



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

MASTERS AND DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS (Batteries, Fuel Cells & Electrolyzers)

Do you want to contribute to the development of sustainable energy storage technologies for a low-carbon future? The Materials Electrochemistry & Energy Technologies (MEET) Research Group at the University of the Witwatersrand invites applications for **two (2) MSc and four (4) PhD positions focused on advanced energy storage materials and data-driven approaches for next-generation battery systems** with an expected start date no later than April 1, 2026. We are looking for talented, highly motivated, and enthusiastic candidates who demonstrate a strong scientific and research-oriented mindset with curiosity and initiative.

Our multidisciplinary research team works at the intersection of materials electrochemistry, renewable energy technologies, and digital innovation, contributing toward global sustainability goals and supporting the transition to reliable, scalable energy storage solutions. The successful candidates will join a dynamic, internationally collaborative research environment equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for materials synthesis, characterization, and electrochemical evaluation.

Research Focus

- **Lithium-ion batteries**
- **Zinc-based batteries**
- **Solid-State batteries**
- **New electrode / electrocatalytic materials**

Qualifications and Expectations

Applicants should meet several (not necessarily all) of the following criteria:

- **For MSc** (BSc(Hons)) and **for PhD** (MSc/MEng) in Materials Science, Chemistry, Physics, Chemical Engineering, or other related fields.
- Terminal degrees (BSc (Hons) or MSc/MEng) must have obtained a final mark of above 65%
- Experience in electrochemistry, materials synthesis, or energy storage research.
- Experience with materials characterization and electrochemical techniques.
- Experience with machine learning, Python programming, or statistical modelling.

- Interest in applying computational tools to electrochemical systems or materials science.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent communication skills in English
- Interest in application-driven research and industry collaboration.
- **Stipend:** New generous NRF rates for MSc and PhD scholars (top-ups may be considered based on performance and availability of fund).
- **Duration:** Two years (MSc) and three years (PhD)

Application procedure

Interested candidates should submit the following documents to:

Dr. Thapelo Mofokeng (email: thapelo.mofokeng1@wits.ac.za)

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV) including publication list.
2. Certified copies of academic qualifications and identity documentation.
3. Brief statement of research interests and alignment with the advertised themes (optional but encouraged).
4. Contact details of two academic referees.

Closing Date: 15 March 2026

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview and will be required to present a short scientific presentation.

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