

Biopolymer recovery and modification

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

Host: Prof. Neill Goosen

The research group of Prof Goosen is seeking an excellent research candidate at Master's or PhD level to develop and optimize a process for extraction and modification of biopolymers from food processing by-products. The project will require a candidate who can work independently and accurately in the lab environment, and has the skills to interpret laboratory results within the context of an industrial process (i.e., develop preliminary process flow diagrams and select appropriate equipment, based on their laboratory results). The work will be done in collaboration with an industry partner, and there will be frequent interaction with the industry's R&D Department.

The position is for full time on-campus studies only.

Commencement: The successful candidate must assume postgraduate work in Stellenbosch as soon as possible.

Bursary: Provided, as part of the contract with industry.

Requirements:

- **For PhD studies:** A master's degree (MEng/MSc or similar) in Chemical Engineering or related field from an accredited tertiary institution.
- **For Master's studies:** 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%).
- Preference will be given to **South African citizens and permanent residents** who display academic excellence.

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 up until the 31st of March 2025. 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.