

NRF Free-standing Masters and Doctoral Scholarships 2016 Call for Applications

The National Research Foundation (NRF) is mandated by an Act of Parliament, the National Research Foundation Act (Act No. 23 of 1998) to: *“Support and promote research through funding, human capacity development and the provision of the necessary research facilities, in order to facilitate the creation of knowledge, innovation and development in all fields of science and technology, including indigenous knowledge”*.

In support of this mandate, the NRF makes funds available to support Free-standing Masters and Doctoral candidates for the 2016 academic year, through a competitive process. The funding instrument makes funds available to support students pursuing full-time Masters or Doctoral studies at South African public universities, science councils and national research facilities. The objective of this funding instrument is geared towards increasing the number and quality of South African postgraduate students at the Masters and Doctoral level in South Africa.

1. Areas of Support

The scholarship is intended to support doctoral candidates to pursue research studies in all areas of (i) Science, (ii) Engineering and (iii) Technology and in the (iv) Social Sciences and (v) Humanities, at public research institutions in South Africa. The percentage of supported students will be 80% from the Science, Engineering and Technology disciplines and 20 % from the Social Sciences and Humanities.

2. Value of the NRF Free-standing Masters and Doctoral Scholarships for 2016

Masters Scholarships	R50 000 per annum
Doctoral Scholarships	R70 000 per annum

In addition, scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant of up to R10 000 which can be used to attend local conferences, workshops, a visit to a laboratory or, any other activity that supports the scholarship-holder's current research progression. This is the maximum amount allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

Scholarship-holders who wish to access the travel grant must complete a travel grant application form provided by their university postgraduate office/research office for submission to, consideration and approval/disapproval by the NRF.

3. Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria listed below applies to applicants for Masters and Doctoral bursaries:

- Scholarships are open to **South African citizens, South African permanent residents as well as a limited percentage of non-South African citizens registered at a South African public university.**
- All applicants' for full-time Masters or Doctoral studies in South Africa must be registered or, intending to register at a South African public university.

Applicants that already hold a degree at the level for which they are applying for funding, are not eligible.

4. Selection criteria

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

- The applicant's past, current and potential academic performance. This will be measured by the applicant's:
 - The potential of the applicant to undertake an independent research project;
 - Leadership roles;
 - Previous awards, prizes and honours; and
 - The potential research outputs and impact.
- The feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal;
- Identification of a suitable supervisor and co-supervisor, where applicable;
- Support from the identified supervisor and referees.

5. 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.

6. Conditions of award for the Innovation Masters and Doctoral scholarship

- Successful students who are offered the NRF free-standing scholarship 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.
- Masters' awards for all successful candidates will be administered as a block grant to university at which the student will be registered for his/her postgraduate degree.
- 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. Alternatively, should the host university have an institutional capped value, the NRF 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.

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

Applicants may apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF.
- **Applicants must apply for the 2016 NRF Free-standing Masters or Doctoral Scholarship by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>.**
- **Register / Login using your ID number and password.**
- Go to **“My Applications”** and select **“Create Application”**.
- Select the call for which you are applying to viz. **NRF Free-standing Masters and Doctoral Scholarship Call for 2016.**
- Remember to complete all **compulsory** sections of the application as incomplete applications will not be considered for support by the NRF.

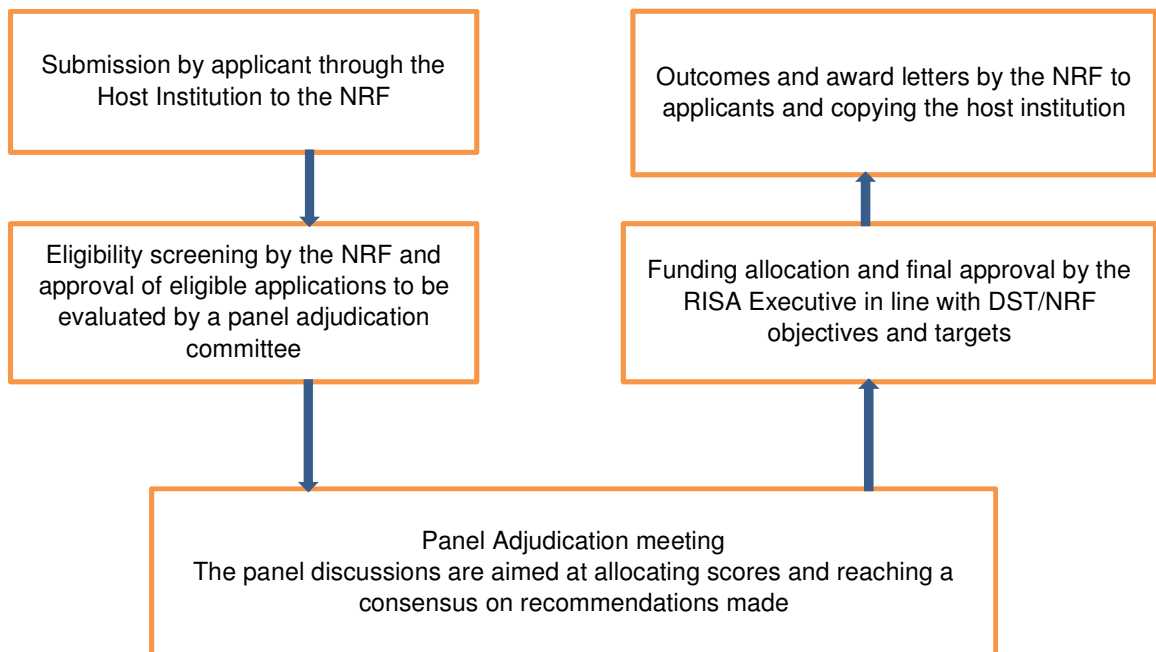
Please attach the necessary documents in **one PDF file in the following order: ID document, proof of permanent residence (if applicable) and certified academic transcripts**. Should you not follow the guidelines for attaching the necessary documents your application will not be considered.

- Remember to **submit** your application on completion.
- Complete applications will be directed to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the university has approved the application and forwarded it to the NRF.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to section 5.1 for details on eligibility for the NRF- Innovation Masters and Doctoral programme).



- Please contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **7 August 2015**.
- **Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these will be set before the actual call closing date.**

NRF Review Processes





science and technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Research and Innovation
Support and Advancement

NRF Contact persons:

Mrs Thashni Maistry-Pillay: Director – Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Telephone: 012 481 4241. E-mail: thashni.maistry@nrf.ac.za.

Mr Martin Tjatji: Professional Officer – Reviews and Evaluations (RE) Telephone: 012 481 4126. E-mail: martin.tjatji@nrf.ac.za

Ms Mapula Kekana: Professional Officer – Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD). Telephone: 012 481 4049. E-mail: mapula.kekana@nrf.ac.za