



## RESEARCH OFFICER

(27 Month Contract)

**Division of Health Policy and Systems  
School of Public Health and Family Medicine  
Faculty of Health Sciences**

The Health Policy and Systems Division (HPSD) in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine has been awarded a three-year grant to conduct a project on “*Strengthening health system responsiveness to citizen feedback in South Africa and Kenya*” – funded by the UK’s Joint Health Systems Research Initiative, through the Medical Research Council (UK). The HPSD is the primary recipient of this collaborative grant, which includes partners from the University of the Western Cape, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust in Kenya, and key stakeholders from provincial governments and civil society in both countries. The project seeks to assess what policies and mechanisms (formal and informal) work for receiving and responding to citizen feedback on health systems in South Africa and Kenya – and how health systems responsiveness can be strengthened towards the development of learning, equitable health systems. The project is a mixed methods multi-country study running from 2018 to 2021, designed as an interdisciplinary study, drawing mainly on social science perspectives.

**The HPSD is seeking to appoint a full-time Research Officer for this project.**

### Qualifications and skills:

- A Masters Degree in a relevant field (public health, social science, or other)
- At least 3 years of independent research experience, in particular qualitative research
- Demonstrated competence in management and/or administration of research activities
- Strong analytical skills
- Interpersonal, writing and perceptual skills
- Demonstrated ability to build and hold good relationships with stakeholders (e.g. civil society, community, or local government)
- Advanced computer literacy
- A valid South African driver’s licence and own transport

### The following would be advantageous:

- Experience or a degree in the field of health policy and systems research
- Registration for, or intention to register for, a PhD in the field of health policy and systems research
- Experience in the South African health system (research or service-level experience)
- Strong competencies and experience in documentary search and evidence synthesis (e.g. database searching, systematic review, collating and analysing multiple forms of data/evidence)
- Strong competencies and experience in data management (e.g. experience with organising and maintaining databases, or reference manager systems such as Endnote)
- Track record of working collaboratively in teams
- Track record of working effectively with stakeholders (e.g. civil society or government)
- Willingness to engage with post-graduate students in part-time teaching, mentoring or supervision
- Willingness to travel nationally and locally

### Responsibilities:

- Support to the MRC Responsiveness grant – including:
  - Support towards the SA-country fieldwork
  - Maintenance of project databases (e.g. secondary and primary literature)
  - Literature review on topics relating to ‘health system responsiveness’
  - Support to UCT and UWC project partners
  - Support of postgraduate students (e.g. mentoring, or supervision support to an MPH-level mini-thesis related to this project)
- More broadly:
  - Support for the existing programme of research in the Health Policy and Systems Division
  - Support for the existing teaching programme in the Health Policy and Systems Division
  - Working collaboratively with other staff within the Health Policy and Systems Division
  - Support wider collaboration within the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, and in the Faculty of Health Sciences, on Health Policy and Systems issues and activities

The annual cost of employment for 2018, including benefits is appropriate to the academic level of Lecturer: R639 848

Enquiries about this post should be directed to Associate Professor Jill Olivier, Health Policy and Systems Division, School of Public Health and Family Medicine at [jill.olivier@uct.ac.za](mailto:jill.olivier@uct.ac.za).

**To apply**, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to Ms Vathiswa Mbangi at [recruitment05@uct.ac.za](mailto:recruitment05@uct.ac.za):

- UCT application form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- 1-2 page cover letter which **MUST** include a motivation for your suitability for this position
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Please ensure the title and reference number are indicated in the subject line.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete.

**Telephone:** 021 650 3003

**Reference number:** E18492

**Closing date:** 18 January 2019

*UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at <http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf>. For this post we seek particularly to attract black South African (i.e. African, Coloured or Indian) candidates.*

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.