

WITS UNIVERSITY, JOHANNESBURG

MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt)
Health and Population Division, School of Public Health



School of Public Health - University of the Witwatersrand
Medical Research Council/Wits Rural Public Health
and Health Transitions Research Unit

DEMOGRAPHER / POPULATION SCIENTIST

MG 115

The MRC/Wits-Agincourt Unit is one of sub-Saharan Africa's leading research groups focusing on health, population and social transitions. The Unit supports a rural field site in northeast South Africa with a health and socio-demographic surveillance system established in 1992, thus spanning dramatic socio-political and epidemiological change. The Unit supports cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, collaborating with scientists from African, Asian, European and North American institutions and thus offering rich scientific and networking opportunities. It serves as a satellite secretariat of the INDEPTH Network concentrated in Africa and Asia, playing a lead role in multisite work on Migration & Urbanisation and Adult Health & Aging. The Unit successfully nests doctoral students in ongoing work and is closely connected to academic programmes in various Wits Schools including Public Health; Social Sciences; Computational & Applied Maths; Clinical Medicine; Animal, Plant & Environmental Sciences.

We seek a full-time Demographer / Population Scientist for a challenging post based in a centre that prizes research excellence. This critical position involves primary responsibility for the Health and Socio-demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) and needs the talents and commitment of a high caliber person. S/he will join a dedicated and experienced team addressing some of the region's most demanding health and development challenges.

Duties:

Successful applicant will assume primary responsibility for the HDSS. Specifically:

- Coordinate ongoing field operations of the HDSS and Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Conduct routine analyses on information produced with timely outputs
- Conduct and publish leading-edge research using longitudinal data to address population, health and/or social issues.
- Liaise with project PIs on their research on socio-demographic trends and transitions that is nested within the HDSS.
- Work closely with the data section that supports field operations.

Qualifications:

A PhD in Demography/Population Studies or related field (statistics, economics for example). Masters graduates with suitable experience/competencies and demonstrable scientific achievement will be considered, and encouraged to register for a PhD.

Competencies:

The successful candidate should have: excellent analytic and scientific writing skills; ability to manage a sizable field research team in a rural setting; communication, interpersonal and organisational skills; ability to work independently as well as part of a team. S/he must be willing to live in rural Bushbuckridge, and to travel regularly to Johannesburg and internationally on occasions. Valid driving licence required.

Remuneration

Highly competitive university salary dependent on qualifications, experience and level of appointment, and subject to University's conditions of employment. Package can include Provident Fund, Medical Aid and thirteenth cheque. Appointment initially for two years, contract renewable.

Enquiries:

Interested applicants may obtain more detailed information from:

Mark Collinson: mark@agincourt.co.za, tel +27-13-795 5076; Sam Clark: work@samclark.net, tel +1-206-303-9620; or Steve Tollman: Stephen.Tollman@wits.ac.za, tel +27-11-717 2085.

To apply: submit a letter of motivation regarding your suitability for the position, detailed CV with names, addresses and contact numbers of 3 referees (including e-mail addresses), and certified copies of degrees/diplomas and identity document to: Mrs Louise van Zyl, Human Resources Officer, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag 3, Wits 2050, Gauteng, South Africa

- E-mail: Louise.VanZyl@wits.ac.za
- Tel: +27-11-717-2748
- Fax: 086 55 333 97
- Closing Date: 17 April 2009

The University reserves the right to verify qualifications and credit standing.

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