

Wits ENERGISE Centre Announcement of Doctoral Scholarship “Engineering Future Grid Scenarios”

Call for Applications

The [Wits ENERGISE Centre](#) is a partnership between the University of the Witwatersrand, Technical University of Munich and three other South African universities: the University of Johannesburg, Tshwane University of Technology, and the University of Venda. It promotes interdisciplinary research combining engineering, entrepreneurship, and policy to advance a Just Energy Transition in South Africa. The Centre is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Federal Foreign Office (Line A), and the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (Line B).

This call invites highly qualified and motivated candidates who are German citizen or permanent German residents to apply for the doctoral scholarship in “Engineering Future Grid Scenarios”. The doctoral research will focus on developing and applying scenario-based models to analyse the interaction between distributed energy resources, electricity demand centres, and grid infrastructure under future energy transition pathways. The research will generate evidence to inform policy, investment decisions, grid planning, and system resilience in support of South Africa’s Just Energy Transition. The selected doctoral scholar will be registered for full-time PhD studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in South Africa, supervised by Prof. Ken Nixon and Dr. Yu-Chieh Yen (School of Electrical & Information Engineering). The successful doctoral scholar will benefit from the ENERGISE network through collaborative supervision with researchers from the Technical University of Munich (TUM), as well as opportunities for research collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional networking with leading researchers and partner institutions in South Africa and Germany.

The ENERGISE doctoral scholarship includes a monthly stipend of EUR 1825 (approx. ZAR 33,762), research mobility of EUR 2000 (approx. ZAR 37,000) and stay between South Africa and Germany, and monthly health insurance at usual national health insurance rates. The scholarship program runs for 3 years, from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2029.

With funding from the:



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

ENERGISE doctoral scholars are expected to:

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to the work as a doctoral student.
- Participate and contribute to the activities of the Wits ENERGISE Centre
- Engage in academic exchange (i.e., visit and collaborate with partner universities)
- Present research at leading international conferences and publish in leading international academic journals (e.g. Energy, IEEE)

Application requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in engineering or related fields (with a focus on electrical engineering)
- Master's degree in a relevant technical, quantitative, analytical, engineering, scientific, or related field
- Strong proficiency in English
- Excellent academic track record
- Extracurricular skills, social engagement, and strong motivation
- German citizen or permanent German resident

Qualified women and individuals with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply. The first round of successful candidates will be invited to perform a task assignment in electrical engineering research. The final candidates will be invited for an online interview with Prof Ken Nixon and the team. The Selection Commission of the ENERGISE Centre will make the final decision in line with DAAD criteria.

To apply, please upload your CV, a strong letter of motivation highlighting the fit to the Wits ENERGISE Centre, and certificates, including the transcript of records, research proposal and 1-2 academic reference letters through the online form: [Apply here](#) by 31 October 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the announcement of the doctoral scholarship for “Engineering Future Grid Scenarios”, feel free to contact Dr. Yu-Chieh Yen (Email: Yu-Chieh.Yen@wits.ac.za).

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