

Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Scholars Programme
Next Generation of Professors
Call for Interest: 2015

This prestigious programme, led by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Free State, seeks to identify, develop and promote the next cohort of the most promising and talented UFS academic members of staff who obtained a doctoral degree within the last five years or will graduate by June 2015. These are young scholars who have chosen academic careers and who are focused and determined to become senior academics in their respective disciplines.

Scholars identified will benefit from an intensive programme of academic and professional support that includes an advanced residential programme, exposure to leading scholars, concentrated reading and writing programmes, high-level seminar participation and presentation, nuanced publication schedules and personal mentoring and advice, including participation in the annual PSP mock NRF rating and the development of a postdoctoral intellectual project for funding submission (Thuthuka, and similar).

This year the selection process will be anticipated by pre-selection. Final selection to the programme will take place in September 2015. The selection is highly competitive, and aimed at those young scholars with the potential to obtain upper-level NRF ratings (Y1 and P) [<http://www.nrf.ac.za/sites/default/files/documents/Rating%20Categories%202014.pdf>].

Criteria for selection:

1. Recently obtained a PhD degree.
2. Evidence of an active publication record.
3. Early recognition of scholarly work, e.g. successful funding/grant application and academic awards.
4. The early development of a post-doctoral intellectual project that shows evidence of scholarly "potential" (defined by the NRF Y-category).

5. Indication of the young scholar's understanding of what their envisaged postdoctoral endeavours will contribute to the body of disciplinary knowledge.
6. Full participation in the pre-selection residential programme and activities is a requirement for selection.

The VC reserves the right to nominate young scholars to the programme and also to invite scholars to a panel interview to evaluate personal qualities, professional commitment and academic ambition.

The period of support will run over a cycle of two years (2016–2017) after which a new intake of next generation professors will be selected. While this cohort will be selected for an intensive programme, ongoing development and support of all young scholars will continue. The selected scholars will reflect a balance of young academics from the humanities (broadly defined, including education, law, theology and the social sciences) and the natural sciences (broadly defined, including the agricultural and health sciences).

Call for applications: PSP pre-selection [see following page]

**Call for application:
PSP pre-selection**

This is a call for applications for the pre-selection to the Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Programme for 2015. Candidates are invited to submit applications. No nomination is required, but deans and heads of department will also be asked to invite young scholars to apply. Complete applications are due by **Monday 16 February 2015**. A *complete application* will include the following documentation:

1. A complete and up-to-date *curriculum vitae* of the candidate.
2. A brief statement of intent:

An important feature of the PSP is potential international placement, usually during each cohort's second year. Write a short motivation, of about 600 words, explaining where you would chose to be placed if selected to the PSP, working with whom and why, and how this would enhance and extend your scholarly range and also position you within the global academy.

Submission and contact address

A paper copy of the application must be submitted to the vice-chancellor's secretary, Ms Rhoda Grobler, in the Main Building by 16:00 on Monday 16 February 2015 and an electronic copy of your application to psp@ufs.ac.za. You will be contacted to acknowledge receipt. Candidates will be informed of the outcome in March 2015.

Further information on the Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Scholars Programme can be directed to Prof Jackie du Toit, dutoitjs@ufs.ac.za.