



## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP IN DATA SCIENCE AND POLICY INNOVATION

### Background

The [Policy Innovation Lab](#) (Lab) at Stellenbosch University's [School for Data Science and Computational Thinking](#) invites applications for a two-year *postdoctoral position in data science and policy innovation*.

The Policy Innovation Lab uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to improve policymaking in South Africa. The Lab works with policymakers to innovate in how the problems policymakers need to address and possible solutions are understood. In doing so, the Lab contributes to accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in South Africa.

The Policy Innovation Lab works in partnership with the Policy and Research Services branch in the Presidency of South Africa, through the SDG Initiative project funded by the GIZ. The project receives funding from the GIZ as well as from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### Candidate profile

The successful candidate will lead applied research projects with government agencies, conduct and publish peer-reviewed research in areas related to their field of expertise and the mandate of the Lab, support training programs, engage experts in the private sector and civil society, and support ad hoc activities within the School.

The successful applicant will possess strong data science and project management skills, with a proven ability to identify and use datasets to address societal challenges.

The successful candidate will work closely with the project lead, funders, partners, other postdoctoral researcher/s and postgraduate students to ensure the successful delivery of the Lab's core mandate.

### Requirements

- Applicants must possess a PhD in data science, statistics, computer science, engineering or a related field.
- Applicants must have a strong interest in public policy or related topics.
- Applicants must possess exceptional quantitative research skills.
- Applicants must be able to work effectively in a dynamic and collaborative environment.
- Applicants must be willing to relocate to Stellenbosch for the duration of the fellowship and work on campus during regular working hours.

## Conditions

- Duration: Two-year fixed-term appointment, subject to availability of funds and satisfactory performance.
- Starting date: 1 March 2024.
- Fellowship value: R400 000 per year. Please note that postdoctoral fellowships are tax-free as fellows are not appointed as employees. Postdoctoral fellows are not eligible for employee benefits.
- The University retains the right either not to make an appointment or to extend the closing date.

## Application process

- Applications should be sent via email to [willemf@sun.ac.za](mailto:willemf@sun.ac.za) by **4 February 2024 at 23:59 SAST**.
- Applicants should include the following in their application: a succinct cover letter, their most recent CV, proof of qualifications and a letter of reference from their doctoral supervisor.
- For more information on the position, contact Prof. Willem Fourie at [willemf@sun.ac.za](mailto:willemf@sun.ac.za).