

Extension scholarship support for Masters and Doctoral studies in 2016

Call for applications from NRF supported postgraduate students for extension scholarships for completion of masters and doctoral studies

In recognition of the need for extended funding support for masters and doctoral students beyond the standard funding of two years and three years respectively, the DST-NRF has implemented a special category of funding called the *Extension Scholarship Support for Masters and Doctoral Studies*.

This intervention is intended at increasing the throughput rate of masters and doctoral students at higher education institutions, and to accelerate the research outputs of these postgraduate students to advance internationally-competitive knowledge production in South Africa. An extension scholarship of up to (twelve) 12 months is offered to existing NRF supported masters and doctoral scholarship-holders. Priority will be given to academically deserving but financially needy students, and those that are in the process of finalising their thesis for examination and/or submitting a manuscript to an accredited journal. Applicants must adequately demonstrate why extended funding is required; provide a clear work plan for completion of the degree; and in the case of doctoral candidates, specify the submission of at least one manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal. To be eligible for an extension bursary, ***applicants must have their supervisors' recommendation for extended funding and, their supervisors' endorsement of the proposed plan for completion and submission of the dissertation and manuscripts for publication.***

1. Value of the Masters and Doctoral Scholarships for 2016

Support for completion of Masters or Doctoral studies will be made on a pro rata basis. In 2016, scholarship values will be the same as current annual scholarship values of the NRF funding instruments as indicated in the table below.

Funding Instrument	Masters Scholarship Values over 12 months (Rand)	Doctoral Scholarship Values for 12 months (Rand)
Innovation Bursary Scheme	80 000	110 000
Scarce Skills Development Funds	80 000	110 000
NRF Free-standing Scholarships	50 000	70 000
Grant holder-linked Scholarships	40 000	60 000
Medical Research Council-NRF Health Scholarships	80 000	110 000
DAAD	70 000	100 000
Renewable and Sustainable Energy Scholarships	85 000	100 000

2. Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria listed below applies to all applicants for extension scholarships for completion of Masters and Doctoral bursaries:

- Applicants may be South African citizens, permanent residents or non-permanent resident students that were funded in 2015.
- Applicants must have been NRF scholarship recipients in 2015 to be eligible for funding and must have been funded for the current degree for either the NRF freestanding or the grantholder-linked scholarship.

- All applicants must be registered at a South African public university.
- Applicants that already hold a degree at the level for which they are applying are not eligible.
- Only applications with a detailed work-plan will be considered for funding.
- Only applications that include the requested supervisors' responses will be considered.

3. Selection criteria

The following will be considered in evaluating all applications in a competitive merit review process:

- The students' progress to date;
- Stated reasons why the degree has not been completed;
- The feasibility and merit of the applicant's work plan for completion and submission of the dissertation and manuscripts for publication;
- Supervisor's support of the applicant's work plan for completion and submission of the dissertation and manuscripts for publication; and
- Recommendation from the current supervisor for an extension scholarship for completion of the Masters or Doctoral Degree.

4. Equity and redress

In line with the national imperative of equity and redress, the bursary scheme prioritises support for appropriately qualified applicants from designated groups *viz.* black, female and persons with disabilities, while ensuring that only applications that meet the NRF merit review and selection criteria are supported. The set equity targets are 80% blacks, 55% women and 4% students with disabilities.

With respect to citizenship of successful applicants, the awards will be allocated in line with the following percentages:

- 87% to South Africans, including permanent residents;
- 5% to students from the Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- 4% to students from the rest of Africa; and
- 4% to students from non-African countries.

5. Conditions of award for the extension scholarship Masters and Doctoral scholarship

- Successful students who are offered the extension scholarship by the NRF are required to complete and sign the NRF scholarship agreement that will be forwarded at the time of the award.
- A list of successful candidates will be published on the NRF website as soon as the internal NRF approval processes for the award are finalised.
- The scholarship-holder may undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties per week on average during the year of study and may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal institution tariff for services rendered.
- Scholarship-holders may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- All NRF scholarships awards shall be held as primary funding towards the research study.
- Scholarship-holders are allowed to hold non-binding supplementary grants or emoluments to half the value of the NRF award or should the host university have an institutional capped value, the award can be supplemented to the university capped value for the level of study.
- NRF scholarships may not be held simultaneously with a bursary / scholarship from any other government or NRF administered source.

6. How to submit an application for a Masters or Doctoral scholarship

Applications for funding in 2016 must be submitted through the online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/> no later than **7 August 2015**.

On accessing the link, please follow the instructions as follows:

- Register/Login using your Identity (ID) or passport number and password.
- Select “My Applications”.
- Select “Create Application”.
- Select the call for which you are applying: Extension of NRF Support for Masters and Doctoral Scholarships 2016.
- Select “Apply now”.
- Complete all compulsory sections of the application form.
- Remember to submit your application on completion.

Please note the following:

- Complete applications will automatically be forwarded to the host University for verification before being submitted to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
- Contact the university postgraduate or research office for queries related to institutional processes and deadlines.
- NRF contact persons are listed below for NRF related enquiries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **7 August 2015**.



NRF Contact Persons:

For grant management systems and administration related enquiries:

Ms Nozine Nqeketo, Professional Officer, Scholarships and Fellowships, email: nozine.nqeketo@nrf.ac.za, Telephone: (012) 481-4184.

For Funding Instrument and grant management related enquiries:

Ms Zikhona Lose, Professional Officer, Scholarships and Fellowships, email: zikhona.lose@nrf.ac.za, Telephone: (012) 481-4365.

For reviews and evaluation related enquiries:

Ms Joyce Mokono, Professional Officer, Reviews and Evaluation, email: joyce@nrf.ac.za, Telephone: (012) 481-4223.