

NMMU POST-DOCTORAL OPPORTUNITY

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, in collaboration with Arizona State University, wishes to appoint a post-doctoral fellow specializing in vegetation and species distribution modelling, as well as phylogeography, whose research will focus on the Quaternary history of vegetation along the southern and western coastal lowlands of South Africa. The fellow will be required to have a sound understanding of ensemble niche modelling. The research will focus on generating distribution maps of specific vegetation types and plant species during selected environmental periods of the Quaternary. These maps will be tested using phylogeographic and palaeoarchival evidence. Ultimately, the vegetation maps will form a cornerstone of a palaeoscape model that will be used to explore human evolution in the region.

The fellowship is for a contract period of three years.

The Post Doc will, *inter alia*:

- Work closely with researchers at NMMU, ASU and collaborators at other universities to assemble or develop environmental layers necessary for modelling.
- To perform ensemble niche modelling for vegetation types and selected plant species.
- Utilise phylogeography and available palaeoarchives to test the accuracy of the modelling.
- Publish research results
- Play a key role in developing joint funding proposals.

The value of this two year grant is R280 000 per annum; this includes direct running expenses.

Applicants should please e-mail a **single page** CV and covering letter to Professor Richard Cowling (Richard.cowling@nmmu.ac.za) by 28 October 2011.

If no response has been received within 14 days of the closing date, candidates may assume that their applications were unsuccessful.