



## Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students

### Call for scholarships for 2016

This funding instrument aims to provide support for part-time, registered Doctoral students, **in their final year of study**, enabling completion of their Doctoral studies and thereby increasing graduation and throughput rates. Applicants must secure leave from their employer for the requested period of support, prior to submitting an application for funding to the National Research Foundation (NRF).

The objectives of the part-time study support funding instrument are to:

- Provide an opportunity for completing doctoral students to submit their dissertations for examination;
- Ease the burden of supervision by facilitating the completion of doctoral degrees;
- Effect transformation in the knowledge workforce in South Africa, with respect to race, gender and persons with disabilities; and
- Develop a cohort of potential candidates for effective industry-academia partnerships that will be composed of mentors and role models for the next generation of researchers.

### 1. Areas of Support

Support will be provided to students currently pursuing research-based Doctoral degrees in all areas of:

- Science;
- Engineering;
- Technology;
- Mathematical Sciences;
- Social Science; and
- Humanities.



## 2. Value of the Scholarships

Support for completion of Doctoral studies will be made on a *pro rata* basis not exceeding twelve months. For the 2016 academic year, the value of the bursaries will be a maximum of R10 000 per month for twelve months or R120 000 per annum. The pro-rata period is based on an applicant's leave period approved by the employer.

## 3. Eligibility

Priority will be given to applicants that are in the process of finalising their dissertation for examination and/or preparing a manuscript for submission to an accredited journal. Students who are academically deserving and financially needy will be given priority.

In selecting applicants for consideration for funding, the following criteria will apply:

- Applicants must either be South African citizens or in possession of South African permanent residency;
- An applicant may not concurrently hold this support with another NRF scholarship or a scholarship from any other South African government source;
- Applicant must conclude the study in the year of support; and
- An applicant must currently be registered for a Doctoral degree and be in the final year of the research activities (applicants must have completed all fieldwork, experiments, research methodology and analysis and should be in the write up stages of their doctoral dissertation).

## 4. Selection criteria

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

- The student's current and potential research performance.
- Selection criteria will include previous research outputs; manuscripts submitted to an accredited journal for publication; and research awards/prizes/honours;



- The feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal and plan for completion and submission of the Doctoral dissertation;
- Written support from the Doctoral supervisor for the proposed plan for completion of the Doctoral studies; and
- Written confirmation from the applicant's employer to grant the specified period of leave for the purpose of completing the Doctoral dissertation. Leave policy documents will **not** be considered.

## 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, 50% women and 4% students with disabilities.

## 6. Institutional Accountability

Applications must include a letter of support from the supervisor of the Doctoral research as well as from the Human Resources Manager of the employing organisation. The letter from the employing organisation must:

- Confirm the employment status of the candidate; and
- Commit to grant the candidate time away from work, for the indicated period, in order to finalise and submit the Doctoral dissertation.

## 7. How to submit an application for the part-time study support funding instrument

Applicants must apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through the NRF Online application process.
- **Applicants' must apply for the Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students Call for 2016 by accessing the link:**  
<https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/>
- **Register/ Login using your ID number and password.**
- Select create new application from the list of existing calls.



- Select the call for which you are submitting an application viz. **Study Support for Completing Part-Time Doctoral Students Call for 2016.**
- Remember to complete all 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 (i) ID document or proof of permanent residence (if applicable); (ii) certified academic transcripts; (iii) letter from your employer confirming the approval of leave to complete the Doctoral dissertation.** 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 3 for details on eligibility for this funding instrument).
- Please contact the university postgraduate office or research office if you have any queries.
- The closing date for submitting applications is **28 August 2015.**
- **Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these may be set before the actual NRF call closing date.**

### **NRF Contact persons:**

**For NRF Online application and grants management related inquires contact:**

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

Ms Nozine Nqeketo: Professional Officer – Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Telephone: 012 481 4184. E-mail: [nozine.nqeketo@nrf.ac.za](mailto:nozine.nqeketo@nrf.ac.za)



**For funding instrument related inquiries contract:**

Ms Siyasanga Duze: Professional Officer – Human and Infrastructure Capacity Development (HICD). Telephone: 012 481 4236. E-mail: [siyasanga.duze@nrf.ac.za](mailto:siyasanga.duze@nrf.ac.za)