



APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED PERSON(S) FOR THE UNDER MENTIONED POSITION. THE ADVERT IS OPEN TO BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL APPLICANTS

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

A Post-doctoral Fellow (PDF) supports research and other activities as specified by the Hosting entity. The Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme aims to provide opportunities for postdoctoral candidates to conduct innovative research, publish, and increase knowledge in the specified expertise. We, therefore, seek candidates who will fulfill the following objectives:

1. To place DUT at the forefront of research and innovation
2. To generate new knowledge and transfer knowledge and skills
3. To enable outstanding doctoral graduates to obtain experience of research and innovation at DUT
4. To provide an opportunity to promising young researchers from different universities to enhance their research skills and expertise
5. To expand on existing research and ideas and to pursue new lines of research
6. To interact with other academics and post-doctoral fellows
7. To emphasise an increase in publication outputs
8. To establish and enhance South African intellect
9. To develop knowledge for stakeholders such as the government, business, industry and social communities
10. To promote national and international conference attendance by post-doctoral fellows and the presentation of research papers at these conferences.

This advert is specifically seeking for applicants with the following research expertise:

- Implementation of Industry 4.0/5.0 aligned systems, robotics systems, AM processes, or AI-driven manufacturing solutions.
- Data-driven modelling, simulation, or computational engineering.
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning applications in manufacturing and for predictive maintenance.
- Energy efficiency and optimisation.
- Waste minimisation and circular economy principles as well as cleaner production technologies

Candidates who have Doctorates in Mechanical Engineering/Mechatronics Engineering or any other relevant doctoral degree, are encouraged to apply.

For the fields labelled “**Reference Number**” or “**My Reference Code**”, use the following as applicable:

- Faculties: PDF-2026-FEBE.

BACKGROUND

The SARChI Chair in Smart and Sustainable Manufacturing Technologies, housed within the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE), invites applications from motivated, talented, and high-calibre emerging scholars for a two-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, renewable based on performance.

This opportunity is aimed at candidates who are passionate about advancing research and innovation in smart, digital, and sustainable manufacturing systems, and who are eager to contribute to cutting-edge developments aligned with Industry 4.0/5.0 technologies to support SMEs better.

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The candidates should demonstrate proven research experience, innovation capability, and technical leadership, with a strong commitment to advancing smart, sustainable, and digitally enabled manufacturing systems.

1. VALUE PER ANNUM:

- R300 000

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Candidates must hold a recent (within 5 years) PhD/DEng in Mechanical, Mechatronics, or a related field, with a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals.
- They should demonstrate solid expertise in research methodologies, analytical skills, and scientific writing.
- Applicants are expected to have the ability to develop advanced models, algorithms, or experimental solutions for smart and sustainable manufacturing, and contribute to Industry 4.0/5.0 technologies such as robotics, additive manufacturing, and AI-driven systems for the benefit of the SMEs.
- The primary duty of postdoctoral fellows is research, but may allocate a minimum teaching load and other departmental duties by their host, to facilitate their development as future academics, to a maximum of 12 hours per week.
- Overall, candidates must show innovation capability, research independence, and alignment with digital and sustainable manufacturing goals.

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Publish a minimum of 2 research output units per annum in DHET/ISI/IBSS accredited journals.
- Abide by DUT's policies, rules and procedures for post-doctoral fellows as well as codes of conduct.
- Carry out other duties consistent with a post-doctoral fellowship

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

- a. **Apply online** at: [Application for admission as a Researcher \(PDF/RA/RF\) at DUT](#)
 - b. Supporting documents must be **EMAILED** as ONE Combined PDF Document to RendanimI@dut.ac.za and AphiweMI@dut.ac.za
 - c. **Please do not use the** email address given on the website.
 - d. Please use the code **PDF-2026-FBE** as the Reference Number and the My Reference Code.
4. Only applications with the reference number/code **PDF-2026-FBE** will be considered.

5. **DURATION OF TENURE:** 24 months, renewable, subject to evidence of progress and availability of funding.
6. **CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATIONS:** 29 June 2026
7. **POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP START DATE:** 3rd August 2026
8. The following supporting documents must be **EMAILED** as ONE Combined PDF Document to Rendaniml@dut.ac.za and AphiweMl@dut.ac.za. Supporting documents submitted to any other email account **will not be considered nor opened**:
 - a. A full Curriculum Vitae
 - b. Official certified Academic transcripts of all degrees and the corresponding certified copies of the Degree certificates.
 - c. A certified copy of the identity document details page or passport details page.
 - d. Visa (required from successful International Researchers only).
 - e. Medical certificate (required from successful International Researchers only. For SA Citizens and SA Permanent Residents, it is not required).
 - f. Two reference letters, one of which must be from the Doctoral Supervisor.

Applications with incomplete documents will not be considered.