

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PLANT AND CROP SCIENCES
PROFESSOR AND HEAD (ONE POST)

In pursuit of the ideals of excellence and diversity, the University of Pretoria wishes to invite applications for the above vacancy.

The University of Pretoria's commitment to quality makes us one of the top research Universities in the country and gives us a competitive advantage in international science and technology development.

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is one of the most diverse science faculties on the African continent. The Faculty hosts undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the broad knowledge fields of Agricultural, Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences and our curricula are characterised for its breadth and depth in its offerings. The Faculty is recognised by the ISI Web of Knowledge field rankings in the Plant and Animal Sciences (including Forestry), Environment and Ecology and Agriculture.

One of the main goals of the UP 2025 Strategic Plan is the creation and enhancement of solid multidisciplinary research programmes based on the current disciplinary strengths and research capacity. Progress in addressing a number of the global challenges such as food security, climate change, environmental sustainability, ecology and biodiversity is closely linked to the University of Pretoria's knowledge and understanding of the basic and applied plant sciences. To enhance the current strengths and opportunities, a more coherent effort towards addressing the global challenges related to the plant domain was needed. The Faculty has recently established the formation of a new School of Plant and Crop Sciences through which we will consolidate all our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the plant and applied plant sciences.

This consolidation process will enable the University to align strategic research activities in basic plant science including molecular aspects with agriculture, biotechnology, ecology and biodiversity. A single academic home will enable the University to strengthen strategic international and local partnerships with industry and government which can attract major external funding streams for several of the critical knowledge fields. It will further contribute and strengthen existing centres of excellence, Institutional Research Themes and institutes and will enable the development of future research chairs of national relevance. Through these efforts it is believed that the strengths in the field of basic and applied plant sciences could be used to assist the University in harnessing its potential to make a difference in South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world.

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences invites applications for the position of Professor and Head of the School of Plant and Crop Science (HoS).

Apart from the normal administrative duties as HoS, the position will involve the development of the vision of the School to become a leading institution in the basic and applied plant sciences. Relevant research and teaching experience in these fields will be advantageous. The candidate will actively support and drive the commitment of the University of Pretoria's 2025 vision to become a leading research university in Africa. The candidate will have to demonstrate a record of international research collaboration, teaching and supervision at different levels and a successful acquisition of external research grants. The University of Pretoria is seeking a highly motivated, internationally recognised scientist to develop the research programme and facilities in the School. The candidate will be responsible for supervising undergraduate and postgraduate students and is expected to contribute to undergraduate as well as honours courses. The ideal candidate will have experience in academic administration in a university context. Good contacts in the plant sciences field will be of advantage.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The candidate will be responsible for:

- The strategic, academic and operational management of the School;
- Promoting the School's research profile;
- Ensuring scholarly academic and professional education and training;
- Playing an active role as academic leader of the discipline at a national and international level;
- Fundraising for departmental activities.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- A relevant doctorate with at least 10 years' experience;
- Internationally recognised academic standing in a relevant discipline in plant science;
- A proven research and publication record and peer recognition;
- Experience in high-level liaison with internal and external stakeholders;
- An appropriate vision for the School;
- Managerial skills and competencies;
- Strong leadership and communication skills;
- Diversity management skills;
- The ability to lead research programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Managerial experience at a tertiary institution;
- A strong research record in one of the School's research specialisation fields.

The annual remuneration package will be commensurate with the incumbent's level of appointment, as determined by UP policy guidelines. UP subscribes to the BESTMED medical aid scheme and contributes 50% of the applicable monthly premium.

Applicants are requested to apply online at www.up.ac.za and follow the link: Careers@UP, quoting the applicable reference number of the position advertised.

Applicants are requested to provide the following documentation in support of their application:

- A complete and updated Curriculum Vitae
- A brief self-evaluation by the candidate
- The candidate's vision for the School
- Details of three contactable referees, including referees who can attest to the candidate's academic activities as well as leadership qualities. The University reserves the right to appoint additional referees.

CLOSING DATE: 31 July 2014

No application will be considered after the closing date, or if it does not comply with at least the minimum requirements.

ENQUIRIES: Prof A Ströh, Tel: (012) 420 2478

Should you not hear from the University of Pretoria by 30 September 2014, please accept that your application has been unsuccessful.

PLEASE NOTE: As part of the selection process, candidates may be expected to do a 15-minute presentation to the Appointments Committee on his/her vision for the School.

By applying, candidates agree to the appointment process as set out in the relevant UP policy document. This process can be accessed at <http://www.up.ac.za/services/personnel/policies/w113E.doc>.

The headship is a term appointment for a period of four years, but external candidates are also considered for a permanent academic appointment as Professor. Preference will be given to the incumbent for re-appointment for a second term.

The University of Pretoria is committed to equality, employment equity and diversity.

In accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets, preference may be given, but is not limited to candidates from under-represented designated groups.

All candidates who comply with the requirements for appointment are invited to apply.

The University of Pretoria reserves the right not to make an appointment to the posts as advertised.