

SUNRISE

Stellenbosch University
Research & Innovation Strategic
Excellence programme



SUNRISE is pleased to announce the call for its second intake of fellows for 2025.

Call for 2025 Cohort

SUNRISE is excited to announce the call for its second intake of fellows for 2025. This highly selective in-house programme recognizes and supports high-performing, mid-career academic staff at Stellenbosch University. SUNRISE provides exceptional scholars with the resources, guidance, and opportunities to refine their expertise and **achieve academic excellence**.

With many senior and research productive professors retiring in the coming decade, SUNRISE is a strategic initiative to foster the next generation of academic leaders. Reporting to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies), our goal is to rejuvenate and regenerate our professoriate, aligning with Stellenbosch University's vision of being a leading, research-intensive, diverse, and inclusive African university.

SUNRISE builds on the prestigious national DHET Future Professors Programme (FPP) and broadens its reach within Stellenbosch University. By selecting a new cohort of fellows each year, SUNRISE fosters a scholarly community across faculties and disciplines.

Eligibility

SUNRISE is designed for Stellenbosch University mid-career academic staff members **who are on a clear pathway toward the professoriate**. We are committed to maintaining the same stringent selection criteria as the FPP.

Applicants should be **permanently employed as lecturers, senior lecturers, or in equivalent academic appointments**. While the programme primarily targets these positions, applications from **associate professors** will also be considered.

A PhD is a minimum requirement (similar to FPP) with rare exceptions considered in the medical field. An **NRF rating will count strongly in your favour**. We do not set age limits, but applicants must demonstrate that they have already made progress on a career trajectory towards professorship.

Candidate attributes

- Dedication to pursuing advanced scholarship.
- Innovative and productive scholarly work.
- Emerging focus and purpose in academic work
- Originality, depth, and a bold approach to exploring significant ideas.
- Self-awareness, openness to learning, and a commitment to personal growth.
- Resilience, determination, and self-sufficiency.
- A desire to both gain from and contribute to a collaborative scholarly community.

Components of the Programme

The SUNRISE programme uniquely supports the individual aspirations and growth of Stellenbosch University's academic staff and is also deeply embedded in the university's mission to foster excellence, diversity, and inclusion. Participants in the SUNRISE programme will have access to similar valuable experiences and opportunities provided by the FPP programme, as evident in its three core elements:

1

Baseline Evaluation

This initial assessment helps each scholar gauge their current standing within their discipline and provides personalized recommendations for future growth and development.

2

Residential Series

Fellows will engage in a series of seminars, retreats, and coaching sessions. These immersive and scholarly community-enhancing experiences are complemented by individual opportunities tailored to each participant's unique needs and aspirations.

3

International Engagement

Scholars will have the chance to participate in international activities that align with their specific intellectual projects.



How to apply

Candidates must apply directly to the SUNRISE programme by submitting the following documents to sunrise@sun.ac.za by 30 September 2024. Each document should be saved in the format: SurnameInitialCV; SurnameInitialEssay e.g. MoyoSCV and MoyoSEssay.

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2. A two-page essay

This should provide evidence of how you meet the attributes listed above. Include a narrative about yourself, how these attributes informed your career choices and research trajectory, and align with your planned future research. Also, include a commitment to fully participate in the programme if selected.

Further Information

For further information on the SUNRISE Programme or the application process, please contact Ronel Steyn at ronels@sun.ac.za.

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Curriculum Vitae that includes:

- Name and date of birth.
- Contact details (work phone, cell phone and preferred email address).
- Educational history (including PhD thesis title, year degree received, institution and supervisor names).
- Employment history (including position, e.g. senior lecturer; current faculty, and department).
- Name and contact details of current head of department).
- Publication record (including papers submitted/accepted and where).
- Research projects and funding generated.
- Current teaching and supervisory responsibilities (distinguish undergraduate and postgraduate).
- NRF rating if applicable (year obtained and rating received)
- Google Scholar H-Index and Scopus H-Index, if disciplinarily applicable.
- **Contact details of three referees (including a note on how they know you).**

Submission Deadline

Application Documents should be attached to an email sent to sunrise@sun.ac.za before **30 September 2024**. Please note the exact file naming convention indicated above.

