



MORPHOLOGY & ANDROLOGY GROUP (MAG)

Discipline of Clinical Anatomy

Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine

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The Morphology and Andrology Group (MAG) in the School of Laboratory Medicine & Medical Sciences has opportunities (i.e. scholarships) for students who are interested in pursuing postgraduate degrees (Honours, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)) in the Discipline of Clinical Anatomy by research.

MAG philosophical ethos aligns with the overall goals of the university where research activities inform teaching and impacts on students' training in anatomy while encouraging creativity, engagement with research active staff compliment towards addressing real-world health issues. We aim to provide a stimulating and diverse research and training environment of international standard within which important and exciting areas of Structural Anatomy and Morphometry integrates with modern techniques of medical investigations. Our team investigates the male reproductive anatomy specifically the effects of toxicants, diseases (e.g. diabetes) and drugs on testicular cell growth and morphology and how this impacts on reproductive wellbeing using experimental animal models. MAG also focuses on developing alternative teaching and learning adjuncts in the face of dwindling cadaveric material. Other basic anatomical research activities are conducted by team members on anatomical variants relevant to clinical practise in the region.

MAG is based at the Main building, Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine, College of Health Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Students will be directly supervised by faculty members – Dr OO Azu/or Dr ECS Naidu as well as mentored by Postdoctoral Fellows in the team.

The Honours/MSc degree requires at least one year of study, at the end of which the candidate for the degree submits a dissertation that is subject to review by an external examiner. Fulltime students must usually complete their degrees within three years (for PhD), and publication of research findings in peer-reviewed journals is expected.

Minimum requirements:

- Holders of an Honours/MBBS degree (for Masters) or Masters/MBBS (for PhD applicants) in Anatomy/biological sciences or an equivalent degree;
- Excellent undergraduate academic record;
- Preference will be given to designated groups.

Essential Requirements:

- Availability to work full-time in the laboratory;
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail;
- Outstanding academic and character reference reports;

- Prospective applicants should demonstrate familiarity with recent research publications by these researchers;
- Familiarity with basic Anatomical research skills.

Application procedures:

Applicants are required to submit a one-page cover letter briefly describing their research interests, a detailed CV, highlighting their experience in each of the minimum requirements listed above, together with the name, telephone no. and fax no. or e-mail address of two referees who are available to comment on your academic and research competence or potential. Address your applications to DR. OO Azu, Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag 7 Congella, Durban 4013, Fax No. 031-260-4080 or email azu@ukzn.ac.za

Terms of appointment and Selection Process:

The positions will be offered in compliance with admission policies of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. A flat rate monthly stipend will be paid to the successful applicants for the duration of the study program in line with NRF funding policy. The selection process will commence in January 2016 and will continue until suitable candidate(s) is/are appointed or a decision is taken not to fill the positions.

Closing Date for applications 30 April 2016.