



University of Cape Town Lung Institute ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY UNIT

MASTER'S STUDENT

The **Allergy and Immunology Unit (AIU)**, based at the University of Cape Town Lung Institute, requires applications for a **Master's Student***.

The Lung Institute is wholly-owned subsidiary of the University of Cape Town and is recognised internationally as a leader in the study of treatments for airways diseases, having performed more than 150 research projects field. The Allergy and Immunology Unit was established in 2000 to provide state of the art clinical and laboratory services for the diagnosis and management of allergic and immune-based diseases, with a mission to transform lives of patients through innovative science and compassionate care.

Responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

The master's student will work as part of the South African Pollen Monitoring Network (SAPNET), a national campaign coordinated by the UCT Lung Institute. SAPNET teams monitor allergenic pollen and fungal spores in several cities across South Africa and weekly counts are reported on The Real Pollen Count website (www.pollencount.co.za). The light microscopy techniques used to identify pollen and fungal spores are not always sufficient to distinguish between the pollen grain morphology of certain closely related plant taxa. Using molecular biology techniques, the master's student will aim to distinguish between the pollen grains of allergenic species of grasses, weeds and trees caught by the SAPNET teams during weekly monitoring.

Minimum Requirements:

- BSc plus Honours in Biological Sciences
- 1 – 2 years laboratory experience with demonstrable molecular biology proficiencies (PCR assays)
- At least one scientific publication or conference presentation as main contributor
- Awareness of good laboratory practices
- Keen interest in Research (particularly Molecular Biology, Allergy & Immunology, Botany, Palynology or Environmental Science)

To apply, interested applicants are requested to submit an updated CV, along with supporting documents (Cover Letter and Transcript) to: uctlirecruitment@uct.ac.za

Applications will only be accepted via email.

Telephone: 021 406 6882

Website: www.lunginstitute.co.za

Reference (in subject line): Masters Student: SAPNET

Closing Date: 02 December 2021

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Should you not receive a response within 30 days of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

***Please Note: This Position is not on UCT or UCTLI Conditions of Service.**