

**DECLARATION IN RESPECT OF A POSTGRADUATE MERIT BURSARY 2015**

**1. Conditions**

Applicants may qualify for a bursary if, in addition to meeting the academic criteria, they comply with the following conditions:

a) Bursaries are available to *full-time* students in all postgraduate degree programmes who do not already hold a qualification at the same or at a higher level than the degree of application. Students in the combination MDiv-Licenciate (in whichever order) fall under master’s students.

The beneficiaries of postgraduate merit bursaries may not simultaneously occupy a full-time paid position. Students will still be regarded as ***full-time students*** if they do paid work for **up to 15 hours per week** on average, over a period of ten months (for example, in the capacity of research assistant). Bursary beneficiaries who work up to 15 hours per week may receive remuneration for such work, provided that the remuneration is in line with the University’s regular tariffs for similar work. Should the number of hours worked change in the course of the academic year in which the bursary funds are received, the Division for Postgraduate Student Funding must be informed in writing and provided with the relevant details.

1. Students who take at least eight months’ continuous leave, whether paid or unpaid, or special leave or study leave in the course of the academic year may also qualify for the bursary. Each case will be considered on its merits.
2. Should a master’s or doctoral student fail to apply already *in the first year of study*, the bursary amount per degree programme will be reduced pro rata.
3. Similarly, should a master’s or doctoral programme be completed earlier than planned, the bursary amount per degree programme will be reduced pro rata.

**2. Allocation process and bursary amounts**

**(The first allocation for the relevant degree programme is to occur in 2015.)**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS REGARDING ALLOCATION:

Merit bursaries are awarded according to the number of years for which the particular degree programme has been registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET); the final disbursement serves as an incentive upon graduation or the publication of an article:

* Honours: one-off
* One-year master’s: one-off
* Two-year master’s, namely **MEd (Psych) 499100; MPhil (Health Sciences Education) 570100; MPhil 572100; MSc 596100; MPath 609100 and MHumRehab 611100**: two allocations
* PhD: two allocations

The process is as follows:

a) Honours

1. Year 2015: A merit bursary of R18 300 is awarded upon registration.
2. Should the student fail to graduate in December 2016 or March 2017, the bursary will be converted into a loan.

b) Master’s – one-year master’s programme, as registered with the DHET

1. Year 2015: A merit bursary of R17 000 is awarded upon registration in 2015. An additional merit bursary of R10 000 is awarded upon graduation in December 2016 or March 2017.
2. Should the student fail to graduate by December 2017 or March 2018, the merit bursary (that is, R17 000) will be converted into a loan.
3. Students whose master’s is upgraded to a PhD will forfeit the additional merit award (of R10 000).
4. Should the student complete an article during 2016 or 2017, which is subsequently accepted for publication in a journal that attracts a subsidy, a further merit bursary of R10 000 will be awarded. This will not be included in the amount to be converted into a loan should the student fail to graduate by the end of 2017/beginning of 2018. Please note that this additional R10 000 is a one-off award.

c) Master’s – two-year master’s programme, as registered with the DHET

1. Year 2015: A merit bursary of R17 000 is awarded upon registration.
2. Year 2016: A merit bursary of R17 000 is awarded upon registration. An additional merit bursary of R10 000 is awarded upon graduation in December 2017 or March 2018 (or at an earlier occasion).
3. Should the student fail to graduate by December 2018 or March 2019, the merit bursary (that is, R34 000) will be converted into a loan.
4. Students whose master’s is upgraded to a PhD will forfeit the additional merit award (of R10 000).
5. Should the student complete an article during 2016 or 2017, which is subsequently accepted for publication in a journal that attracts a subsidy, a further merit bursary of R10 000 will be awarded. This will not be included in the amount to be converted into a loan should the student fail to graduate by the end of 2018/beginning of 2019. Please note that this additional R10 000 is a one-off award.

d) PhD

1. Year 2015: A merit bursary of R25 000 is awarded upon registration.
2. Year 2016: A merit bursary of R25 000 is awarded upon registration. An additional merit bursary of R15 000 is awarded upon graduation in December 2017 or March 2018 (or at an earlier occasion).
3. Should the student fail to graduate by December 2018 or March 2019, the merit bursary (that is, R50 000) will be converted into a loan.
4. Should the student complete an article in 2017 or 2018, which is subsequently accepted for publication in a journal that attracts a subsidy, a further merit bursary of R10 000 will be awarded. This will not be included in the amount to be converted into a loan should the student fail to graduate by the end of 2018/beginning of 2019. This is a one-off additional award.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree programme** | **Total bursary amount per degree programme** | **Bursary amount per year** | **Award period per degree programme** |
| Honours | R18 300 | **R18 300** | 1 year |
| Master’s | One-year master’s: R27 000  Two-year master’s:  R44 000 | **R17 000 in 2015**  **R10 000 upon graduation in Dec 2016/Mar 2017**  **R17 000 in 2015**  **R17 000 in 2016**  **R10 000 upon graduation in Dec 2017/Mar 2018** | 1 year  2 years |
| Doctorate | R65 000 | R25 000 in 2015  R25 000 in 2016  R15 000 upon graduation in Dec 2017/Mar 2018 | 2 years |

