



**South African Square Kilometre Array Project  
Postgraduate Bursary Programme  
Bursary Applications for 2015**

**Application Guide**

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

**Closing date for application is 5 September 2014**

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**1. Who can apply for a South African SKA PhD or MSc bursary**

- 1.1. South African citizens, and permanent residents of South Africa, who wish to complete a relevant PhD or MSc degree at a South African university.
- 1.2. Citizens of Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana, who wish to complete a relevant PhD or MSc degree at a South African university.
- 1.3. South African citizens and citizens of Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana, who wish to complete a relevant PhD or MSc degree at a university in an SKA SA partner country (Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana).

**2. How to apply for a South African SKA PhD or MSc bursary for 2015**

The application process for postgraduate bursaries from the South African SKA Project (SKA SA) for 2015 is different from previous years. For 2015, the application process for PhD and MSc bursaries comprises a number of steps, which are described below.

- 2.1. Students must complete the relevant bursary application form, which is available at <https://nrfs submission.nrf.ac.za/>.

2.2. At this stage in the application process applicants are requested to indicate their preferred area of research, rather than committing to one particular research project. The SKA SA has predetermined the areas of research that will be considered for funding in 2015. These areas are listed in the application form.

**IMPORTANT: The selection of research projects, from a list of pre-approved projects, by successful applicants, only takes place at the end of the application process.**

2.3. Students must submit applications to the research office at the university where they are currently registered. (Students not currently registered at a South African university may submit their application forms to the research office at any university in South Africa. Contact SKA SA for the details of the research offices at South African universities.)

2.4. The closing date for applications is **5 September 2014**.

2.5. After the closing date, all applications will be reviewed. The evaluation of applications will be based on academic performance and references.

2.6. Following the evaluation of all the applications, the top-rated applications, at PhD level and at MSc level, will be invited for interviews. (SKA SA will organise and pay for the travel associated with the interviews).

2.7. Following the interviews, applicants will be short-listed, and the short-listed applicants will be ranked. The top-ranked applicant will be given first option to select a research project from the list of approved projects, the applicant ranked second will be given second choice, and so on.

2.8. Applicants will then be given the opportunity to contact the supervisor of the research project selected, to discuss the project details, ascertain suitability for research, as well as other necessary arrangements and criteria.

**IMPORTANT: Successful applicants will be required to register at the university where the supervisor of the research project is based, and undertake the research at that university.**

### **3. Contacts**

Queries may be directed to the SKA SA on [amashemola@ska.ac.za](mailto:amashemola@ska.ac.za) or [lgura@ska.ac.za](mailto:lgura@ska.ac.za)

#### 4. Structure of South African SKA PhD and MSc bursaries for 2015

**Table 1: Structure of a South African SKA PhD Bursary for 2015**

<b>Bursary item</b>	<b>Amount / Duration</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bursary duration	The maximum total period of support for a PhD degree is three years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on the assessment of a student's progress, SKA SA in its sole discretion may extend the bursary for a period not exceeding two further years.</li> <li>2. Progress will be determined from progress reports, to be submitted to SKA SA twice a year.</li> </ol>
Maximum bursary for 2015	R 117,000	The bursary amount may increase annually, if funds permit.
Maximum travel grant for 2015	R 21,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The travel grant may increase annually, if funds permit.</li> <li>2. The travel may be used for approved travel related to the student's research.</li> <li>3. It is compulsory for a student to travel at least once a year to a conference / another institution for research purposes.</li> <li>4. Travel grants, or any funds remaining from a travel grant, for a particular year, cannot be carried over to the next academic year.</li> </ol>
Maximum equipment grant for the duration of the bursary	R 30,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The equipment grant is a total amount available for the full duration of the degree (i.e. this is not an annual amount).</li> <li>2. The equipment grant is available to support the purchase of equipment required to enable a student's research.</li> <li>3. Equipment purchased using funds from the SKA SA is the property of the university, where the student is registered.</li> </ol>
Maximum home travel grant for 2015	Cost of one return ticket	SKA SA will organise and pay for one return ticket per year for students from Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya or Ghana, who wish to complete a PhD degree at a South African university, or at a university in an SKA SA partner country.
Repatriation fee for 2015	Paid in full by the SKA SA, as required	SKA SA will pay the repatriation fee, if required, for students from Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana, who wish to complete a PhD degree at a South African university, or at a university in an SKA SA partner country.
Emergency Medical Insurance for 2015	Paid in full by the SKA SA	SKA SA will pay the cost of emergency medical insurance for students from Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana, who wish to complete a PhD degree at a South African university, or at a university in an SKA SA partner country.

**Table 2: Structure of a SKA SA MSc Bursary for 2015**

<b>Bursary item</b>	<b>Amount / Duration</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bursary duration	The maximum total period of support for an MSc degree is two years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on the assessment of a student's progress, SKA SA in its sole discretion may extend the bursary for a period not exceeding one further year.</li> <li>2. Progress will be determined from progress reports, to be submitted to SKA SA twice a year.</li> </ol>
Maximum bursary for 2015	R 92,000	The bursary amount may increase annually, if funds permit.
Maximum travel grant for 2015	R 16,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The travel grant may increase annually, if funds permit.</li> <li>2. The travel may be used for approved travel related to the student's research.</li> <li>3. It is compulsory for a student to travel at least once a year to a conference / another institution for research purposes.</li> <li>4. Travel grants, or any funds remaining from a travel grant, for a particular year, cannot be carried over to the next academic year.</li> </ol>
Maximum equipment grant for the duration of the bursary	R 20,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The equipment grant is a total amount available for the full duration of the degree (i.e. this is not an annual amount).</li> <li>2. The equipment grant is available to support the purchase of equipment required to enable a student's research.</li> <li>3. Equipment purchased using funds from the SKA SA is the property of the university, where the student is registered.</li> </ol>
Maximum home travel grant for 2015	Cost of one return ticket	SKA SA will organise and pay for one return ticket, per year, for students from Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya or Ghana, who wish to complete an MSc degree at a South African university, or at a university in an SKA SA partner country.
Repatriation fee for 2015	Paid in full by the SKA SA, as required	SKA SA will pay the repatriation fee, if required, for students from Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana, who wish to complete an MSc degree at a South African university, or at a university in an SKA SA partner country.
Emergency Medical Insurance for 2015	Paid in full by the SKA SA.	SKA SA will pay the cost of the emergency medical insurance for students from Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Kenya and Ghana, who wish to complete an MSc degree at a South African university, or at a university in an SKA SA partner country.