



UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

POSTGRADUATE BURSARY CONDITIONS

Honour Merit Bursaries

2025 Academic Year

The Department of Research and Innovation (DRI) plays a pivotal role in providing University funding for postgraduate studies at Honours level.

The funds should be used to assist the faculties in attracting promising Honours students to pursue studies at UP. Top Honours students is the pipeline to meeting UP's future Master and Doctoral research student in order to meet the strategic research priority areas of the University.

1. Awarding Process

- 1.1 A bursary will be offered to top prospective Honour UP students who have been conditionally admitted / already admitted for the 2025 academic year.
- 1.2 The prospective Honours students with a **cumulative GPA of 80% plus** in their Bachelor degree to **get first priority in the nomination process** to ensure that top current students are attracted to continue their Postgraduate career at UP. And for top students from other Institutions to choose UP as their preferred Institution to do their postgraduate studies.
 - 1.2.1 **Hons Merit Plus 80% plus cumulative GPA % in Bachelor Degree**
All nationalities can be considered for nomination
- 1.3 Thereafter, the faculty can consider to nominate students for the Honours Merit and Honours Equity bursaries, depending on budget availability.
 - 1.3.1 **Hons Merit: 75% - 79% cumulative GPA % of Bachelor Degree**
All nationalities can be considered for nomination
 - 1.3.2 **Hons Equity: 70% - 74% cumulative GPA % of Bachelor Degree**
Only South African citizens and permanent residents who are African, Coloured and Indian can be considered for nomination
- 1.4 The Deputy Deans **must ensure** Faculty administrators upload all graduates from other Institutions completed Bachelor degree transcripts into the database during the admission process.
- 1.5 DRI provides each Faculty their List.
- 1.6 DRI will lift the First Term payment block, to allow the nominated awardee to register without the need to pay the First Term payment at the start of the 2025 academic year. An email will be sent out to the nominated awardees by DRI.
- 1.7 In early March DRI will check who of the nominated Honour students have registered. Final eligibility criteria will be verified and once completed the bursary value will be disbursed to the students UP account. A confirmation email will be sent to the awardee.

- 1.8 UP reserves the right, should circumstances be justified, to amend the guidelines, conditions and values of the bursaries or cancel the bursary without prior notice to the nominated student prior to disbursement of the funds or after the disbursements of the funds to the students UP account.

2. Bursary Conditions

- 2.1 The Honours Merit awards are granted for one year only. Any Honours bursary awardee who needs to take two years to complete will not receive funding in their 2nd year.
- 2.2 To be considered for nomination for an Honours bursary, the student must have achieved a minimum cumulative average in their Bachelor degree as indicated above in point 1.2 and 1.3.
- 2.3 Students with outstanding debt from the previous year must make payment arrangements with UP Student Accounts first before the award can be finalised.
- 2.4 If the awardee is found guilty by a disciplinary committee of UP of misconduct, the award will be reversed and debited to the UP-student account.
- 2.5 If the awardee discontinues their study during the academic year of the funds being granted, the award will be reversed and debited to their UP-student account.
- 2.6 No break in the study period is allowed.
- 2.7 Honours students must be admitted and registered by 28 February of each academic year.
- 2.8 The Honours bursary awardee must adhere to all conditions as stated in this document to avoid the reversal of the Bursary award.

3. Ineligibility Criteria

- 3.1 Students who already hold a qualification at the same or higher level will not be considered.
- 3.2 Students who qualify for the UP Personnel Waivers are not eligible for a bursary.
- 3.3 Students who are admitted for non-degree purposes, PG Certificates, Postgraduate Diplomas, distance learning or any other special study programme are not eligible to be nominated.
- 3.4 An Honours student with another single source of funding of R120 000.00 or higher per annum is not eligible.

4. Value of UP Honour Bursaries

- 4.1 UP Honours Bursary: (cumulative GPA % of completed Bachelor degree is taken into consideration)
- Hons Merit Plus: 80% +
 - Value of the award: R40 000.00
 - Hons Merit: 75% - 79%
 - Value of the award: R35 000.00
 - Hons Equity: 70% - 74%
 - Value of the award: R30 000.00

4.2 Capped Maximum Bursary Values:

- 4.2.1 The UP-PGB may be supplemented with external funds, however Points 3.5 above must be adhered to in the case of a large single award.
- 4.2.2 A postgraduate student who receives funding from more than one source must ensure they adhere to the rules of each funder. It is recommended that the student consults with the Postgraduate Scholarship Office for guidance.
- 4.2.3 The capped values indicated below are only applicable if a student has a UP Postgraduate Bursary (UP-PGB) and external funds in the same academic year.
- 4.2.4 Students with international external funding are not restricted to the capped values due to forex payments. (These values are determined by the exchange rate)
- 4.2.5 Additional once off allowances for a laptop, conference attendance, equipment and experimental training from a funder are not considered part of the total value of the bursary awarded to a student.
- 4.2.6 UP has the right to cancel or adjust the UP-PGB of a student if all funds granted to a student exceeds the values indicated below.

Capped Total Value Amount for Honour students.

- Honours level = R200 000.00 per annum

Important Information

- Should the bursary be cancelled, payment arrangements are to be made by the student with the Student Accounts Division at the Student Services Centre. Or go to: <https://www.up.ac.za/student-fees/article/2735955/payment-arrangements>
- The conditions as set out in the Student Enrolment Contract shall apply to the amount debited to the student account (Page 2, Clause 9) (*Available on the UP-Student Portal – Student Centre – scroll to online contract link*)