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Funding your Research Future

NRF Bursary, Scholarships Value Rules and Guidelines
2015/16 Grants Management and Systems Administration

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APR	Annual Progress Report
BTech	Bachelor of Technology
CoE	Centres of Excellence
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
DST	Department of Science and Technology
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
NRF	National Research Foundation
NSI	National System of Innovation
NSF	National Skills Fund
NSTF	National Science and Technology Forum
PDP	Professional Development Programme
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SANHARP	South African Nuclear Human Asset and Research Programme
SARChI	South African Research Chairs Initiative
SET	Science, engineering and Technology
TB	Tuberculosis
THRIP	Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme

Message from the Deputy CEO (Research and Innovation Support and Advancement – RISA)

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.

– Nelson R Mandela

The importance of these words is as important today as it was twenty years ago when we first celebrated our hard fought democracy. The mantra of RISA is *“liberation through education”* because when one liberates the mind, one liberates the soul – and no one can easily obliterate an educated mind.

In contributing to the education agenda of South Africa, the National Research Foundation (NRF) plays a catalytic role within the National System of Innovation (NSI) through its various Bursaries and Fellowships funding instruments. The NRF mandate is to promote and support research through funding human capital development and knowledge creation thereby contributing to a transformed society. We are passionate about building a new cohort of next generation researchers and academics that are globally competitive and will contribute to a vibrant national science system.

In January 2013, *“The Ministerial Guidelines for Improving Equity in the Distribution of DST/NRF Bursaries and Fellowships”* was gazetted. Minister Hanekom, the former Minister of Science and Technology, in informing the NRF of this revision noted the following: “To enhance the efficiencies of our system and to make sure that we meet our equity targets, I need to encourage interventions which will ensure that transformation is driven consistently and strategically”.

The NRF has always maintained that transformation and excellence are not mutually exclusive. Our funding interventions will continue to be competitive and excellence will remain the cornerstone of our decision making processes.

In growing the next generation of researchers, a large proportion of NRF funding is targeted towards student support and development. Thousands of students are supported each year under various NRF funding instruments towards the completion of their graduate and postgraduate degrees. The numerous innovative funding modalities designed around student support are testimony to our strategic efforts to grow the future leaders in research and innovation in our country and beyond.

This booklet provides valuable information on the various NRF funding instruments at undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral levels. A section on “Frequently asked questions” has also been included. We encourage students that do not have financial support to timeously submit their applications through the appropriate structures. Those students already receiving support are urged to apply for further funding towards higher degrees studies. We trust that you will acquaint yourself with the several opportunities that the NRF has created to ensure that you are able to make your dreams a reality.

You are our future. Seize the moment and be the best that you can be! Our very best wishes to you and good luck with your applications!

Kind regards.

Dr D (Gansen) Pillay

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

The NRF distributes a large portion of its total funding budgets towards scholarships and fellowships each year. The investment into growing and sustaining human capital development within the country is associated with NRF’s mandate to promote and support research and development. Scholarship and fellowship support contributes towards the first stage of the human capacity development pipeline within the NRF, to support the next generation of scholars in research across all fields of study.

This booklet provides information to all NRF stakeholders on funding opportunities for students and fellows amongst various funding instruments. It provides an overview of bursaries, scholarships and fellowships within the NRF proposed for 2015/16 at time of publication. Awards will only be made under these funding instruments if budgets permit. The information is however not meant to replace any policy, procedure or system within the NRF. The information provided herein will make the receiving of applications and the management of subsequent bursaries, scholarships and fellowships easier. Applicants are advised to read all information carefully before applying.

Types of Student Funding

The NRF administers three types of student funding support through its various funding instruments. These are:

- 1. **Free-standing Scholarship and Fellowship:** The student or fellow individually applies for support and is responsible for reporting on the utilisation of funding.
- 2. **Block Grant-** The award is issued as a block grant to the institution, where the institution nominates the student or fellow for the grant based on a set of selection criteria provided by the NRF.
- 3. **Grantholder linked Bursaries:** The grantholder applies for NRF funding and nominates the student or fellow for support under his/ her research project funding.

PART 2: FREE-STANDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Free-standing Scholarships and Fellowships are awarded to students or fellows that apply individually through an online application processes and they remain responsible for the submission of all required documentation.

Free-standing Scholarship and Fellowship funding instruments:

- NRF Free-standing Scholarships and Fellowships
- DST Innovation Scholarships and Fellowships
- Scarce Skills Development Fund Scholarships and Fellowships
- DAAD/NRF Joint In-country Scholarships Renewable and Sustainable Energy Scholarships SANHARP Scholarships
- Renewable and Sustainable Energy Scholarships
- NSTF/THRIP Bursaries
- Professional Development Programme (PDP)
- Extended support for completing Masters and Doctoral students
- Support for completing part-time doctoral students
- Research Career Advancement Fellowships
- Collaborative Postgraduate Training Programme
- MRC-NRF Health and Allied Scholarships



Eligibility criteria for all Free-standing Honours/Final-year BTech, Masters and Doctoral Scholarships:

- Applicants must be South African citizens or permanent residents, however, a certain percentage is reserved for non-South Africans, guided by the recently published Ministerial guidelines as follows:
 - 87% South African (including permanent resident),
 - 5% SADC,
 - 4% rest of African continent and
 - 4% from non-African countries.
- Applicants must undertake full-time study during the period of the award at an accredited public South African Higher Education Institution.
- Applicants applying for:
 - a) Honours Scholarships must have an undergraduate degree;
 - b) Master’s Scholarships must have an Honours/ BTech degree;
 - c) Doctoral Scholarships must have a Master’s degree, or should be upgrading from Master’s to Doctoral studies in the year of award.
- Applicants may apply for a scholarship in the previous year of study and must meet all eligibility criteria and institutional requirements at the time of taking up the award.

Inclusions on Eligibility Criteria:

DAAD/NRF Joint In-Country Scholarships

- a) Applicants must have a cumulative academic average of at least 65% for their previous degree.
- b) South African permanent residents may apply only for doctoral-level support, hold permanent university employment at the time of application, and must be willing to study on a full-time basis if successful.
- c) Applicants who already hold a qualification at the same level as the level for which they are applying for support are not eligible to apply.

SANHARP Scholarships:

- a) All students from the School Outreach programme automatically qualify for an undergraduate bursary if they achieve the following scores in Grade 12:
 - 1) 60% or Level 5 in Mathematics and Physical Science;
 - 2) 50% or Level 4 in English second language; and
 - 3) 60% overall academic aggregate.

