

Innovation Masters and Doctoral Scholarships Call for 2015

1. Background

The Innovation Masters and Doctoral funding instruments are part of the Innovation Bursary Scheme (IBS) funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The scheme is managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) through a contractual agreement with the DST. The IBS aims to broaden the frontiers of knowledge in innovation areas and to build the PhD pipeline for a knowledge-based economy. The DST has made funding available for the IBS in order to provide financial support to qualifying honours, Masters and doctoral students registered at public universities in 2015. This document outlines the objectives of the programme, the values of the scholarships and criteria for selection.

2. Objectives

The programme supports South African citizens and permanent residents registered on a full-time basis at public higher education institutions (HEIs).

The objectives of the Innovation programme are:

- To contribute towards the increase in the number and quality of South African postgraduate students within Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) fields of study at Masters and doctoral levels in South Africa
- To build a pipeline of the next generation of SET scientists and researchers in South Africa

3. Areas of Support

The Innovation programme supports students who wish to pursue their studies in the fields listed below:

- Biotechnology,
- Cellular and Molecular Biology,
- Engineering,
- Computer science,
- Physics,
- Astronomy,
- Mathematical Sciences,

- Nanotechnology,
- Chemistry,
- Earth Science,
- Ecology and
- Medical sciences.

Students studying Social Sciences and Humanities are also supported.

4. Value of the Scholarships

In 2015; the scholarship amounts will be as follows:

Masters Scholarships	R 80 000 p.a
Doctoral Scholarships	R 110 000 p.a

Masters' awards will be allocated as a block grant to universities/institutions. Applications should be submitted online at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za>

In addition, Masters scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant of up to R 10 000 which can be used to attend local conferences, workshops, visit a laboratory, or any other activity that support the beneficiaries' current research progression. This amount is the maximum allowed during the tenure of the scholarship.

Doctoral scholarship-holders may apply for a travel grant of up to R 15 000 (for local travel) and up to R 50 000 (for international travel). These grants may be used to attend local conferences, workshops, visits a laboratory, or any other activity that supports the beneficiaries' current research progression. This amount is the maximum 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 consideration by the NRF.

5. Criteria for Selection

5.1. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria listed below applies:

- Scholarships are open to **South African citizens, South African permanent residents as well as a percentage of non-South African citizens registered at a South African higher education institution (HEI).**
- Scholarship-holders must not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- The Scholarship-holder will be allowed to undertake a maximum of 12 hours of teaching, tutorials, assistance or demonstration duties per week on average during the year of study; they may be remunerated for these duties, provided that they are reimbursed at a rate not exceeding the normal institution tariff for services rendered.

5.2. Equity

In line with the national imperative of equity and redress, the programme prioritises support for appropriately qualified Blacks, women and students with disabilities without sacrificing quality. The programme will strive to meet the set equity targets of 80% Blacks, 55% women and 4% students with disabilities.

The awards will be allocated as follows:

- 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
- 4% to students from non-African countries

5.3 Conditions of award for the Innovation Bursary Scheme

- The award of an IBS scholarship to a student will be based on past, current and potential academic performance. Selection criteria will include academic merit, research potential, leadership qualities and previous awards, various prizes and honours.
- In addition to the above criteria, the award of the IBS scholarship will be based on the feasibility and merit of the applicant's research project proposal.
- Successful students who are offered the IBS scholarship by the NRF are required to complete and sign the IBS scholarship agreement which will be communicated 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.

6. How to apply for funding

Applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the National Research Foundation .
- **Applicants can apply for the NRF- Innovation Masters and Doctoral Scholarship Call for 2015 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 applying to: **NRF- Innovation Masters and Doctoral Scholarship Call for 2015.**
- Remember to complete all sections of the application.
- 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 go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- 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 **15 August 2014.**

- **Please take note of your institutions internal closing dates as these may be set before the actual call closing date.**

Contact persons:

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