

Southern African Young Scientists Summer Program 2013–14

The Southern African Young Scientists Summer Program (SA-YSSP) offers doctoral candidates the opportunity to develop research skills in systems analysis and its application to policy and management. The program takes place in South Africa from 24 November 2013 to 22 February 2014.

RESEARCH AREAS

Each participant works on a project that he/she has proposed and that is aligned to his/her graduate research and in one of the following research areas (details at www.iiasa.ac.at/sa-yssp/themes):

Risk and Governance

- Towards equitable and ecologically sound governance of mining and drilling
- Systems analysis for sustainable green city development
- Resilience in responses to slow- and sudden-onset change

Energy and Climate Systems

- Transformation of the South African energy system
- Energy efficiency in a sustainable mining industry
- Economic growth in South Africa under low carbon constraints
- Mitigation of air pollution and greenhouse gases
- Domestic energy access at the bottom of the pyramid

Ecosystems and Water

- Assessing competing land use options for fuel, food and fibre
- Resilience measures in ecosystems and networks
- Stability and complexity of adaptive ecological networks
- Dynamical systems in ecology
- Modeling mechanisms influencing plant diversity and productivity
- World Water Scenarios Initiative: Southern Africa case study
- Water futures and solutions

Population, Health and Aging

- Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into maternal and child health programs
- New approaches to measuring aging in South Africa
- Educational reform and social justice
- Population–environment–development nexus and differential vulnerability



From interactions with a smart team of peers, to trips to see herds of deer, to working with world-class research advisors; SA-YSSP enriched my life and extended my research skills.

—Emmanuel Mpolya, Tanzania (SA-YSSP 2012–13)
working on his PhD in Japan

APPLY NOW

If you can research independently and are an advanced doctoral student studying in South Africa, a Southern African Development Community nation or one of IIASA's 20 member countries, then please submit an application with a research project proposal by 16 September 2013 at the [National Research Foundation website](http://www.nrf.ac.za).

Funding for travel and living expenses is available.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The SA-YSSP—modeled on IIASA's YSSP, now in its 36th year—is made possible via a partnership between the following institutions:

- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
www.iiasa.ac.at
- South African Department of Science and Technology (DST)
www.dst.gov.za
- South African National Research Foundation (NRF)
www.nrf.ac.za
- University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa (UFS)
www.ufs.ac.za

Program Information

www.iiasa.ac.at/sa-yssp; www.ufs.ac.za/sa-yssp;
www.nrf.ac.za/funding_overview.php?fid=207

Application Questions

Dr. Priscilla Mensah, UFS: mensahpdna@ufs.ac.za

General Questions: sa-yssp@iiasa.ac.at

VENUE

The SA-YSSP program takes place at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Research supervision involves periodic on-site interactions with supervisors and postdoctoral fellows along with regular communication via online tools and video conferencing.

The program includes a blend of scientific and cultural activities designed to give participants optimal opportunity to develop transferable skills needed for high-level academic work, whilst experiencing the rich heritage and beauty of South Africa.



“Participating in the SA-YSSP was one of the best experiences of my life. I had the opportunity to work with multiple supervisors and expand my network, focus on research concerning pressing issues, make lifelong friends from all over the world, and experience South Africa’s rich culture.

—Valentina Prado Lopez, Colombia (SA-YSSP 2012–13)
working on her PhD in the USA

Participants live in high-quality on-campus apartments with WiFi access, kitchen and laundry facilities, and one apartment mate



BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Former SA-YSSPers have gained:

- New research skills, interests, and experience in systems analysis and the policy implications of their research
- A high level of supervision, with each participant having two supervisors—one senior scientist from South Africa and one from IIASA
- Access to new research networks
- Opportunity to publish an article based on research results from the program



APPLY BY 16 SEPTEMBER 2013