

2014 Study opportunities for Young Researchers in Regional and Local Economic Development

The College of Law and Management Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), in partnership with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in KwaZulu-Natal, seeks applications from committed candidates wishing to further their studies in 2014 through a full-time Masters Degree by research focusing on Regional and Local Economic Development (RLED) in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Young Researchers Programme

The Young Researchers unit is a small, tightly knit group responsible for designing and implementing research projects of significance to regional and local economic development (RLED). The research focuses on capacity building in RLED projects, policy matters, and institutional and professional capacity building. The young researchers will develop skills vitally important in today's economic development environment including team-based interaction, the ability to manage outcomes without having direct authority over others, and the capacity to aid in the definition and the direction of RLED initiatives.

Task Description

The primary role of the young researchers is to complete a Masters Degree dissertation in a field of mutual interest to the RLED community and the individual student. The young researcher is expected to provide research assistance on a paper for publication related to the designated topic area. Thus, students with different disciplinary backgrounds will be required to work on a range of different projects. We need to say here that students will be required to work in the RLED team and contribute to the many activities being undertaken within the wider project as well as getting opportunities to work in these activities, building their experience and network in the field of RLED. Students who have an interest in the opportunity can apply.

Young Researchers will be expected to conduct their Masters research within one of the following themes:

- Informal economy and RLED: Complexity, micro business, regulation, SMMEs, connections to formal markets
- SMMEs development: access to finance, grants, equity and use of public resources
- Regional economic development: Cities as drivers of regional economic development

- Place-based economic development initiatives: development agencies, special economic zones and area based management as initiatives to address poverty and unemployment
- Relationships between the state, private sector and communities: critical examination of economic development mechanisms of co-operatives and public private partnerships
- Green economy initiatives as cases of innovative RLED
- Dynamics systems models and tools for RLED
- Monitoring and evaluation of RLED initiatives

Application Requirements

- Postgraduate qualification at Honours level
- Experience in practical research work, either academically or through work experience
- Proven proficiency in conducting desktop research
- Demonstrable communication and writing experience
- Research and analytical skills will be an added advantage

Note - The programme is only offered to South African citizens and prospective students will undergo a rigorous process of selection.

Interested candidates should send in a one page motivational letter, CV, and certified copies of ID, certificates and academic transcripts to dlaminib1@ukzn.ac.za

The deadline for applications is Thursday 06 December 2013.

For further details visit: www.kznded.gov.za or <http://gsbl.ukzn.ac.za>

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