Eligibility Criteria for all Postdoctoral Fellowships:

- Open to all nationalities. Preference will be given to South African citizens and South African permanent residents, then to African citizens, and finally to other foreign nationals.
- In the case of Scarce Skills Development Fellowships, only South African citizens will be considered.
- Only outstanding foreign applicants will be considered for full-time research in South Africa.
- Doctoral graduates who obtained their doctoral degree within the past five years and who wish to undertake postdoctoral research training are encouraged to apply.
- Research Career Advancement Fellowship applicants must have completed at least two (2) years of post-doctoral fellowship and have obtained their doctoral degree in the last eight years from application year date.
- Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account the applicant’s academic achievements and researcher potential. The applicant’s research outputs contribute significantly to be selected for an award. Applicants should ensure that a full list of their research outputs including publication records are included in the CV section of the application form.
- Fellowships will preferably be tenable at an institution other than the institution where the applicant obtained their doctoral degree. An applicant who wishes to undertake postdoctoral research with their PhD supervisor or at the same institution where they obtained their doctoral degree must submit a strong motivation with the application for funding.

Broad Research areas supported

- **NRF Free-standing and Innovation Scholarships and Fellowships:** All fields of study.
- **DAAD/NRF Joint In-country Scholarships:** Applications may come from any field of study with strong relevance for national development (Natural Sciences, Mathematics, ICT, Engineering,

Agricultural Science, Applied and Social Sciences). The Humanities and the Fine Arts are excluded from this funding instrument unless the research has a social focus.

- **Professional Development Programme:** Research projects are determined by the host institution in critical research areas.
- **Scarce Skills Scholarships and Fellowships:** Accounting, Actuarial Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Auditing, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Computer Sciences, Demography, Engineering (all fields), Financial Management, Geology, ICT, Mathematical Sciences, Physics, Transportation Studies, Tourism and Statistics.

Conditions of Award:

- The assessment of all applications is based on past, current and potential academic performance, promise of leadership qualities. In addition, the assessment will consider the feasibility and merit of the applicant's research t proposal.
- The duration of support is calculated from the year of first registration for masters or doctoral study and takes into account the number of years the NRF allows for masters, i.e. 2 years and doctoral, i.e.3 years study.
- Scholarship/Fellowship-holders are allowed to hold non- binding supplementary bursaries, grants or emoluments; NRF supplementation rules apply, refer to part 5 of the booklet.
- The Scholarship/Fellowship may not be held simultaneously with a bursary/scholarship from another government, NRF source, or NRF-administered source.
- Scholarship/Fellowship-holders may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the scholarship.
- Scholarship/Fellowship-holders will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration per week on average during the year of study and may be remunerated for such duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal institutional tariff for services rendered.
- Successful students/fellows are required to sign and accept the

NRF Bursary/Scholarship/Fellowship Conditions of Award. The conditions will be communicated to the student/fellow at the time of award.

How to Apply:

Honours: Applications should be completed and submitted to the university financial aid/bursary/postgraduate funding office. Any enquiries about the application process should be directed to the university office.

Masters, Doctoral and Postdoctoral: Applications are submitted through an online process on <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za> . Only completed online applications will be considered. Once applications are validated by the institution, it will display an application status “Submitted to NRF for Review”. These are the only applications that will be considered and assess by the NRF. The status will not change on the system or display the of the funding programme.

“Empower yourself;
Embrace your future
through Research”



a. NRF Freestanding Scholarships and Fellowships

This funding instrument is supported through funding from the NRF core parliamentary grant and has been made available to support honours, masters, doctoral and postdoctoral candidates. The aim of the funding instrument is to contribute towards increasing the number and quality of South African postgraduate students and fellows as well as provide support for doctoral and postdoctoral candidates to pursue studies abroad.

In South Africa	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final-year BTech (Block grant)	R 20 000	1 year
Master's degree (Block grant)	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 60 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowship	R 140 000	
Contribution towards running expenses	R 10 000	3 years
Abroad	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Doctoral degree	US\$ 22 000	4 years
Postdoctoral Fellowship	US\$ 24 000	3 years

PLEASE NOTE:

Scholarship and fellowship holders are entitled to a once-off travel grant of R5 000 during the tenure of a Masters or Doctoral award. Postdoctoral Fellows are entitled to R45 000 for international travel and R15 000 for local travel based upon completion and approval of a travel grant application. The conditions as stipulated in the NRF Guidelines on Travel are applicable.

b. Scarce Skills Development Fund Scholarships and Fellowships

This funding instrument is supported by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through the National Skills Fund (NSF). Funding has been made available to support honours, masters, doctoral and post-doctoral candidates. The aim of the funding instrument is to contribute towards the higher education sector and needs of the country through skills development and the promotion of the attainment of higher qualifications and quality research.



Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 40 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 220 000	3 years
Contribution towards running expenses	R 45 000	

PLEASE NOTE:

A once-off travel grant is awarded to Scarce Skills masters, doctoral and postdoctoral award-holders during the tenure of their award and upon completion and approval of a travel grant application. The conditions as stipulated in the NRF Guidelines on Travel are applicable. Master's award-holders are entitled to R15 000 for local or international travel. Doctoral award-holders are entitled to R15 000 for local travel and R50 000 for international travel. Postdoctoral Fellows are entitled to R25 000 for local travel and R50 000 for international travel.

c. DST Funded Innovation Scholarships and Fellowships



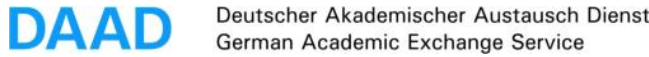
This funding instrument is supported through funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Funding has been made available to support honours, masters, doctoral and postdoctoral candidates. The aim of the funding instrument is to contribute towards the pipeline of next generation researchers and to stimulate the knowledge economy through research and development in the country.

Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 50 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 80 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 110 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 265 000	3 years
Contribution towards running expenses	R 50 000	

PLEASE NOTE:

A once-off travel grant is awarded to Innovation master's, doctoral and postdoctoral award-holders during the tenure of their award upon completion of a travel application. The conditions as stipulated in the NRF Guidelines on Travel are applicable. Master's award-holders are entitled to R10 000 for local or international travel. Doctoral award-holders are entitled to R15 000 for local travel and R50 000 for international travel. Postdoctoral Fellows are entitled to R25 000 for local travel and R50 000 for international travel.

d. DAAD-NRF Joint In-Country Scholarships



The German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD) in partnership with the NRF offers Joint In-Country scholarships for postgraduate students in South Africa studying towards a master's or doctoral degree. The programme is co-funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The aim of this programme is to increase the number of postgraduate candidates receiving quality education and training and contributing towards national efforts of human capital development in the country. The programme also focuses on staff development at doctoral level to build capacity within South African tertiary institutions. Supported students can also apply to DAAD for collaboration and training at any German university under the programme.

Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 90 000	3 years

e. Renewable & Sustainable Energy Scholarships



This funding support focus is to provide scholarship grants at master's and doctoral levels focusing on research studies that support and facilitate the shift towards a sustainable energy sector. In line with the draft DST energy research focal areas, the scholarships are offered to candidates that do or want to do research on the following focus areas:

- Cleaner fossil fuel development, including clean coal technologies;
- Renewable energy (bioenergy including bio-fuels, solar energy, wind energy, etc.);
- Energy impact on the environment;
- Energy for socio-economic development;
- Energy system planning and modelling; and
- Energy policy research.

Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 85 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years

f. SANHARP Scholarships



SANHARP aims at supporting the government's vision to expand nuclear energy in the South African energy mix by building skills for the nuclear sector. The programme was established by the Department of Science and Technology. The skills advancement ranges from basic and applied research and engineering disciplines to manufacturing and distinctive aspects of waste management. The strategy also looks at other nuclear applications like isotopes and radiopharmaceutical production, food preservation, material research, amongst others. The funding instrument supports undergraduate students until doctoral studies if they wish to continue under the programme towards capacity development.

Degree	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Undergraduate bursaries	Funding adjusted depending on Institution	3 years
Honours/Final year BTech degree		1 year
Master's degree	R 85 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years

PLEASE NOTE:

- Default values are shown, but actual values may vary depending on the tuition and accommodation costs of the institution at which the Scholarship is held.
- A computer allowance of R7 000 is paid at second year of the undergraduate degree and at postgraduate degree if student was funded at postgraduate level.
- Travel allowances for conference attendance are approved by the programme, as stipulated in the NRF Guidelines on Travel.

DID YOU KNOW, YOU CAN:

**Study Loan Free with NRF
Funding Support**

g. THRIP/NSTF Bursaries

Funds for this funding instrument are provided by the department of Trade and Industry (**the DTI**). THRIP-NSTF bursaries provide funding to students who are from the NSTF Brilliants Programme. The NSTF collects grade 12 national results annually and find sponsors for the top 18 students in the country. THRIP is one of the funders of the Brilliants who conduct undergraduate and Honours studies in Science, Engineering and Technology studies at HEIs.

Degree	Value (p.a.)	Duration
First-year undergraduate SET students	R 80 000	3 years
B Tech / Honours	R 80 000	1 year

h. Professional Development Programme (PDP)

This funding instrument is supported through funding from the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Funding has been made available to address the challenges around human capital development within the National System of Innovation (NSI). The initial focus of the programme is on Science Councils, National Facilities and Research Museums. The programme objectives are to build capacity with the hosting institutions in relevant science and technology related skills development. The programme is modelled on a work preparation programme for masters and doctoral graduates that want to pursue careers in research to experience the workplace in a research environment and their skills and consequently improve their prospects of permanent employment in the science and technology system. In addition the programme attracts and retains young scientists and professionals of high caliber in the science and technology systems.

Degree	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Doctoral Position Minimum contribution from Science Council/National Facilities/Research Institutions towards research running and other indirect costs	R 210 000 R 70 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Position Minimum contribution from Science Council/National Facilities/Research Institutions towards research running and other indirect costs	R 315 000 R 100 000	2 years

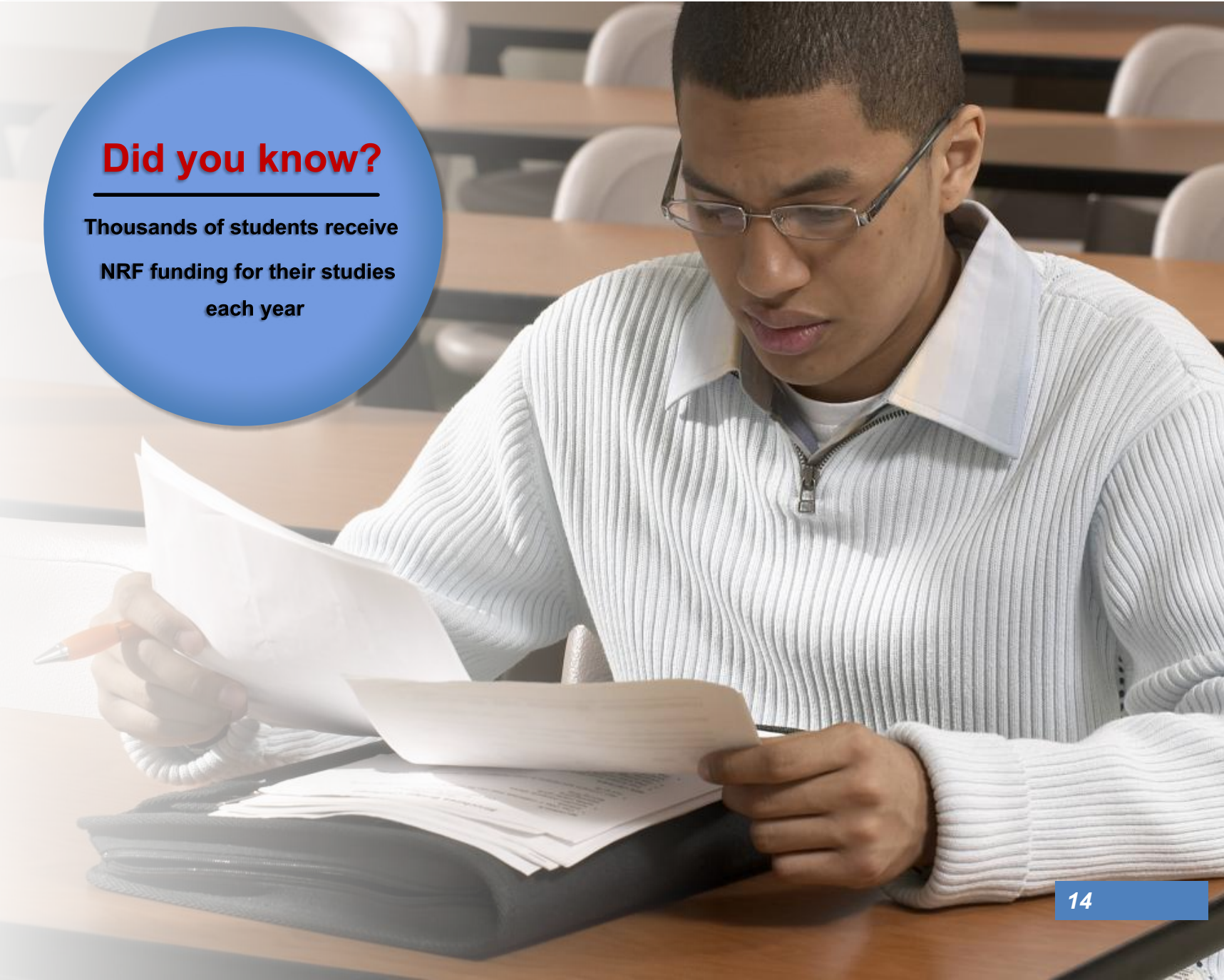
PLEASE NOTE:

The PDP awards are research positions and host conditions of employment apply. The values of the award are taxable.

i. Extended support for completing Masters and Doctoral Students

This funding support is provided to NRF scholarship-holders that require an additional year of funding to complete their masters or doctoral degrees. Applicants must have been funded by the NRF and registered at a South African higher education institution in the previous financial year for an NRF masters or doctoral degree to qualify for support under the programme. Applicants may apply for up to 12 months of support under the programme; however funding values are associated with previous award values. Supervisors' support for extension is essential under this funding programme. The aim of this programme is to assist registered scholarship-holders towards the completion of their degrees.

Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	Subject to previous award values	1 year
Doctoral degree		




Did you know?

Thousands of students receive
NRF funding for their studies
each year

j. Support for completing Part-time Doctoral Students

This funding instrument provides support to final year doctoral students studying on a part-time basis towards their degrees. Applicants must have registered part-time for a doctoral degree at a South African higher education institution and towards completion of the study. Applicants may apply for up to 12 months of support under the programme; however funding values are related with their leave period indicated by their employer. The aim of this programme is to assist working individuals towards the completion of their doctoral degree

Scholarships	Value (p.m.)	Duration
 Support for completing part-time doctoral students	R 10 000 per month based on period of leave indicated by employer	1 year

k. Research Career Advancement Fellowships

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has made available funding for Research Career Advancement Fellowships in order to strengthen research capacity and scientific research leadership in Science, Engineering and Technology by creating positions for senior postdoctoral fellows who have shown interest in furthering careers in research and academia and have demonstrated the potential and ability for research leadership. This is a lucrative funding award that allows talented emerging researchers to pursue a career in research and allows emerging researchers to be mentored and groomed by senior researchers. This development programme allows the emerging researchers to strengthen their research track record and become independent researchers.

Research Position	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Research Career Advancement Fellowship	R 350 000	5 years
Contribution towards running expenses	R 100 000	

PLEASE NOTE:

The Research Career Advancement Fellowship awards are research positions and the host institution's conditions of employment apply. The values of the award are taxable.

l. Collaborative Postgraduate Training Programme

The postgraduate training programme is aimed at inter-university partnerships and/or public-private partnerships with government, industry and universities; all working together toward a common objective to produce and sustain a growing stream of well- rounded postgraduates to address national needs. Senior researchers that are collaborating on research project can apply for student support, postdoctoral fellowship, infrastructure and operational costs of the project and mobility support for their students. The funding instrument provides support for a 3 year period.

Human Capacity Development (60%)

Category	Honours	Masters	Doctoral	Postdoctoral Research
Bursary/Fellowship	R 50 000	R 80 000	R 110 000	R 265 000
Local travel		R 10 000	R 15 000	R 25 000
International travel			R 50 000	R 50 000
	Infrastructure and Operational costs (40%)			
Infrastructure	Small to medium-sized equipment costing no more than R 200 000			
Operational Costs	Science communication and outreach activities			

PLEASE NOTE:

The requested budget (human capital development, Infrastructure and Operational costs) under this programme cannot exceed R1 million.

m. NRF- MRC Health and Allied Scholarship

The National Research Foundation (NRF) and South African Medical Research Medical (MRC) entered into a partnership in delivering the masters and doctoral scholarships programme in the health, allied sciences and related fields at public higher education institutions in 2014. The programme is intended to contribute to the production of high-quality human resources, generation of high-quality knowledge, as well as the development and transfer of this knowledge to ensure tangible benefits to society especially in the health and allied research. Areas of support are Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Toxicology, Molecular Modelling, Medical Sciences, Immunology and all other disciplines aligned to health and allied sciences in general.

Scholarships	Value (p.a)	Duration
Master's Scholarships	R 80 000	2 year
Doctoral Scholarships	R 110 000	2 years

TRAVEL GRANT GUIDELINES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Free-standing Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Scholarships/Fellowships within NRF Free-standing, DST/NRF Innovation and Scarce Skills categories are eligible to apply for a travel grant.

The aims of a travel grant are to:

- Provide opportunities to establish research networks;
- Disseminate early research findings (such as conference presentations);
- Participate in seminars and other academic activities that are directly relevant to the research; and
- Undertake specialist research training not available within South Africa.

TRAVEL APPLICATION

Students/Fellows can apply for one overseas and/ or local institutional visit during the tenure of the Scholarship/Fellowship. Visits are intended to be an integral part of the Master's/PhD/Postdoctoral research study, and any visit during the final year of the Studentship/ Fellowship must therefore be completed at least three months before the end of the Scholarship/Fellowship period.

Students/Fellows who wish to undertake an international or local institutional visit or attend a conference or workshop must apply to the NRF via their institution's financial aid/postgraduate/research office. Application forms are available on request from the financial aid/postgraduate/research office of the applicant's institution.

When applying for research visits, applicants must submit a planned programme of work. Applications must be supported by both the supervisor and the proposed host. Students and their supervisors must furthermore motivate how the proposed visit will add value to their Master's/PhD/Postdoctoral research. The NRF does not expect any proposed overseas institutional visit to have been mentioned in the student's original application.

The NRF will cover the cost of:

- a. The cheapest economy air ticket. Trains, buses or other surface carriers may be used in lieu of, or as a supplement to, air travel at the lowest first-class rate of the transportation facility used. However, if such travel could have been performed by air, the allowance will not normally exceed that of an economy airfare;
- b. Accommodation (NRF rates apply);
- c. Conference registration fees;
- d. Subsistence, if not included in the conference registration fee (NRF rates apply).

PLEASE NOTE:

Three quotations have to be provided for each of the following economy class air ticket and accommodation. All other incidental expenses must be covered by the applicant.

LOCAL TRAVEL

Accommodation and Subsistence expenses

- The NRF will pay only the actual cost of bed and breakfast, including taxes and levies, at a hotel/guesthouse/etc., limited to a maximum of R850 per day.
- In exceptional circumstances, the daily limit may be exceeded (e.g. when attending a symposium held at a hotel whose daily tariff exceeds the daily limit, or when accommodation cannot be found in a hotel/guesthouse for less than the daily limit).
- When travelers are required to be away overnight, the NRF will pay a subsistence allowance to cover the cost of meals to a maximum of R180 per day.
- Please note that these are maximum daily allowances and may be reduced in certain cases.
- The subsistence allowance is calculated from the date of departure until the date of return and excludes any personal travel arrangements in-between these dates.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Accommodation and Subsistence expenses

The limit imposed on the actual cost of accommodation at a hotel/guesthouse/etc. is equivalent to the room rate at a three- star hotel.

Please request NRF specific country rates from your institution's financial aid/postgraduate/research office.

TRAVEL REPORT

Students/Fellows must submit a visit report of between 1000 and 2000 words within two weeks of completion of the visit. The report should detail the outcomes of the visit and how participation has enhanced their Master's/PhD/Postdoctoral studies. The report should be countersigned by the student's/ fellow's academic supervisor/host. If a student fails to submit a satisfactory end-of-visit report within two weeks of their return, the NRF may recover all expenses paid for the visit from the candidate's grant.

