Neuroscience Institute

SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE LAB

Postdoctoral Fellow

Call for Postdoctoral Fellow

We are looking for a motivated individual to join the Social Neuroscience Lab at the UCT Neuroscience Institute as postdoctoral fellow. The postdoc will be supervised by Dr Melike Fourie in the Division of Neurosurgery in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The successful individual will be supported by grants awarded to Dr Fourie. A stipend will be offered and continuation after the first year will be contingent on satisfactory academic progress.

Research scope
The position will align with the research group's key priorities within social neuroscience. The successful candidate will be involved in various projects, including an adolescent neurocognitive study involving brain health and brain skills implicated in social attunement.

Position Details & Key Responsibilities
The successful candidate will receive specialised training tailored to the technical scope of the project (e.g., hyperscanning). In addition to primary research activities, the candidate will be expected to contribute to postgraduate supervision, delivering guest lectures and presenting research at NI seminars and conferences, contribute to grant applications, and help build local capacity into social neuroscience research more generally.

Start Date
This position is tenable from early 2027.

Requirements
The prospective Postdoctoral Fellow must have obtained their PhD within five years prior to enrolment and must not have held a comprehensive professional or permanent academic position. We particularly encourage applications from students with a background or strong interest in social and/or developmental psychology, social and affective neuroscience, or related disciplines. Experience working with large datasets, as well as experience working in R would be beneficial. Applicants should have strong analytical and writing skills, and a publication record will be advantageous.

Application procedure
Submit your application as a single consolidated PDF file via email to melike.fourie@uct.ac.za. Ensure the subject line clearly states: "Postdoctoral Application". The application must include:
1. A cover letter, outlining your research interests and alignment with the group's research directions.
2. A full curriculum vitae.
3. The names and contact details of two academic referees.

Closing date for applications: 1 December 2026

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. UCT reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications; to change the conditions of post; and/or to accept no fellows at all.