**3. Conversion clause**

In the following circumstances, a postgraduate merit bursary will be converted into a loan, without the option of making representations or obtaining the supervisor’s input:

a) Should the beneficiary accept a permanent or other position that entails **more than 15 hours’ work per week** during the year in which he/she receives the bursary

b) Should the beneficiary discontinue, interrupt or exit his/her studies with a lower qualification

c) Should the beneficiary fail to register in a new academic year for an incomplete programme, without formal permission to interrupt his/her studies

d) Should the beneficiary fail to complete his/her studies within the following set periods:

**Degree programme Period allowed**

Honours 2 years

Master’s: one-year 3 years

two-year 4 years

Master’s upgraded to PhD 6 years Doctorate following master’s 4 years

In all instances mentioned above, the loan will be repayable in equal instalments at the prime interest rate levied by the University’s bankers from time to time. In addition, the loan will be repayable (after the student has left the University) within the same period as that for which it was awarded.

The following table summarises the grace periods for postgraduate degree programmes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree programme** | **Duration as registered with the DHET** | **Grace period** | **Conversion from bursary into loan** |
| Honours | 1 year | 1 year | After 2 years |
| One-year master’s, as registered with the DHET | 1 year | 2 years | After 3 years |
| Two-year master’s, as registered with the DHET | 2 years | 2 years | After 4 years |
| PhD | 2 years | 2 years | After 4 years |

The University reserves the right to request a progress report from the beneficiary or his/her supervisor at any stage.

**4.** Declaration

a) I, ..DUGAL JEREMY HARRIS...................................................................................................,

**[print full name and surname ]**

student number ..17447585....................................,

hereby declare that I have familiarised myself with, and pledge to abide by, all conditions and guidelines in respect of the postgraduate merit bursary (available from the Division for Postgraduate Student Funding and set out in this declaration). I further declare that, should I fail to comply with any of the bursary conditions or should the University discover that my being awarded a postgraduate merit bursary is based on false information having been supplied, the awarded bursary will EITHER be cancelled in full or in part and debited to my student account for personal settlement (if such failure or finding should occur in the year of disbursement) OR be fully or partially converted – in terms of the abovementioned guidelines – into a loan the repayment of which will be my own responsibility (with reference to previous disbursements before the year in which the failure or discovery of false information occurs).

I undertake to provide the Student Fees Division with my bank details so that any positive remainder of bursary funds, after all debits on my student account have been settled, may be deposited into my personal bank account.

b) I take note of the following:

1. Bursary funds will be disbursed only if all documents required for the allocation have been submitted and have been accepted as correct by the Manager: Postgraduate Student Funding. The University reserves the right to retain any disbursements (in full or in part) until all documents are unavailable.
2. Beneficiaries must be registered for at least one semester to receive an award. In cases where students are registered for only one semester, only half of the full bursary amount will be disbursed.
3. Successful candidates who fail to comply with the conditions for allocation during the year of allocation will forfeit their bursaries and will be held liable for the repayment of all funds already disbursed. Also refer “Conversion clause” above.
4. Postgraduate merit bursaries that have not been taken up by the return date of this declaration will be cancelled and re-awarded according to the performance ranking.
5. Stellenbosch University reserves the right to cancel the award, to make no award whatsoever, and to amend the conditions of allocation. However, applicants are assured that amendments will only be made in extremely urgent circumstances.

Accepted and signed at ....PAARDEN EILAND....................... on this ...18TH........ day of ...MARCH........... 2015.

Signature of applicant: Date:

Signature of witness: Date:

Return to: Postgraduate & International Office, Postgraduate Student Funding Division, Private Bag X1, Matieland 7602

By hand: Postgraduate & International Office, Postgraduate Student Funding Division, Wilcocks Building, 3rd floor, Room 3015

**RETURN ON OR BEFORE 20 MARCH 2015 – SEE POINT 4(b)(iv) ABOVE.**

**N**CRCP1154