

### **Apply for a Doctoral Fellowship in the Planet4Health study**

Funded by the European Union, the Planet4Health (P4H) study (<https://planet4health.eu/>) employs four case studies to investigate how environmental degradation impacts human, animal and ecosystem health. Case Study 4 uses mixed methods to explore how climate change and the environment affect the mental wellbeing of people living in Gauteng (South Africa) and Barcelona (Spain), and what might support human resilience to climate-related challenges. This fellowship call is specific to Case Study 4, South Africa (see appendix A). Professor Linda Theron (Department of Educational Psychology, University of Pretoria) leads the South African leg of Case Study 4 and the fellow will complete their PhD under her guidance.

#### Fellowship details

- 12-month duration (preferred commencement date: 2 May 2025), with scope to renew for 1.5 more years
- Hybrid (i.e., work from home with weekly in-person meetings at Groenkloof Campus)
- Fellow provides research assistance to the P4H study, Case Study 4, SA (30 hours/week)
- Annual value: R450,000.00 (inclusive of PhD fees and research assistance hours)
- Successful candidates will:
  - Propose a cutting-edge PhD study that aligns with the P4H study, Case Study 4.
  - Have a psychology or relevant social sciences or public health background and completed master's degree (completed within the last five years at the time of application).
  - Have excellent verbal and written English skills.
  - Demonstrate collegiality and willingness to work as part of an interdisciplinary and international team.

The following will advantage applications:

- Mixed methods skills and experience.
- Track record of publication.
- South African nationality.
- Ability to communicate orally in Nguni and/or Sotho-Tswana languages.

## Documents to be submitted

1. Cover letter detailing why you wish to join the P4H study and your relevant RA experience.
2. 3-pg PhD proposal outlining what question your PhD study will answer, why that question must be answered, and how you will answer it (i.e., synopsis of the methodology). The 3-pg limit excludes the reference list (which must be appended). Note: the proposal should align with Case Study 4 (see Appendix A to understand methodology).
3. Copy of your national identification.
4. Copies of your qualifications and academic transcript. Note: Candidates that have not completed a master's degree at the time of applying should submit official proof that their master's thesis has been examined and approved.
5. Copy of your CV.

**Eligible applicants to submit documentation to Prof Linda Theron ([Linda.theron@up.ac.za](mailto:Linda.theron@up.ac.za), using the subject heading: "P4H: doctoral fellowship application".**

**Submission deadline: asap (open until fellowship awarded to successful applicant)**

**Preferred candidates will be invited to participate in an interview; should no interview invitation be forthcoming, please consider the application unsuccessful**

## Appendix A

**Funding body:** This project is funded by the European Union as part of the PLANET4HEALTH Project (<https://planet4health.eu>).

**The purpose of this project:** We want to learn how climate change and the environment affect the mental wellbeing of people living in Gauteng (South Africa) and what might support human resilience to climate change-related challenges.

**Voluntary participation:** In South Africa, we are inviting 300 participants to join the study. Participation is on a voluntary basis; participants may withdraw from the study at any time without having to justify their decision.

**Who can participate:** Anyone who (i) is 18 years old or older; (ii) lives in Gauteng; (iii) has a smart mobile device and regular access to the internet; (iv) is OK reading and writing basic English; and (v) can install the Space Mapper App onto their smart mobile device.

**What participants will be asked to do:** This study involves a mobile phone application called Space Mapper, which keeps track of where participants spend time, and lets participants share this information, *if they choose to*, with the researchers. It also involves a series of surveys. Participants can participate by installing Space Mapper on their mobile phone and letting it track their locations for up to six months. They will receive surveys (questions and digital diary prompts) every two weeks, in which they will be asked a series of questions about themselves and about their mental wellbeing. When responding to the survey, they will have the opportunity to share the locations tracked by Space Mapper during the previous two weeks. Participants can choose which questions they wish to answer and whether they wish to share their locations. Among other things, the surveys will ask about participants' race/ethnicity, health, sexual orientation, location and mobility, wellbeing, environmental challenges in the past two weeks, and supports that help them cope with challenges.

**What the data will be used for:** The data will be used to better understand how to protect the wellbeing of people who experience environmental and climate change challenges (e.g., exposure to air pollution or extreme heat events). This understanding will inform various products (e.g., resilience toolkits or early warning systems) that can be used by mental health professionals, service providers and policy makers.

