



PhD Opportunity in Public Law – Marine Petroleum Extraction and Sustainability

Hosted at the University of Cape Town | Primary Supervision by the Institute of Marine and Environmental Law

Are you passionate about advancing sustainable development in the marine environment? Are you ready to make a meaningful contribution to the legal and regulatory frameworks that shape South Africa's mining sector? The University of Cape Town invites applications for a **PhD in Public Law**, with a focus on **petroleum extraction in the marine environment**.

Project Overview

This doctoral research project will examine the complex legal and regulatory landscape governing **offshore petroleum extraction** in South Africa. The sector faces significant challenges in assessing **cumulative environmental and social impacts**, and in **integrating ecological and social data** into decision-making processes. With multiple environmental instruments and legal frameworks in place, there is a critical need for **coherent, sustainability-aligned legal integration**.

The project proposes the development of a **legal blueprint** for incorporating **ecological risk assessment** and **social data** into petroleum sector planning and decision making. This research will make an important contribution to environmental governance, regulatory reform, and sustainable resource extraction.

Supervision and Support

- **Primary supervision** will be provided by the **Institute of Marine and Environmental Law**, a leading research unit in environmental law in Africa.
- Additional academic guidance will be available through a **co-supervisor** with complementary expertise.
- The **PhD candidate is expected to apply independently for NRF scholarship funding**.

Eligibility Requirements

- A **minimum of 65%** average in a Master's degree in **Public Law** or a closely related discipline (e.g., Environmental Law, International Law, Marine Policy).
- Strong interest in **environmental governance, marine law, and sustainable development**.
- Excellent legal research and writing skills.

Application Details

Applicants should submit:

- A motivation letter outlining your interest in the topic and suitability for doctoral study
- Academic transcripts
- CV
- Writing sample (e.g., Master's dissertation)

Application deadline: 20 June 2025

For more information or to express interest, please contact:
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