The only funding awards that will enable a scholarship-holder to access a travel grant are listed below:

Type of Travel Grant	Value of Award	How to Apply
NRF Free-standing Masters Travel Grant	R 5 000	For an application form, contract your financial aid bursary/postgraduate office of the institution where you are based.
NRF Free-standing Doctoral Travel Grant	R 5 000	
NRF Free-standing Postdoctoral Travel Grant	R 15 000 (local) R 45 000 (abroad)	
DST Innovation Fund Masters Travel Grant	R 10 000 (local or abroad)	
Scarce Skills Development Fund Masters Travel Grant	R 15 000 (local or abroad)	
DST Innovation Fund Doctoral Travel Grant	R 15 000 (local) R 45 000 (abroad)	
Scarce Skills Development Fund Doctoral Travel Grant	R 15 000 (local) R 50 000 (abroad)	
DST Innovation and Scarce Skills Development Fund Postdoctoral Travel Grant	R 25 000 (local) R 45 000 (abroad)	

RENEWAL OF NRF FREE-STANDING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

An annual funding call for Renewal of Scholarships/Fellowships will be published each year around September or October. Eligible Scholarship/Fellowship-holders are expected to apply for renewal by completing the Annual Progress Report (APR) through the online process. Scholarship/Fellowship-holders, which are eligible for renewal, will be contacted by the university postgraduate/ research office to inform them about the renewal process. Please refer to the tutorial document when completing the APR online.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The NRF will not support studies that exceed the funding period for each level (i.e. third year of Master's or fourth year of Doctoral studies under the Renewal process).
- Renewals are subject to the availability of funds.
- Scholarships/ Fellowships are renewed at the previous value of the award unless otherwise stated.

NRF FREE-STANDING SELECTION CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

Applications will be considered by Assessment Panels consisting of highly acclaimed academic members of the research community covering the various disciplines supported by the NRF. The assessment of candidates will be based on all available evidence of ability and potential, including academic records and recommendations sent to the Assessment Panel. The selection of awardees will be done in merit order.

In the case of Postdoctoral Fellowships, publications are considered to be an added advantage during assessment. The NRF reserves the right to apply its equity and gender targets in line with its objectives, where deemed necessary.

The awards of Free-standing Scholarships to students or fellows are based on:

- Research Potential
- Academic merit (only for scholarships)
- Significance and relevance of proposed research;
- Leadership qualities; Previous prizes and awards;
- Feasibility of the completion of the degree or research
- Potential Research Impact in the study field
- Capacity of institutional research support and expertise to support the application;
- Recommendation of supervisor and referees;
- Programme funding targets
- Research Outputs(only at post-doctoral level)

PART 3: GRANTHOLDER-LINKED BURSARIES

Grantholders may nominate eligible students under their supervision or co-supervision, who are registered at a South African university and linked to their NRF- funded research plan, if funds have been awarded in any of the following four categories:

- Grantholder-linked Student Assistantships– for South African full-time students in their final year of an undergraduate degree/diploma, and South African full-time Honours/final-year BTech students.
- Grantholder-linked Postgraduate Bursaries – for full-time and part-time Master’s and Doctoral students (not for staff).
- Grantholder-linked Postdoctoral Fellowships– for candidates within five years of obtaining their doctorate.
- Grantholder-linked Staff Development Grants– Grantholders at an NRF-recognised institution may apply for a Staff Development Grant for South African staff members at their own or another recognised institution, who are not Grantholders in their own right. These South African staff members must be registered for a Master’s or Doctoral degree and must be directly involved in the NRF-approved/funded project

These bursaries are awarded according to the following ratios:

- Final-year undergraduate and Honours/BTech student assistantships: Only South African citizens are considered, with a minimum of 50% black (inclusive of African, Indian and Coloured) students within a grant. In the event that an undergraduate degree exceeds three years and is not followed by an Honours degree (inter alia Engineering, Law, etc.), a final year undergraduate student assistantship or an Honours bursary will be awarded to a successful nominee.

Number of years for obtaining undergraduate degree	Final Year Undergraduate Student Assistantships	Honours bursary
4	3rd year	4th year
5	4th year	5th year
6	5th year	6th year

Such nominations must be accompanied by a motivation, signed by the grantholder, confirming that the:

- a) Particular undergraduate degree comprises of (number of) years and that is not followed by an Honours qualification;
- b) Student has not failed any of the preceding academic years; and
- c) Student is currently in the (state year, eg. 3rd) year of the undergraduate degree

- Masters and Doctoral bursaries are awarded according to the following ratios: 87% South African (including permanent resident), 5% SADC, 4% rest of African continent and 4% from non-African countries.
- Postdoctoral Fellowships: No ratio applies.
- Staff Development Grants: Only for South African staff members at a recognised South African research institution.

a) Blue Skies, Thuthuka, Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers, Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers and Nanotechnology Flagship Programme Funding Instruments

Full-time Student Assistantships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Final year undergraduate degree/diploma	R 8 000	1 year
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 20 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 60 000	3 years
Part-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 10 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 12 000	5 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 150 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years
Staff Development Grants	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's/Doctoral degree	Maximum R 30 000* 3 years (M)	5 years (PhD)
*Depending on nature of research and proximity of student to supervisor.		

PLEASE NOTE:

- The funding guide and documentation for the relevant funding instrument should be consulted for applicable values and allowances.
- The Part-time Bursaries does not apply to the Nanotechnology Flagship Programme.

b. South African National Antarctic Programme

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 30 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 65 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 150 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years
Staff Development Grants	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's/Doctoral degree	Maximum R 30 000*	3 years (M)
		5 years (PhD)
*Depending on nature of research and proximity of student to supervisor.		

c. Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Final year undergraduate degree/diploma	R 25 000	1 year
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 35 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 60 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 90 000	3 years
Part-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 30 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 45 000	5 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 160 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years
Staff Development Grants	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's/Doctoral degree	Maximum R 45 000*	3 years (M)
		5 years (PhD)
*Depending on nature of research and proximity of student to supervisor.		

d. African Origins Programme

The Early Career Grants are comprised of a stipend and research running costs as follows:

Level	Stipend allocation	Value (p.a.)	Research costs Value (p.a)
	Doctoral degree (3 years)	R 100 000	R 50 000
	Postdoctoral fellowship (2 years)	R 150 000	R 75 000

PLEASE NOTE:

- The stipend will be managed as a scholarship, which will be awarded to the nominated candidate. The Principal Investigator will nominate the ECR candidate on the NRF system and then allocate the funds to the candidate.
- The research costs component will be ring-fenced for the sole use by the candidate, but held by the PI against their research grant

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours	R 25 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 65 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 150 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years

e. African Coelacanth Ecosystems Programme

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours	R 20 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 50 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 80 000	3 years
Part-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R12 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 12 000	5 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 100 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years

f. Global Change, Society & Sustainability Programme

Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 80 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 120 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 200 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years

g. Multi-wavelength Astronomy Programme

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours	R 30 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 65 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 150 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years

h. Education Research in South Africa

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Final year undergraduate degree/diploma	R 8 000	1 year
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 20 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 40 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 60 000	3 years
Part-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 20 000	3 years
Doctoral degree	R 30 000	5 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 150 000 (pro rata per month)	3 years

i. South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARCHI)

Full-time Studentships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 40 000	1 year
Full-time Bursaries	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 200 000	3 years

