

VACANCY	
Job title:	Senior Data Specialist (2 Years fixed term contract)
Type:	Permanent <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary <input type="checkbox"/>
Main purpose of the job:	To develop, implement and maintain procedures and systems to collate and curate data from Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSS) in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia to enable investigation of all-cause excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Harmonised verbal autopsy assessment will be a secondary purpose. To achieve this, working effectively with data managers at involved HDSS sites will be required.
Location:	Johannesburg with travel to Agincourt - Bushbuckridge (Mpumalanga Province) and Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI) field offices in Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal Province.
Closing date:	26 November 2021
Submit detailed CV to:	nboomgaard@witshealth.co.za / nadia.boomgaard@witshealth.co.za Alternatively: Weekend.Khoza@wits.ac.za
Advert reference number:	AGIN_002_SDS
In accordance with our Employment Equity goals and plan, preference will be given to suitable applicants from designated groups as defined in the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 and subsequent amendments thereto.	

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), with DSI/MRC-SAPRIN, are leading research to investigate mortality trends and all-cause excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia using curated data from Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSS).

The MRC/Wits – Agincourt Research Unit is an exceptional health and population research centre based in the Wits School of Public Health. The School has several strong divisions including Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and a sister Demography and Population Studies programme. The successful candidate will join a talented and hardworking team addressing some of the country and region's most pressing health and development challenges. They will work with data managers from at least 10 Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) sites/networks in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia to extract, quality control, harmonise and analyse their mortality and cause of death data.

Key performance areas

- To draw up the specifications for harmonised data sets to send out as requests to participating HDSS sites.
- To lead, support and develop systems for checking, cleaning, and reporting back to HDSS sites about the quality, completeness and integrity of their mortality and cause of death data.

The Wits Health Consortium will only respond to shortlisted candidates. Candidates who have not been contacted within two weeks of the closing date can consider their applications unsuccessful.

- To interact effectively with site-based data managers and contribute to strengthening site-based systems and capabilities for data management.
- To create (pooled) standardised data sets ready for use in comparative cross-site analyses
- To develop a version control system to keep track of the most up-to-date versions of data, and retrieve versions used for published analyses.
- To document and ensure that the harmonised data and transformation procedures used to make the analytical data sets can be understood and used by others
- To perform analyses and contribute to peer-reviewed publications and technical reports, including as lead author.

Required minimum education and training

At least a Masters level qualification in Statistics / Biostatistics / Epidemiology / Demography / Data Analytics / Bioinformatics / Data Science / Computer Science or other highly quantitative and computational field. A doctoral qualification will be advantageous.

Desirable additional education, work experience and personal abilities

- Experience in processing and analysing large complex longitudinal datasets.
- Experience in relational database management.
- Working knowledge of SQL (i.e., ability to write queries that involve joining tables, aggregating functions, updating, and inserting into existing tables).
- High level computer programming language experience, such as C#, Java, Python.
- Demonstrated knowledge and track-record of statistics, and proficiency using a statistical software package (STATA, SAS, R) for import, manipulation, and analysis of large datasets.
- Experience with academic writing and publication.
- Team player able to work in a high-performing collaborative environment, and to support scientific investigations across disciplines.
- Strong written and oral communication skills in English.
- Ability to set priorities and work under pressure on a variety of tasks concurrently.
- Valid South African Driver's license.

Required minimum work experience

- Minimum of 2 years Data management experience
- Working experience in a low- or middle-income country

To Apply:

Should you be interested in applying for this vacancy, please send an email to

nadia.boomgaard@witshealth.co.za or Weekend.Khoza@wits.ac.za

The subject heading of the email must read **AGIN_002_SDS** and the job title of position applying for.

Please include the following documentation:

- **A cover letter (maximum one page) outlining your interest and suitability for the position.**
- **A detailed CV including three contactable referees.**
- **Certified qualifications and transcript**
- **Certified ID copy and driver's license**