

Circular economy in agriculture projects and bursaries available for prospective postgraduate students

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

The South African Grape and Wine Research Institute (SAGWRI), The Department of Agricultural Economics and the Department of Chemical Engineering have been successful in attracting funding for a multidisciplinary research project titled “BLUEPRINTING CIRCULARITY IN AGRICULTURE” from 2026 onwards. The project forms part of the South African Government’s Circular Economy Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy as administered by the CSIR. There are postgraduate projects and bursary opportunities available to prospective Chemical engineering students with the appropriate academic backgrounds and interest to join this multidisciplinary project team to participate in the research on this exciting project.

Commencement: January 2026

Requirements:

- Master’s degree in chemical engineering or related fields (e.g. Industrial or agricultural engineering).
- A strong academic record with a final MSc/MEng. performance mark of $\geq 70\%$. (A mark between 65 and 70% will be considered if reasonable industry experience is demonstrated.)
- Demonstrated knowledge of environmental and sustainability concepts and agricultural practices.
- Experience with systems thinking, life cycle thinking, and process simulation and modelling.
- Strong skills in data collection, processing and analysis.
- Ability to engage with industry and stakeholders at both scientific and practical levels.
- Capacity to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team.
- Excellent organisational, writing, and reporting skills

We offer:

- A standard bursary, renewable annually for a maximum of three years, depending on satisfactory progress.
- An opportunity to contribute to an impactful sustainability-focused project.
- A dynamic and collaborative research environment.
- Engagement with industry partners and exposure to real-world applications.
- Supervision and support from an experienced, multidisciplinary academic team.

Application:

The candidates should be self-starters with independent thinking ability and resilience under pressure. If interested, submit a CV, cover letter, academic transcripts, and contact details of two referees to Prof Annie Chimpango at achimpha@sun.ac.za by **15 November 2025**. Communications will be limited to shortlisted candidates only.

Stellenbosch University reserves the right not to fill the position.