SKA SARCHI Chairs				
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bursaries				
Undergraduate degree	R 93 000	R 95 000	R 97 000	R 99 000
Honours degree	R 93 000	R 95 000	R 97 000	R 99 000
Undergraduate	R 93 000	R 95 000	R 97 000	R 99 000
Master's degree	R 90 000	R 92 000	R 95 000	R 97 000
Doctoral degree	R 115 000	R 117 000	R 119 000	R 121 000
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 325 000	R 327 000	R 330 000	R 332 000



“Supervisors that are NRF Grantholders can nominate students under their NRF grants for funding”

Equipment Grants				
Masters Students - For students whose funding began prior to, and including, 2013. The amount for the equipment grant is per year for the duration of the MSc degree (maximum two years).	R 12 000	R 12 000	NA	NA
Masters Students - For students whose funding began in, and after, 2014. The amount for the equipment grant is a once off amount for full degree, paid in the first year of the MSc degree.	R 18 000	R 20 000	R 22 000	R 22 000
Doctoral Students - For students whose funding began prior to, and including, 2013. The amount for the equipment grant is per year for the duration of the PhD degree (maximum three years).	R 14 000	R 14 000	R 16 000	NA
Doctoral Students - For students whose funding began in, and after, 2014. The amount for the equipment grant is a once off amount for the full degree, paid in the first year of the PhD degree.	R 30 000	R 30 000	R 32 000	R 32 000
Postdoctoral Fellows - For postdoctoral fellows whose funding began prior to, and including, 2013. The amount for the equipment grant is per year for the duration of the fellowship (maximum three years).	R 17 500	R 17 500	R 18 500	NA
Postdoctoral Fellows - For postdoctoral fellows whose funding began in, and after, 2014. The amount for the equipment grant is a once off amount for the full fellowship, paid in the first year of the fellowship.	R 50 000	R 50 000	R 52 000	R 52 000
Travel Grants				
Master's Students	R 15 000	R 16 000	R 17 000	R 18 000
Doctoral Students	R 20 000	R 21 000	R 22 000	R 23 000
Postdoctoral Fellows	R 23 500	R 24 000	R 25 000	R 26 000

PLEASE NOTE:

- Undergraduate and honours students only receive a bursary, as per the funding levels listed (they do not receive a travel or equipment grant).
- Masters and Doctoral students receive a bursary, plus a travel grant and an equipment grant, as per the funding levels listed.
- Postdoctoral fellows receive a fellowship (tax free), plus a travel grant and an equipment grant, as per the funding levels listed.

j. Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP)

Students and Postdoctoral Fellows are regarded as support personnel in THRIP projects and receive salary payments, which could include allowances. The amounts are determined by the institution concerned according to its own policies. It is the responsibility of the project leader and the institutions concerned to ensure that the relevant employment legislation is observed in making the appointment and that the appointee is informed of all matters pertaining to the appointment.

k. Centres of Excellence

Centres of Excellence (CoEs) are physical or virtual entities of research which concentrate existing capacity and resources to enable researchers to collaborate across disciplines and institutions on long-term projects that are locally relevant and internationally competitive in order to enhance the pursuit of research excellence and capacity development. The Centres of Excellence have the autonomy to determine their own bursaries values. The values published may vary between the centres. The values indicated may not necessarily be allocated to the students or fellows.

1. Catalysis (c*change)

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 74 250	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 88 550	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 176 000	3 years

3. Invasion Biology

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 40 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 200 000	3 years

PLEASE NOTE:

c*change allows an additional 50% top-up from other sources, where appropriate. In the case of a top-up beyond the additional 50%, c*change will reduce its contribution pro rata.

2. Strong Materials

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Master's degree	R 100 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 115 000	3 years

4. TB Research

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 12 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 180 000	3 years

5. Birds as key to Biodiversity (Fitzpatrick)

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 20 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 90 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 120 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 180 000	3 years

6. Tree Health Biotechnology

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Final year/undergraduate degree/diploma	R 8 000	1 year
Honours/ Final year BTech degree	R 20 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 60 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 80 000	3 years

7. Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 15 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 220 000	3 years

8. Applied Centre for Climate and Earth Systems

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 25 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 75 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 120 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 200 000	3 years

9. National Institute for Theoretical Physics

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 40 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R180 000- R270 000 3 years	

10. Palaeoscience

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 30 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 80 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 120 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 220 000	3 years

11. Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 25 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 60 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 120 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 220 000	3 years

12. African Institute for Mathematical Sciences

Full-time Scholarships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Honours/Final year BTech degree	R 15 000	1 year
Master's degree	R 70 000	2 years
Doctoral degree	R 100 000	3 years
Postdoctoral Fellowships	Value (p.a.)	Duration
Postdoctoral Fellowships	R 220 000	3 years

PART 4: GENERAL RULES

- All Fellowships, Scholarships and Bursaries are paid to the institution in receipt of a claim submitted by institution.
- Bursaries and Scholarships are not awarded for a parallel degree (i.e. for a second degree at the same level of a degree already held by the applicant even if the first degree at the same level was not supported by the NRF.)
- Students may hold only one Scholarship or Bursary from the NRF or another state-funded organisation at a one time.
- All Students and Fellows will be expected individual Conditions of Grant with the NRF.
- The degree/research should be completed within two years after the expiry of NRF funding, otherwise the Student or Fellow will be required to pay back the support provided by the NRF.
- Students may hold Scholarships or Bursaries other than their NRF support concurrently on condition that the other support does not require that the student is in employment during the tenure of the scholarship. Any job offer attached to the contractual obligation may be executed after the completion of studies. In all cases of supplementary funding, the NRF should be regarded as the primary funder. When an award is supplemented from grant holder running costs, it can be topped up to a maximum of only R20 000 p.a. The top-up value may vary depending on the funding instrument.
- The rule that Postdoctoral Fellows must move to a university other than the one where their doctorate was obtained is

applied with discretion. Should an award at the same university be required, a strong motivation must be submitted with the nomination/application, providing reasons for the choice of host institution of fellow.

- Awards can be supplemented up to the institutional capped value for the particular level of support.
- In cases where Scholarship/Fellowship-holders are allowed to move between funding instruments from full-time to part-time studies, the NRF will recalculate the eligible years of support.
- In cases where Master's study is upgraded to Doctoral study, the maximum combined support for the Master's and Doctoral study will be four years.
- The funding guides for the relevant funding instrument should be consulted for the applicable values, criteria, requirements and application closing dates.

PART 5: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(FAQS) ON POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

How Do I Apply?

For information on applying for funding, the applicant should contact their university research, postgraduate or financial aid funding office. Information can also be found on the NRF website (www.nrf.ac.za) and <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>.

Who Do I Speak to About Funding Opportunities?

Each research institution has an NRF Designated Authority (DA) dealing with NRF matters. Please contact the DA at the respective research institution for information and processes related to NRF funding instruments. Students or Fellows are required to speak to their DAs about all NRF funding matters and are not to contact the NRF directly. This will enable them to receive the correct and authoritative information timeously. NRF staff will only address queries sent to them via the institutional DA.

