



**SAFER**LAB



**RHODES UNIVERSITY**  
*Where leaders learn*

**Postgraduate research opportunities with the RU-Oppenheimer Chair  
in Environmental Justice for Inland and Coastal Fisheries**

The **Oppenheimer Chair in Environmental Justice for Inland and Coastal Fisheries**, which falls under the Southern African Fisheries Ecology Research Lab ([SAFER Lab](#)) was established at the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science, Rhodes University in May 2025. The Chair is held by Prof. Warren Potts, and aims to create a hub of excellence in research, capacity building, and advocacy that promotes environmental sustainability and maximises social benefit and equity in the governance of Africa's coastal and inland fisheries. The Chair adopts a transdisciplinary research approach, viewing fisheries as complex socio-ecological systems.

The Chair aims to recruit exceptional BSc honours, MSc and PhD students to participate in its core research areas, which include any of the social (including economic), ecological, or governance dimensions of inland or coastal fisheries, starting from 2026. Scholarships will be commensurate with typical National Research Foundation full- and partial-cost bursaries and the value will depend on financial need and academic achievement. Students are expected to register at Rhodes University and be based in Makhanda (Grahamstown).

Prospective students are encouraged to submit their CV and an accompanying letter of motivation that details their background and explains their area of interest in inland or coastal fisheries to Prof. Warren Potts ([w.potts@ru.ac.za](mailto:w.potts@ru.ac.za)) by the **30th of September 2025**.