

MSc Study Opportunity

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is a leading research council in South Africa, with a strong emphasis on applied sciences. Applications are invited for qualifying candidates to undertake an MSc research project on marine and/or estuarine toxicity assessment within the Coastal Systems Research Group of the CSIR. This position will be based in Durban.

Project description

Biological tools for assessing the quality of water and/or sediment in the coastal environment of South Africa are under-developed and/or lagging behind the advancement made by other countries. The Marine Ecotoxicology Laboratory of the Coastal Systems Research Group at the CSIR in Durban has more than 30 years of experience in conducting marine toxicity studies and is in the process of developing a suite of toxicity testing methods for the coastal environment. The MSc candidate will be expected to undertake research on the development and/or refinement of toxicity test methods to be applied to South Africa's coastal environment. The project will broadly focus on the assessment of water and sediment toxicity in the marine and estuarine environments.

Key responsibilities

- Review current state of marine and estuarine ecotoxicology in the SADC Region.
- Prepare a research proposal to the satisfaction of the CSIR and a university of registration.
- Conduct fieldwork and experiments for the MSc project.
- Periodically contribute to CSIR activities that may not necessary be directly linked to the MSc project.

Funding and other requirements

Applicants should have a BSc Honours degree, with a strong emphasis or knowledge of ecotoxicology, estuarine/marine ecology or relevant fields. Applicants should also have experience in handling aquatic invertebrates under laboratory conditions as well as some experience in fieldwork. Funding (NRF Thuthuka Grant) has been secured for the qualifying applicant. This will involve a R50 000 per annum bursary and running costs.

To apply, the applicant must send a short CV (no more than 2 pages) including two contactable references, a full academic record and a short motivation letter (not more than a page). Applications and/or queries must be directed to Dr Ntuthuko Masikane (nmasikane@csir.co.za).

Closing date: 28 March 2017