Am I Eligible?

Prospective applicants should refer to the Call Documents and Funding Guides for the year in which they are applying. These documents and booklets contain important information regarding eligibility criteria for the respective funding instruments.

What is the Difference between Grantholder-linked and Free-standing Awards

The differences between Grantholder-linked and Free-standing awards are as follows:

- Grantholder-linked awards: Bursaries and fellowships that are provided through a Grantholder's grant. The award is made to the Grantholder, and the student is nominated for a grant under the award provided they are supervised or co-supervised by the grantholder.
- Free-standing awards: The Student/Fellow applies on an individual basis for a grant. The grant is awarded to the Student/ Fellow rather than to a Grant holder. The Student has the freedom to source a suitable supervisor or host for the project.

What is a Nomination?

The process whereby a Grantholder or a university DA submits the details of a Student/Fellow for an award for consideration by the NRF. Nominations have to be approved for a grant to be awarded to a Student/Fellow.

What about Supplementation?

- In all cases of supplementary funding, the NRF award should be regarded as the primary funder.
- Scholarship-holders are not allowed to hold binding supplementary bursaries, grants or emoluments during the tenure of the award.
- Scholarships may not be held simultaneously with a Bursary/ Scholarship/Fellowship from another government or NRF source, or NRF-administered source.

- Scholarship-holders may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the Scholarship with the exception of the grantholder-linked Staff Development bursaries. Scholarship-holders will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of employment, such as teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration, per week on average during the year of study. Scholarship-holders may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal institutional tariff for services rendered. Top-ups to the award are allowed from NRF Grantholder running funds up to a maximum value of R20 000. These tops- up values may vary for certain Grantholder-linked awards.
- Top-ups from other sources can be held up to the university capped value for Scholarships or Fellowships at the specified funding level.
- Double-dipping into other NRF funding streams and programmes at the same level of award is not allowed.
- Students or Fellows may not move between funding streams during the tenure of the award. Only in cases where the Grantholder requests the cancellation of a Grantholder-linked award can the Student/Fellow be considered for an award under the NRF Free-standing funding instruments.

What is the Period of Support?

The period of support is calculated for the first year of registration for the study or research regardless of NRF funding.

The maximum periods of support for the various levels of study are as follows:



Level	Full-time	Part-time
Undergraduate	1 years or 4 years(SANHARP)	Not applicable
Honours	1 year	Not applicable
Master's	2 years	3 years
Doctoral	3 years 4 years (abroad)	5 years
Master's upgrade to Doctoral	4 years	Not applicable
Postdoctoral	3 years 2 years (PDP)	Not applicable

The NRF is strict about the completion of the degree/research within the period of support. However, certain exceptions to the rule may be a depending on the individual case and the motivation.

What are the Values of the Awards?

Award values vary depending on the funding instrument. Applicants should consult the Call Document or Funding Guide for the award values of the respective funding instrument for which they are applying and refer to specific tables for values.

Can I apply for more than one Funding Instrument/ Call?

Applicants may apply for any number of funding instruments that they are eligible. They will only be supported under one funding instrument if successful, in most instances the NRF allows the applicant to hold the higher award value. Please refer to *NRF Overview* booklet or NRF website to see which grant can be held concurrently.

What is a Block Grant?

A block grant is an award provided to a research institution that makes provision for a certain allocation of individual awards at undergraduate, Honours and Master's levels, based on institutional performance in taking up the awards. The research institution administers the awards based on criteria and targets set by the NRF.

Applicants that wish to apply for a block grant award (at Honours or Master's level) must contact the research/ postgraduate/financial aid

office of their institution for more information on the process of applying for the individual awards. SANHARP will provide institutions with a list of students from high schools unless a Call has been posted.

What is the Pre-Award Application Process?

- Applicants applying for an NRF Free-standing Honours or Master's Block Grant award have to apply directly to the applicable institution and follow the institutional application process.
- Applicants applying for Free-standing Master's, Doctoral or Postdoctoral study (NRF Free-standing, Scarce Skills, Innovation, DAAD/NRF Joint In-country and Renewable and Sustainable Energy) must apply online to the funding instrument call on the NRF submission system (<https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za>). Applicants are allowed to apply to as many funding instruments as they are eligible.
- Applicants must complete all required sections of the application in detail, attach all the requested documentation and submit the application online for consideration.
- No late applications will be considered. Applicants are encouraged to apply timeously and not to leave the completion of applications to the last day before the close of the Call.
- Please check with the institutional DA for the institutional closing date for applications, as this may differ from the closing date of the Funding Instrument Call on the NRF system.
- Applications are submitted to the DA at the research institution for validation and submission for consideration by the NRF after checking the applicants' eligibility. All DA validated applications are rescreened for eligibility by NRF staff before being considered for postal and/or panel review.
- All applications that qualify for assessment are sent to an assessment panel, which provides comments and scores on the application. The score and funding targets of the funding instrument determine whether the application will be supported. A list of successful applications can be found on the NRF website; this list is circulated to research institutions once funding deare made.

NRF Grantholder-linked Bursaries, Scholarships and Fellowships:

The Grantholder nominates a student for a Grantholder-linked bursary related to his/her NRF award. The Grantholder completes the nomination process and submits the required attachments (proof of registration, student agreement to be signed by the student and Grantholder). The NRF considers and rejects or approves the award based on information on the student and student targets within the Grantholder’s grant. Once the award has been approved, the funds for student support are released to the Grantholder to claim.

PLEASE NOTE:

Grantholder-linked awards are renewed based on the Grantholder’s re- nomination of the student, indicating satisfactory progress on the project in the Grantholder’s APR.

What is the Post-Award Application Process?

NRF Free-standing awardees will be sent an award letter and NRF Conditions of Award, which must be signed and return to the NRF with the requested documentation before the award can be processed. In the case of Grantholder-linked students, the student will be notified by the Grantholder of the award and will have to sign the Grantholder-linked Student Agreement Conditions of Grant before the money can be paid to the student by the Grantholder.

All funding is released to the research institution only after receipt of the signed Conditions of Grant and required documentation.

What are the Selection and Assessment Criteria?

