



**South African Radio Astronomy Observatory**  
**Call for Applications for SARAO Undergraduate and Honours Block Grants for 2019**

**Application Guide**

**Read this guide carefully before completing an application form**

**Closing date for applications: 31 July 2018**

**Application forms are available at <https://skagrants.nrf.ac.za>**

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**1. SARAO Undergraduate and Honours Block Grants**

- 1.1. The objective of SARAO's Undergraduate and Honours Block Grant Programme is to partner with South African universities, to increase the number South African graduates available to pursue postgraduate research in areas relevant to the SKA and MeerKAT radio telescopes.
- 1.2. Eligible university departments (see Section 2), at South African universities, may apply for a block grant from SARAO, to provide undergraduate and/or honours students with bursaries.
- 1.3. Successful university departments will be awarded a grant, which includes funds for student bursaries, as well as for academic support programmes for students who may require additional assistance with their studies.
- 1.4. The selection of the undergraduate and/or honours students to be funded by a SARAO block grant, is the responsibility of the relevant university department, however, students selected for the programme, must align with SARAO's HCD transformation targets (see Section 5).

**2. Eligibility for SARAO Undergraduate/Honours Block Grant**

SARAO will consider applications from university departments that propose to support **at least four** South African citizens or permanent residents, studying any of the following degrees:

- a. Bachelor of Electronic Engineering
- b. Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

- c. Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
- d. Bachelor of Mechatronic Engineering
- e. Bachelor of Computer Engineering
- f. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics/Applied Mathematics and Physics
- g. Bachelor of Science in Physics and Electronics
- h. Bachelor of Science in Astronomy/Astrophysics and Physics
- i. Bachelor of Computer Science, with co-major in Mathematics/Applied Mathematics
- j. Bachelor of Science - Honours in Physics and Electronics/Astrophysics/Computer Science
- k. Bachelor of Science – Honours – NASSP (National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme)

### **3. Structure of a SRAO Undergraduate/Honours Block Grant for 2019**

- 3.1. Successful university departments will be awarded a grant that includes funds for bursaries (at the same level as SRAO free-standing undergraduate/honours bursaries), and funds for additional academic support, for students who require assistance with their studies.
- 3.2. The value of the award will be dependent on the number of students to be supported by the grant.
- 3.3. A SRAO Undergraduate and Honours Block Grant is for a maximum of four years (2019, up to and including 2022), to cover the full duration required by any student entering first year in 2019, to complete his/her BEng degree or BSc Honours degree, by the end of 2022.

### **4. Evaluation of Applications for a SRAO Undergraduate/Honours Block Grant for 2019**

**Applications will be evaluated using the following:**

- 4.1. The university department's track record of graduating students, generally.
- 4.2. The university department's track record of graduating Black (African, Coloured and Indian) and Women South African students.
- 4.3. Availability, and nature, of academic support programmes, to ensure the success of the students selected for the undergraduate block grant.
- 4.4. Structure of the undergraduate or honours degree, and its relevance to MeerKAT/SKA science or engineering, and the "ability" of the degree to prepare students for postgraduate research in MeerKAT/SKA-relevant science or engineering.
- 4.5. Availability and level of postgraduate research in MeerKAT/SKA-relevant science or engineering in the university department.

## **5. Conditions of Award for SRAO Undergraduate and Honours Block Grant Programmes**

- 5.1. Students selected by the university for the programme, must align with SRAO's HCD Transformation Policy, which provides the following targets for undergraduate and honours bursary recipients:
- 100% of bursaries must be awarded to South African students (including permanent residents), of which:
    - 90% must be awarded to Black South Africans (African, Coloured and Indian), and
    - 50% to South African Women
- 5.2. Students selected for the programme must maintain a minimum average of 60% in their mid-year and year-end results. The university is required to submit the students' mid-year and year-end academic transcripts, for evaluation, to SRAO. Students who do not obtain a minimum of 60% may not be eligible to receive further funding from the programme, unless motivated for by the university, for SRAO's consideration.
- 5.3. The grant is renewable each year, at the sole discretion of SRAO, and is subject to the satisfactory performance of the students.
- 5.4. In the event that any of the students selected for the programme do not meet the minimum academic requirements, change their degree of study, do not graduate from their degree, or leave the programme for any reason, the university may NOT replace these students with new students.
- 5.5. If, in the first year of the grant, a university selects less than the number of students to be supported by the grant, the funds not used in the first year of the grant, may be carried over to the next academic year, if approved by SRAO, for a maximum of one year only.
- 5.6. On completion of studies supported by the grant, the university is required to submit a copy of the respective student's degree certificate to SRAO.

## **6. SRAO Contact Information**

Should you have any queries with regards to the application requirements application procedure, please contact:

**Ms. Annah Mashemola**

Email: [amashemola@ska.ac.za](mailto:amashemola@ska.ac.za)

Telephone: (011) 442-2434

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