



Somerset Street • Grahamstown • 6139 • Tel: +27(0)46 622 2312 • Fax: +27(0)46 622 2398
Associated Research Institute of Rhodes University
<http://www.ru.ac.za/affiliates/am/>

Established 1855



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Grahamstown • 6139 • South Africa



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PROJECT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FOSSILS?

DO YOU WANT TO DO AN MSc or PhD ON FOSSIL PLANTS OR INSECTS?

Whether you are interested in a career in palaeontology, or would like to do a project with a difference on South African fossils, please consider applying for a student bursary to work with us at the Albany Museum.

This is a wonderful time for students to enter this field – we have good funding opportunities, amazing fossil collections and there is the potential to discover and work on spectacular new sites in the Northern Cape, the Free State, the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. A range of available projects will focus on fossil plant and insect taxonomy, the characterisation of plant-insect interactions, and working in a multidisciplinary team towards the reconstruction of Permian-aged ecosystems of the Karoo Basin.

We are a growing team, and would like you to join us. Become a pioneering explorer of the ancient Permian ecosystems of Gondwana, and be the first to describe strange new plants and insects!

WHO CAN APPLY?

Anyone with a good academic record in the life sciences, particularly the fields of botany and entomology, and who has a broad knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural world.

If your application is successful, you would be registered in 2020 as a Rhodes University student in the Botany or Entomology department.

- 1) Masters Bursary: for a two year, full time research project;
- 2) PhD Bursary: for a three year, full time research project.

Table 1. Grants and maximum period of support.

Postgraduate Bursaries	Maximum Value of Support per Annum	Maximum Period of Support (years)
• Masters	R 90 000.00	2*
• Doctoral	R 120 000.00	3*
*Funding contingent on annual progress		



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WHAT WILL YOUR PROJECT INVOLVE?

Depending on the project you choose, and the degree you do, your research could involve the following:

- Fieldwork: up to two week-long fieldtrip to a fossil site, and careful excavation of fossil material using chisels and hammers and keen powers of observation;
- Unpacking and preparation of large collections of fossil material;
- Photography of fossils;
- Measurement, description and identification of fossils;
- Writing up taxonomic descriptions for publication; comparisons with taxa in the literature; placing your finds within local and global context;
- Publication of your project in a scientific journal.

WHAT SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES WILL YOU NEED?

- A good academic record;
- Ability to work independently;
- Initiative and creativity;
- Keen observation skills;
- You must be meticulous, pay attention to detail, be organised and methodical;
- You must be prepared to get your hands dirty and do some manual labour;
- A sense of adventure and enthusiasm are strong advantages!

HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

Submit the following in a single PDF document:

- A 1-page cover letter expressing interest in this project
- An up-to-date CV
- A certified academic transcript from your undergraduate and postgraduate institutions
- A certified copy of your most recent degree certificate
- A letter of support from your supervisor if you have not yet completed your current degree
- The names and contact information of at least two referees with knowledge of your research and academic experience.

To: **Dr Rose Prevec**

r.prevec@am.org.za

Tel: 046 622 2312

Closing date for applications:
Monday 25 November 2019

Contact Dr Rose Prevec or Ms. Aviwe Matiwane with queries.

r.prevec@am.org.za

aviwematiwane0@gmail.com