

**MSc at the University of KwaZulu-Natal  
Centre for Water Resources Research**

**EXPLORING THE EVIDENCE OF WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS LINKAGES TO SUSTAINABLE LOCAL LIVELIHOODS AND WELLBEING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

**Project Overview & Scholarship description:**

We are offering an MSc Studentship to those interested in engaged scholarship, interdisciplinary research and integrated resources management. Successful candidates would join a vibrant team participating in an exciting project focused on investigating interlinkages between the Water Energy Food (WEF) nexus and local livelihoods in three South African catchments. The three-year project commenced in April 2017 and is funded by the Water Research Commission under its WEF Nexus Lighthouse program. The project is a collaboration African Climate & Development Initiative at the University of Cape Town, Centre for Water Resources Research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Risk & Vulnerability Assessment Centre at the University of Fort Hare.

The Water-Energy-Food nexus is a framework that captures the inter-relations, synergies and trade-offs between the demand on water, energy and food, in the context of the emerging constraints of sustainable development in particular regions or systems. Nexus thinking is based on a systems approach and often uses the socio-ecological system as primary point of reference. The WEF nexus is argued to be valuable for understanding complex systems, and for decision making to achieve macro-scale sustainable development. However, this project aims to fill the identified knowledge gap, by exploring how the WEF nexus plays out in affecting local livelihoods and wellbeing, and how this understanding can support more equitable sustainable development outcomes at the household level.

Three MSc students will be complementing the team, each one working in on research site, i.e. the uMngeni river catchment in KwaZulu Natal, the Amathole River catchment in the Eastern Cape, and the Berg river catchment in the Western Cape. **This scholarship is for ONE MSc student to work in the uMngeni river catchment, linked to UKZN.**

**Eligibility:**

The successful candidate should be driven, disciplined, able to work as a member of a team, and be able to set and meet his /her own deadlines. The candidate is expected to have an Honours degree in environmental science, development studies, human geography, law, sociology, anthropology or related fields. Students are expected to commence studies in January 2018.

Specific Requirements:

- Interest in the topic of sustainable development and in working with people from different backgrounds
- Willingness to support and work closely with 2 young adults from the respective research site
- Proficiency in English, both verbal and written
- Strong writing skills

Additional beneficial skills:

- Zulu as first or second language
- valid driver licence
- Knowledge of the WEF nexus and or the concept of sustainable livelihoods
- Familiarity with and interested in systems thinking
- Familiarity with working with census data and digital bibliographical database

**Expected tasks:**

- Literature and policy reviews
- Fieldwork in the uMngeni River catchment (including household surveys, semi-structured interviews and focus group meeting) during the period July 2018 to January 2019
- Contributions to project reports and meetings
- Co-Mentorship of two young adults
- Assistance with the organization of workshops (e.g. workshop invitations, minutes, summary reports)
- Regular communication with the supervisor and youth development expert
- Participation in all of project team/ youth development/ reference group meetings, some of those will require traveling
- Contribution to peer reviewed and popular articles on nexus related topics
- Participation in nexus and/ or livelihood relevant workshops/ conference

**Scholarship package:**

The MSc Studentship offers a total of R 80,000 per year over a 2 year period. Fieldwork and fieldwork/ research project related travel expenses will be covered through the project budget. This is a full-time studentship based at the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal ([www.ukzn.ac.za](http://www.ukzn.ac.za)). The candidate will be expected to cover all living expenses including travel to and from the University out of this stipend. Candidate will be expected to find private accommodation, and make own arrangements for medical insurance.

**How to Apply:**

Please send your CV, academic record, letter of motivation and the names and contact details of two referees to Dr Sabine Stuart-Hill [Stuart-Hills@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Stuart-Hills@ukzn.ac.za).