



**RESEARCH OFFICER / SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER: AMALI
DATA PROGRAMME**
(18-month Contract)
African Centre for Cities (ACC)
School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

The African Centre for Cities (ACC) at the University of Cape Town invite applications for three full time **Research Officers or Senior Research Officers** for an 18-month period (January 2026 – June 2027).

We are looking for candidates to work as part of the African Mayoral Leadership Initiative (AMALI) Data Programme team (see <https://amalocities.africa/> for more details), located within the African Centre for Cities (ACC).

ACC was established in 2007 at the University of Cape Town as an urban research institute. The ACC is based in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, but is interdisciplinary in scope, drawing on expertise on urban issues from across the university. AMALI, located within ACC, focuses on supporting African Mayors in their legacy goals and involves in-depth and ongoing technical and skills support over the course of a calendar year. The AMALI Data Programme specifically focuses on supporting Mayors from African Cities; their executive and data teams in the collection, analysis, and use of data necessary for effective decision making and reporting at a city-scale.

The AMALI Data Programme Research Officers / Senior Research Officers will work with a portfolio of cities, engaging with data experts and city leadership to deliver coaching and capacity building to ensure better collection and analysis of data, which in turn will support the success of city leaderships' visions for their cities. These positions will therefore also support the management and utilization of data into routine city governance processes. To achieve this, these positions will work to assess the current data capabilities of city teams, scope specific activities focused on improving skills and guiding each city through the implementation of a chosen data initiative, provide ongoing support to city teams to help improve outcomes, regularly evaluate city progress and track impact, and conduct research/analysis to then write up and present findings. This work will involve extensive travel each year to selected cities across Africa.

Requirements for the job:

- Good quantitative and qualitative research skills.
- Excellent verbal, written, and presentation skills.
- Strong understanding of quantitative research methods, and the ability to work with and understand complex datasets.
- Proven ability to distil complex data and research findings into clear actionable insights for decision making, and policy development
- Evidence of academic writing ability in the form of a published article in an ISI accredited journal or in the form of a academic book chapter
- Excellent time management skills and ability to work independently in a pressurized environment.
- Ability to interact successfully with individuals from a wide range of professional and non-professional backgrounds, including internal (UCT) and external stakeholders.
- Good knowledge of urban issues in Africa, how local government functions, and the collection/analysis of urban data is essential.
- Ability to travel internationally (the work will require repeat visits to several African cities every year).

The following would be advantageous:

- Skills in website development/maintenance and the use of data management / analysis and statistical software (such as GIS and SPSS).
- Fluency in French.

Requirements for a Research Officer position:

- A Masters degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. urban studies, geography, urban planning, sociology, public policy/administration, statistics, GIS, engineering, data science).

- At least three years relevant postgraduate experience working in academia, public policy, public administration, government, non-profit, management consulting or a related field with well-developed research management skills and a track record of academic publications.

Requirements for a Senior Research Officer position:

- A PhD in a relevant discipline (e.g. urban studies, geography, urban planning, sociology, public policy/administration, statistics, GIS, engineering, data science).
- At least five years relevant postgraduate experience working in academia, public policy, public administration, government, non-profit, management consulting or a related field with well-developed research management skills and a track record of international academic publications.

Work Location:

- This position will be based at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, with travel to African cities as required.

Salary:

- The 2025 annual cost of employment range is between R492,392 and R941,184 for a Research Officer and between R557,181 and R1,147,460 for a Senior Research Officer.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to Aaliyah McQuire at aaliyah.mcquire@uct.ac.za

- UCT Application Form (download at <http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc>)
- A 1-2-page motivation letter specifying the relevance of experience for the position.
- A detailed curriculum vitae.
- A published article in an academic journal or chapter in a scholarly book or a peer-reviewed paper, or evidence of acceptance of a suitable article or chapter or paper.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete and might not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and may be required to undergo competency assessments.

Telephone: 021 650 7198

Website: www.africancentreforcities.net

Reference number: E25910

Closing date: 03 October 2025

"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.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf. "
www.hr.uct.ac.za/hr/policies/employ_equity.

When you apply for a position at UCT, we collect your personal information to assess your application, communicate with you, and coordinate interview logistics. Information such as race, gender, nationality, and disability status is used to support our Employment Equity obligations. We also verify your references, qualifications, conduct criminal and, for certain roles, credit checks. For more information about how the University of Cape Town uses personal information and your rights, please email popia@uct.ac.za.

The University reserves the right to extend the closing date for applications if deemed necessary and reserves the right to make no appointment.