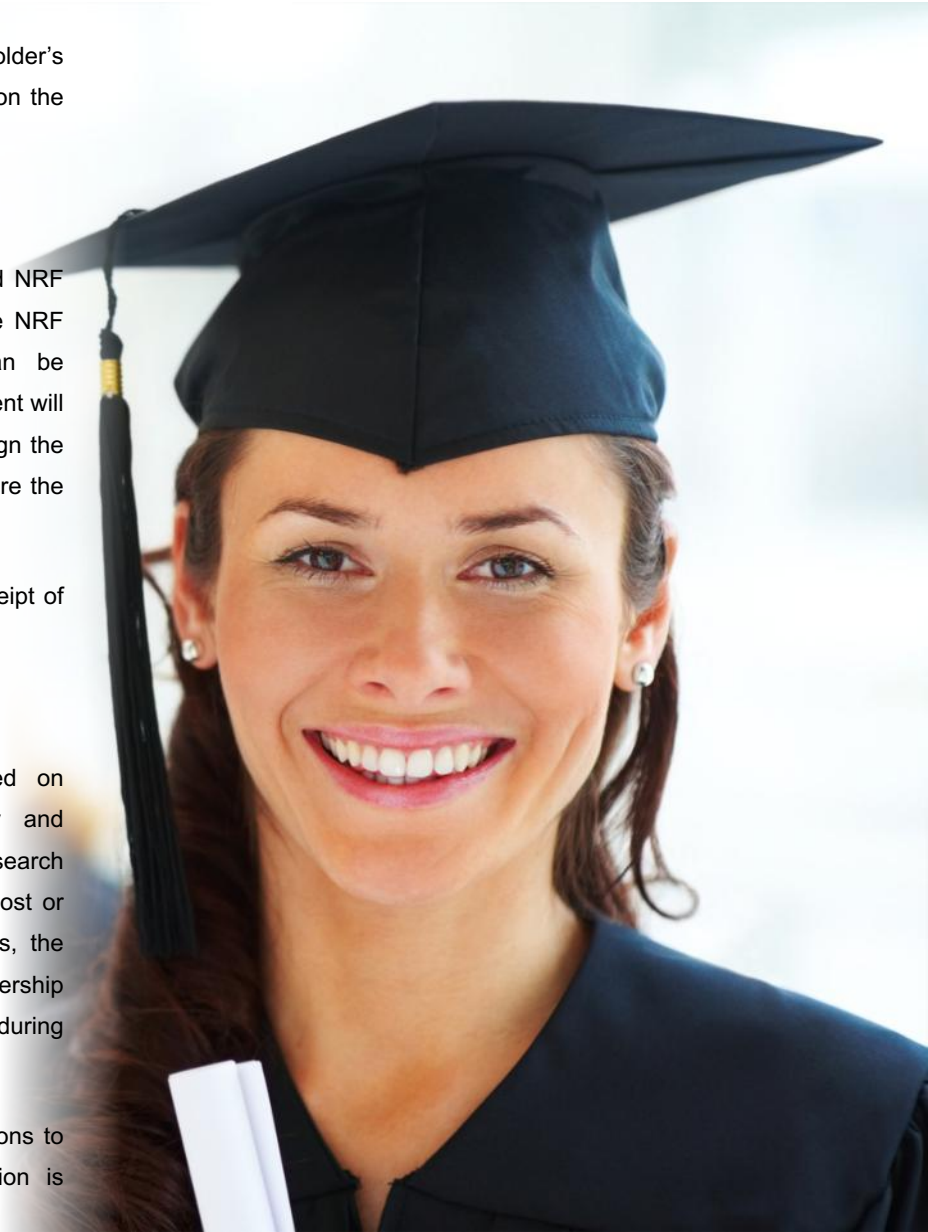
The general selection and assessment criteria are based on academic performance, research ability, technical quality and scientific merit of the proposed research, feasibility of the research study, recommendation reports, capacity and support of the host or supervisor and research outputs (if available). In most cases, the biographical information, prizes and awards, and any leadership activities included in the application are also taken into account during the assessment.

At a Postdoctoral level, the ability to move to different institutions to broaden research exposure is important. A strong motivation is

required for a Postdoctoral Fellow to remain in the same institution or with the same supervisor as for their Doctoral study

PLEASE NOTE:

Grantholder-linked awards are not based on the selection and assessment criteria of the NRF, but are subject to Grantholder targets for student support.



How do I Renew an Award?

NRF Free-standing Students and Fellows are requested to complete an Annual Progress Report (APR) for the renewal of the award. The supervisor or host will provide confidential information on the progress of the student in their degree/research. If the supervisor or host recommends renewal of the award due to satisfactory progress, the award will be renewed and the support will continue. DAs are requested to forward the results of all undergraduate students that are receiving support. The award will not be renewed if the Scholarship/Fellowship- holder is not eligible for renewal, or if insufficient progress has been made in the study/research.



What are Travel and Equipment Grants?

Certain funding instruments have travel and equipment grants attached to them. Scholarship/Fellowship-holders may apply for these travel and equipment grants based on their eligibility. Applicants who wish to apply for a travel or equipment grant must contact their research/postgraduate/financial aid office to obtain the application form that has to be completed.

NRF Travel and Equipment Guidelines, terms and conditions will apply to all travel and equipment grants and applications. Completed travel and equipment applications must be validated through the DA at the applicable research institution.

What do I do if I want to Change my Degree/Research Study/Research institution/ Supervisor?

The NRF Free-standing Student/Fellow is required to notify the NRF, via the institutional DA, of any changes to their degree/ research or research institution. This notification must be in the form of a letter of motivation from the Student/Fellow and their supervisor (new supervisor in the case of a candidate who is changing their research institution or supervisor), which should be forwarded to the NRF via the institutional DA. The NRF will consider the request and notify the university DA of the outcome.

What happens when the qualification is not completed?

Should a student or fellow fail to fulfil any of the conditions set out in any NRF document/ agreement or should it transpire that a bursary, scholarship or fellowship was awarded on the basis of false information supplied to the NRF, the NRF would be entitled to forthwith cancel the Agreement, in which event the bursar or fellow will be liable to refund the bursary, scholarship or fellowship plus interest at the prevailing prime rate charged by the NRF’s bankers.

What do I do when I have completed my Degree/Research?

The Free-standing Student/Fellow is required to notify the NRF, via the institutional DA, of completion of their degree/research. A copy of their thesis/dissertation must be sent to the NRF to be placed on the relevant national databases, and a completion report must be submitted. For grantholder-linked bursaries, the obligation rests with the grantholder. What happens if I fail to complete my qualification/research? Students/Fellows that receive NRF support must complete the qualification/research concerned within two year after expiry of the NRF funding. A Student/Fellow that fails to complete the qualification/research for which the funding was awarded will have to refund the total amount received from the NRF towards the degree/research concerned.

If an awardee is in breach of any of the eligibility criteria or terms and conditions of the award, the NRF may immediately withdraw the award and request that the money paid to the awardee be refunded.

PART 6: CONTACT DETAILS

National Research Foundation
PO Box 2600

Pretoria

0001

South Africa

Tel: +27 12 481 4000

Email: Supportdesk@nrf.ac.za

Directors	Funding Instruments	Telephone and Email
Ms Yolanda Davids	Free-standing Scholarships, Fellowships and SANHARP Bursaries	012 481 4114 / yolanda@nrf.ac.za
Mr Lebusa Monyooe	Strategic Knowledge Fields, THRIP Grantholder- linked Bursaries	012 481 4230 / lebusa@nrf.ac.za
Mrs Anthipi Pouris	Capacity, Infrastructure and SARChI Grantholder-linked Bursaries	012 481 4240 / anthipi@nrf.ac.za
Mr Raven Jimmy	International and CoE Grantholder-linked Bursaries	012 481 4069 / raven@nrf.ac.za