



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Post-doctoral position in Astrophysics at the University of the Free State, 2026

The Astrophysics Research Group in the Department of Physics at the University of the Free State (UFS) invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship. The fellowship will focus on investigating the polarization behaviour of high-energy sources and leading observational campaigns. The ideal candidate should have extensive experience in optical and/or multi-wavelength data analysis, ideally including optical spectropolarimetric analysis using SALT, as well as research expertise in blazar physics, experience in the development of data-reduction pipelines, and writing observation proposals.

The fellowship will be awarded on a competitive basis, taking into consideration academic excellence, publication record, research potential, and alignment with the group's focus areas. The position is initially for one year, with the possibility of renewal for up to a further two years, subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of continued funding.

To apply, please email the following documentation to Prof. Brian van Soelen (vansoelenb@ufs.ac.za)

- A motivation letter, including a 1--2 page outline of relevant expertise and a summary of past research and experience.
- A full CV, including a list of research publications, conference papers, and other scholarly output.
- A research plan.
- Contact details for two academic referees.

Deadline for application: 18 September 2026

Starting date: January 2027

