DIRECTOR: BIOPROCESS ENGINEERING RESEARCH

(5-Year Contract Post)

Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research (CeBER)

Department of Chemical Engineering

Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is one of the leading higher education institutions on the African continent. It embraces a tradition of academic excellence that is respected worldwide. The academic project remains at the heart of UCT's mission, which is built on three pillars at the core of Vision 2030: excellence, transformation, and sustainability.

The Department of Chemical Engineering enjoys an international reputation in teaching and research and is actively committed to teaching and research. It also enjoys strong, global industrial support for its teaching and research programmes, and maintains close links with the South African chemical, petrochemical, biotechnological and minerals industries. Research is carried out in the areas of bioprocess engineering, catalysis and catalytic processing, engineering education, environmental systems and process systems engineering, minerals processing, precipitation and crystallisation, energy systems modelling, and sea ice.

The Centre for Bioprocess Engineering Research (CeBER) is seeking to appoint an accomplished researcher for the position of **Director of Bioprocess Engineering Research** in the Department of Chemical Engineering. This senior leadership role offers an exceptional opportunity to drive innovative research in a transdisciplinary arena and to contribute to advancements in bioprocessing and biotechnology to support South Africa's bioeconomy, circular economy and health biotechnology and bioactives sectors.

The Director will lead a dynamic research team focusing on bioprocess engineering to realize bio-based solutions and bioproducts, with an emphasis on the development and optimisation of processes across diverse research themes critical to delivering new approaches to the circular economy, nature-based solutions, a low carbon economy, and bioactives towards building a healthy Africa. These draw on the team's expertise in Biohydrometallurgy, Bioprocess Engineering, Bioproducts, Algal Biotech, and Health Biotechnology.

This role requires an appreciation of molecular biology and structural biology, with additional knowledge of bioprocesses, especially downstream processing, considered a valuable asset. The successful candidate will lead collaborations at the interface of chemical engineering and life sciences, ensuring impactful and innovative outcomes. The Director will also be responsible for building and maintaining strong relationships with industry leaders, securing research funding, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Centre.

To view and apply for this position, please visit the UCT Jobs site **View** (For Internal Applicants) and **View** (For external Applicants) to create a profile and to submit your application.

Closing date: 11 February 2025 **Reference:** ID 985

UCT is a designated employer and is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets in accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets. Preference will be given to candidates from the under-represented designated groups. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at www.hr.uct.ac.za/hr/policies/employ_equity

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.