

Call for Applications

SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS



Empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders in Southern Africa

ARE YOU A MASTERS OR PHD STUDENT PASSIONATE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY?

The Future Earth Southern Africa Node invites applications from eligible postgraduate students to join the Sustainability Champions Academy, a regional platform designed to develop emerging leaders in sustainability research and action.

Background

The Future Earth Southern Africa Node is committed to strengthening the capacity of a new generation of researchers, innovators and leaders who can contribute meaningfully to addressing the sustainability challenges facing Southern Africa and the wider African continent.

The Sustainability Champions Academy is a regional platform that will bring together selected postgraduate students from participating universities and support them to become emerging leaders in sustainability research and action.

Mentorship Support

Each Sustainability Champion will be paired with experienced academics, researchers and practitioners who will provide guidance and support throughout their participation in the Academy, helping them grow as researchers, collaborators, communicators and sustainability leaders.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be reviewed based on:

- Relevance of research to sustainability challenges
- Quality of the motivation statement
- Interest in interdisciplinary and collaborative research
- Leadership potential
- Commitment to societal impact
- Contribution to a diverse regional network

Who Can Apply?

Master's and PhD students enrolled at universities participating in the Future Earth Southern Africa Node.

Applicants should demonstrate an interest in sustainability-related research and a commitment to applying knowledge to address societal, environmental and development

Why Join?

- Regional visibility and networking
- Leadership development
- Research capacity strengthening
- Mentorship from experienced experts
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Exposure to international networks
- Seminars, masterclasses and research events

What is Expected

- Actively participate in Academy activities
- Engage in mentoring, seminars and research dialogues
- Contribute to interdisciplinary working groups and collaborative initiatives
- Share your research and support peer learning
- Explore opportunities for real-world sustainability solutions

Application Process

Complete the application form using the link or QR code below.

Visit:
<https://forms.gle/kK5V8NuYeLuu5E4CA>



Diversity

We encourage applications from all countries, universities, disciplines, genders and sustainability research themes across Southern Africa.

Application Deadline

October 25th, 2026

Note: This is not a grants call; hence no funds are expected if admitted into the programme.

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES (SOUTHERN AFRICA NODE)

