

Apply for a Fulltime Doctoral Fellowship in the R-NEET study

Funded by Wellcome, the R-NEET study is a mixed method, 66-month study. Its purpose is to develop significant new understanding of the combined role of physical, psychological, social, institutional, economic, and environmental factors as they relate to resilience and depression among African youth over time. To that end, the R-NEET study is framed by a multisystemic resilience approach and engages emerging adult participants (i.e., 18 to 29-year-olds) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and living in stressed communities in Gauteng (SA; n=1000) and the Niger Delta (Nigeria; n=600). The study is led by Professor Linda Theron (University of Pretoria), in collaboration with the R-NEET team (Prof Funmi Fawole, University of Ibadan; Dr Diane Levine, University of Leicester; Dr Zainab Mai Bornu, University of Leicester; Prof Lanre Olaniyan, University of Ibadan; Prof Dov Stekel, University of Nottingham; Prof Michael Ungar, Dalhousie University; and Prof Caradee Wright, SAMRC), community partners, and youth advisors.

This R-NEET doctoral fellowship will be administered by the Department of Educational Psychology, University of Pretoria, under the mentorship of Professor Linda Theron.

Fellowship details

- 24-month duration (with progress-dependent scope for 12-month renewal)
- Pretoria-based in person for the duration of the fellowship
- Fellowship includes financial support (including annual PhD fee and some subsistence)
- Successful candidates will:
 - Propose a cutting-edge PhD study that aligns with the R-NEET study (see documents to be submitted).
 - Have a social sciences background and completed resilience-focused master's degree (completed within the last five years at the time of application).
 - Have excellent verbal and written English skills.

- Be available to provide research assistance to the R-NEET study (32 hours per week; starting remuneration rate: R150/hour).
- Demonstrate collegiality and willingness to work as part of an interdisciplinary team.
- The following will advantage applications:
 - Mixed methods skills and experience.
 - Track record of publication.
 - Sub-Saharan nationality.

Documents to be submitted

1. Cover letter detailing why you wish to join the R-NEET study.
2. 3-pg PhD proposal outlining what question your PhD study will answer, why that question must be answered, and how you will answer it (i.e., synopsis of the methodology). The 3-pg limit excludes the reference list (which must be appended). Note: the proposal should align with the R-NEET study's purpose (the successful candidate will have access to the R-NEET data).
3. Copy of your national identification.
4. Copies of your qualifications and academic transcript. Note: Candidates that have not completed a master's degree at the time of applying should submit official proof that their master's thesis has been examined and approved.
5. Copy of your CV.

Eligible applicants to submit documentation to Prof Linda Theron (Linda.theron@up.ac.za, using the subject heading: "R-NEET: full-time doctoral fellowship application").

Submission deadline: 26 July 2024

Preferred candidates will be invited to participate in an interview; should no interview invitation be forthcoming, please consider the application unsuccessful