

Purpose: Advert for Master's in Clinical Neurosciences, by Dissertation

We are offering a Masters research project in Clinical Neurosciences by dissertation for a suitably qualified candidate, hosted in the African Brain Child Research Initiative (ABC - UCT Division of Neurosurgery and Neuroscience Institute), a multi-disciplinary research group focused on clinically translational research, and all staff and students work across the clinical and research domains. ABC has been the recipient of the 2024 National Research Foundation Science Team of the Year Award and received multiple prestigious Wellcome Trust research grants for their work on tuberculous meningitis (TBM), the most fatal form of tuberculosis disease.

Call for Application:

The proposed project is based on investigating mechanisms of injury and disease in children with TBM, which currently remain poorly understood. ABC offers the unique opportunity to study rare site-of-disease samples which offer important opportunities to generate novel insights that could improve patient management and lead to better outcomes in these children. This study will investigate various potential biomarkers including proteins, metabolites, inflammatory mediators, DNA or RNA. The student is expected to recruit patients, collect study data, collect study samples and process them for biobanking, conduct sample and data analyses, prepare data for dissertation and publication, and contribute to general research-related activities within the ABC group.

Conditions:

The successful incumbent will be required to register for full-time study and must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures, and practices for the postgraduate sector. Successful candidates may not hold scholarships and salaried/full-time employment concurrently but will be permitted to take up part-time employment (specified maximum hours per week).

Value and tenure:

Funding of R150 000 for this project is available for one MSc student. Applications for further funding as per UCT prescribed funding limits will be supported. Funding carries no fringe benefits and is available for full time study.

Academic criteria:

Students from backgrounds in biomedical sciences are encouraged to apply. Applicants will need to demonstrate competency in the laboratory, as well as relevant and meritorious research or work experience. Applicants should be South African citizens or already hold a valid student visa for South Africa.

Application requirements and selection process:

Please send through a letter of application stating your areas of expertise and research interests as well as a full CV, copies of academic transcripts, and the names of 2 referees. Eligible and complete applications will be considered by a selection committee within the Paediatric Neurosurgery Unit.

All positions are available to commence study by latest *February 2026*.

Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries:

Please send all applications to Dr Jill Combrinck at j.combrinck@uct.ac.za by closing date 30 September 2025. *The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications. The University of Cape Town reserves the right to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.*



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