own scientific project acquiring new competences, knowledge, and networking opportunities.

To Apply:

Applicants are required to contact the ICGEB Group Leader of their choice in Cape Town (visit: https://www.icgeb.org/location/capetown/) by sending a motivation letter and an outline of the proposed research project (2 pages maximum), to determine the availability of laboratory space, define the proposal that will form an integral part of the application, and to receive the mandatory letter of support.

Proposed projects must be innovative and fall within one of ICGEB Cape Town’s macro areas of research, namely Infectious Diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases, Sustainable Agriculture and Bioinformatics.

A letter of support from the ICGEB Group Leader who is willing to support your Fellowship and project is mandatory in order to apply.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must hold a Doctoral degree certification
- Applicants must be nationals of a country in the African* Continent, except South Africa, which is not eligible in this call
- Tentatively, 4 post-doc fellowships will be awarded
- No age limit applies, but preference will be given to candidates below the age of 45
- Good working knowledge of English is mandatory

*This call is not open to South African citizens or permanent resident holders
Financial Support:

- Monthly stipend: ZAR 25 000/month.
- Bench fee allowance: ZAR 50 000 will be paid, once-off, as a contribution to the receiving laboratory to cover the purchase of laboratory consumables that are directly related to the WE-STAR Fellow’s research activities.
- Travel: the fellowship includes provision for travel expenses from the participant’s home country to the host lab at the beginning of the fellowship and a return travel provision upon completion of the fellowship (economy class, most direct route).
- Medical health insurance: coverage is provided for the duration of the 12-month fellowship.
- Visa: application costs are reimbursed.

ICGEB makes no financial provision, nor can it provide administrative support for family members of participants in the programme.

Submission of Applications:

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Applications (with all supporting documentation) must be submitted via email to Claudia Russo: westar.capetown@icgeb.org

(i) Your full CV  
(ii) Your motivation cover letter  
(iii) Research proposal  
(iv) Letter of support from the ICGEB Group Leader  
(v) Copy of your passport photo page  
(vi) Copy of your doctoral certificate

For further queries on this Programme call:

Claudia Russo  
ICGEB Cape Town Component  
westar.capetown@icgeb.org