

[Fractionation of seaweed oligosaccharides for production of natural biostimulants](#)

Chemical Engineering (read more [here](#) about the programme and admission requirements)

Hosts: Profs Neill Goosen and Robbie Pott

We are looking for motivated candidate to work on the fractionation of seaweed oligosaccharides, with the ultimate aim of producing natural biostimulants for the agricultural industry. Seaweed oligosaccharides are known to have biostimulant potential, but producing defined fractions can lead to more well-defined biostimulants with specific applications. The project will develop two different pathways for fractionation of a mixture of seaweed oligosaccharides, and will characterize the different fractions.

The position is for full-time, on campus study at Stellenbosch University and forms part of ongoing work at the Department of Chemical Engineering. Stellenbosch University is one of the leading research institutions on the African continent and is known for its academic excellence and rich on-campus student experience. If you are independent, curiosity driven, innovative, and willing to work in a multidisciplinary environment, then this exciting position could be yours!

Commencement: The successful candidate must assume postgraduate work in January 2025.

Bursary: A bursary of R145,000 per year will be provided for a maximum of 2 years.

Requirements

- A bachelor's degree (BEng/BScEng or similar) in Chemical Engineering from an accredited tertiary institution. *Candidates with BTech, National Diploma, or advanced diploma qualifications will not be considered.*
- Applicants must have good academic record (preferably with a course aggregate of >65%).
- Previous experience in bio-separations will be a definite advantage but is not required.

Application

Interested candidates must provide the following documentation: a cover letter, CV, degree certificate(s), complete academic transcript(s), and contact details of at least three academic references. Applications can be sent to njgoosen@sun.ac.za or rpott@sun.ac.za before **30 November 2024**. Candidates may consider their application unsuccessful if they do not receive any feedback within four weeks of applying.

Stellenbosch University reserves the right not to fill the position.