Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of the Witwatersrand.

VACANCY	
Job title:	Data Platform Engineer (36 Months)
Division:	Wits Planetary Health Research
Type:	Permanent ☐ Fixed Term ☒ Temporary ☐
Main purpose of the job:	To design, implement, and manage a secure, scalable, and compliant Azure cloud environment underpinned by a Databricks Lakehouse architecture. Support federated data analysis approaches, enable real-time data processing, and facilitate collaboration across three countries while maintaining strict data governance and privacy protections.
Location:	Parktown, Johannesburg
Closing date:	03 July 2026
Submit detailed CV to:	vacancies33@witshealth.co.za
Advert reference number:	DPE-PHR
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.	

Key performance areas

Cloud Architecture & Platform Engineering: -

- Scalable and secure Azure architecture designed, implemented, and documented.
- Databricks workspaces configured and optimized across Development, Staging, and Production environments.
- Secure network connectivity established and maintained.
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC) implemented for repeatable and version-controlled deployments.
- Azure subscriptions managed effectively with cost visibility and optimization.
- Technical architecture documentation completed and continuously maintained.

Data Engineering & Platform Enablement: -

- Scalable ETL/ELT frameworks implemented.
- Medallion architecture (Bronze, Silver, Gold) established using Delta Lake.
- A data harmonisation framework developed to integrate health, climate, and socioeconomic datasets.
- Streaming pipelines implemented for real-time ingestion (weather stations and early warning systems).
- Automated data quality checks and validation frameworks are operational.
- Secure APIs and query endpoints developed for researcher access.
- Analysis-ready datasets made available for epidemiological and climate research.

Data Governance, Security & Compliance: -

- Unity Catalog implemented for centralized governance across all data assets.
- Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) and Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC) established following least-privilege principles.
- Encryption at rest and in transit implemented using Azure Key Vault.
- Data masking and fine-grained access controls configured for sensitive health datasets.

Federated Analytics & Cross-Institution Collaboration: -

- Existing federated analysis protocols (e.g., DataSHIELD) implemented.
- Bespoke solutions developed for research-specific requirements.
- Secure connectivity established between cloud platforms and partner institutions across all participating countries.
- Distributed computation environments configured for cross-site analysis.
- Federated analysis documentation developed for researcher enablement.
- Ongoing technical support provided for federated analysis projects.

DevOps, Automation & Release Management: -

- CI/CD pipelines implemented for automated infrastructure and code deployment.
- Pipeline orchestration established for reliable data processing.
- Databricks Asset Bundles implemented for version-controlled deployments.
- Controlled promotion processes implemented across environments.
- Manual deployment effort and deployment errors reduced.
- Faster iteration cycles achieved for data pipeline development.

Performance Optimization & Cost Management: -

- Spark jobs optimized to reduce processing time and resource consumption.
- Quarterly cost monitoring and optimization reports produced.
- Infrastructure resources right-sized based on workload requirements.
- Databricks cluster policies implemented to prevent unnecessary spend.
- Cost allocation and chargeback mechanisms established.
- Annual cloud expenditure maintained within approved budget.

Required minimum education and training

Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Data Engineering, or related field.

Required minimum work experience

Minimum of 5 years' experience in cloud engineering, data engineering, or related roles, experience working with Azure tools and services.

Desirable additional education, work experience and personal abilities

- Experience working with health data, clinical research, or in regulated environments.
- Familiarity with federated learning, privacy-preserving analytics, or trusted research environment (TRE) concepts.
- Relevant certifications such as: Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert, Databricks Certified Data Engineer Associate/Professional, HashiCorp Terraform Associate.
- Experience with Delta Lake, Apache Spark, Databricks SQL, Azure Data Factory, Azure Machine Learning, MLflow, or Power BI.
- Experience working across multiple countries or with distributed teams in Southern Africa.
- Experience with Infrastructure as Code (Terraform, Bicep) for Azure resource provisioning and Databricks workspace deployment.
- Foundational skills in Python, CLI tools, and Git.
- Ability to work overtime and on weekends.
- Regional travel may be required.

Should you be interested in applying for this vacancy, please send an email to **vacancies33@witshealth.co.za**. The subject heading of the email must read **DPE-PHR** and the job title of position applying for. Please include the following documentation:

- A cover letter (maximum one page) that clearly states which vacancy you are applying for
- A detailed CV