



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



Materials Electrochemistry
& Energy Technologies

NRF/DSTI/Wits SARChI Chair in Electrochemistry & Energy Technologies (MEET)

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (Batteries, Fuel Cells & Electrolyzers)

Open Call 2026

The **NRF/DSTI/Wits SARChI Chair in Electrochemistry & Energy Technologies (MEET)** at University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) is currently inviting applications for highly motivated **Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (3X)**, with an expected start date of June 1, 2026. Wits SARChI Chair MEET is a leading research and innovation laboratory, dedicated to advancing electrochemical energy storage and conversion technologies. The group's core mission is the design and development of next-generation electrode materials for batteries, fuel cells, and electrolyzers. These postdoctoral positions are part of an ambitious, forward-looking research initiative focused on the discovery and engineering of novel electrode and electrocatalytic materials. A key emphasis is the integration of AI-driven approaches, including data science and machine learning, with experimental electrochemistry, to accelerate the discovery, optimization, and deployment of advanced battery and electrocatalytic systems.

Research focus:

- Lithium-ion batteries
- Zinc-based batteries
- Solid-state electrolytes
- Data Science & Machine Learning

Qualifications and key Expectations

- A Ph.D. in Chemistry, Materials Science, Physics, Data Science, Computational Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or other related fields, completed within the last five years.
- Backgrounds in batteries and/or electrocatalysis (notably ORR, OER, HER)
- Experience in DFT calculations, data science and machine learning (e.g., Python/R) is an advantage
- Talented, motivated, and enthusiastic with a strong research-driven scientific mindset, marked by curiosity, initiative, and intellectual rigor.
- Ability to work collaboratively in an interdisciplinary team.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Good publication record demonstrating expertise.

Fellowship details:

- **Stipend:** Tax-free R350,000 pa (may be negotiated based on experience).
- **Duration:** Two years, renewable annually based on performance and funding availability.
- **Eligibility:** Open call.
- **Exclusivity:** The fellowship may not be held concurrently with any other government-funded fellowship (e.g., NRF) or full-time salaried employment.
- **Additional benefits:** Fellows will have access to conference travel support and professional development opportunities.
- **Reporting:** Submission of regular progress reports as required by institutional guidelines.

Application procedure:

Interested candidates should submit the following documents before March 31, 2026 to: **Dr Thapelo Mofokeng** (e-mail: thapelo.mofokeng1@wits.ac.za)

1. A detailed curriculum vitae (CV) with a list of research publications.
2. Certified copies of academic qualifications and identity documentation.
3. Research project proposal which includes the following:
 - A background to the study (1,000 words including key literature)
 - A rationale (250 words)
 - Aims and objectives (300 words)
 - A Research methodology (1,000 words)
 - A Gantt chart
4. Contact details of three academic referees.

Closing Date: 31 March 2026

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and interviewed for the postdoctoral fellowship and will be expected to give a PowerPoint presentation.

For further information about the Wits MEET research group, please visit: <https://www.ozoemenagroup.com/>