

Dr. Abdul Majeed S. Fundie

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28 June 2025

Admissions Committee

University of Toronto

Subject: Motivation Letter – Application for Postdoctoral Fellowship in Climate and Sustainability

Dear Members of the Admissions Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program within the Climate and Sustainability track at the University of Toronto, with a particular focus on the Middle East and Iran. As a scholar with a PhD in Business Administration and over a decade of experience in higher education, research, and academic leadership, I am eager to contribute to the University's impactful work on sustainability, economic transformation, and policy innovation.

My academic research is centered on inclusive development and entrepreneurial capital formation, particularly within rural and resource-constrained environments. My doctoral dissertation, titled *“The Impact of Capital Formation in Local Communities: A Case of Smallholder Outgrower Sugarcane Projects in the Dwangwa Region, Malawi,”* explored the intersection of economic empowerment, rural livelihoods, and policy-driven development, an area that closely aligns with the University of Toronto's mission and research focus.

Through both academic and field-based research, I have developed strong expertise in mixed-methods analysis, stakeholder engagement, and policy-relevant reporting, utilizing tools such as SPSS, NVivo, and Excel. My work is characterized by a commitment to applied, community-based research that supports inclusive and sustainable policy outcomes.

What particularly draws me to the University of Toronto's Climate and Sustainability Program is its interdisciplinary and systems-based approach to tackling global climate challenges. I am especially interested in investigating the role of green entrepreneurship and climate-resilient

economic models in Sub-Saharan Africa, a region where I have conducted extensive research and which faces both significant climate vulnerabilities and emerging opportunities for sustainable innovation.

I believe that my scholarly background and policy-oriented research interests are well aligned with the objectives of the University of Toronto's program. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to ongoing research streams, collaborate with a diverse team of scholars, and generate high-impact outputs that inform adaptation strategies, energy transitions, and inclusive green growth.

Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how my expertise and research agenda can support the goals of the Climate and Sustainability Program and the broader mission of the University of Toronto.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Abdul Majeed S. Fundie

References

1. PhD in Business Administration (2024)

Durban University of Technology

Thesis: *The Impact of Capital Formation in Local Communities: A Case of Smallholder Outgrower Sugarcane Projects in the Dwangwa Region, Malawi*

Supervisor: Dr. Njabulo Khumalo

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2. Master of Business Administration (2015)

Regent Business School

Dissertation: *The Challenges Facing Informal Traders in the Hillbrow Area of Johannesburg*

Supervisor: Dr. Clever Chisoro

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