



The OpenUCT Initiative

Sharing UCT's online resources for teaching and research



Vacancy: Research Assistant (Open Data in Developing Countries)

The Open Data movement promotes the free and open sharing of data for the purpose of re-use, transparency and innovation. In particular, the provision and use of open data is seen as having a positive bearing on the governance of state-run departments and institutions such as universities. There is however a need for more research in order to gain a better understanding of the impact and use of open data, particularly in developing-country contexts. The Open Data in Developing Countries (ODDC) initiative is a project of the World Wide Web Foundation that seeks to address this area of research.

The OpenUCT Initiative is working to advance open practice and digital scholarship at UCT, and is a grant-holder in the ODDC programme. We are looking for a Research Assistant to work with the project team in exploring the use of open data in the governance of and research in South African higher education. The successful candidate will additionally be exposed to and engage in a number of other OpenUCT research and implementation projects designed to promote the curation and profiling of a wide range of scholarly communication outputs.

The candidate will have an opportunity to be part of a unique and exciting institutional initiative undertaking innovative work in this important new area that is gaining increased worldwide focus and attention.

Candidates must be in possession of or in the process of obtaining a postgraduate degree. Good writing skills and some research experience are essential. While technical experience in working with data is not a requirement, any prior expertise in data management, curation or administration will be advantageous. Candidates should be eager to learn and explore new technologies. Previous experience in the higher education arena or with intellectual property and copyright practice would be highly desirable.

This is a part-time position in the Centre for Higher Education Development from July 2013 to April 2014. Applications should be submitted to michelle.willmers@uct.ac.za by no later than 15 July 2013.



A project in the Centre for Higher Education Development at the University of Cape Town

Centre for Educational Technology, Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Tel. +27(21) 650 5061