

UCDP: Strengthening Academic Staff Development in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (UCDP – MaSS) Programme of the National Graduate Academy

2022 FUNDING GUIDELINES

In order to qualify for funding, an applicant has to be:

- A South African citizen or permanent resident of South Africa; and
- A full-time academic employee in mathematical and statistical sciences: mathematics, statistics and data science (or someone on a fixed term full-time contract continuous for at least 3 years) at any of the universities that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Pretoria (UP) which is the Lead Institution for the University Capacity Development Programme Grant (UCDP-MaSS) awarded by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET); and
- Graduate Academics (GA)/Early Career Academics (ECA)¹ satisfying one of the following:
 - Young academics registered for an M.Sc. or PhD (or intending to register within 12 months after receiving a grant);
 - Early Career Academics who completed their PhD's within the last 5 years, and have not yet reached professorial ranks. Late Entrants to Academia (Early Career Academics within five full-time active years in academia after completion of a PhD excluding any periods away from academia).

One and a half million Rands (R1.5 million) is earmarked from the UCDP grant for Rural-Based Universities (RBU²). These universities are: University of Fort Hare; University of Zululand; University of Venda; University of Limpopo; Walter Sisulu University; rural campuses of all universities, for example, Mafikeng campus of North-West University and the newly-established Sol Plaatjie University.

Anyone who qualifies for financial support can request funding, through their institution, for:

1. Activity 1: Winter/Summer School travel and Board:

a. Workshop or Research School³ attendance:

- **Local⁴ workshop⁵:** Graduate academics/Early Career academics would qualify for a grant for travel, accommodation and subsistence to attend Graduate Workshops or Research Schools whose duration is at least 3 days or for Technical Workshops whose duration is at least 1 day. Maximum of 7 days accommodation. No one will be funded to attend commercial (for-profit) workshops.
- **International⁶ workshop³:** Graduate academics/Early Career academics would qualify for a grant of up to R70 000 for travel, accommodation and subsistence to attend Graduate Workshops or Research Schools hosted by overseas academic organisations whose duration is at least 3 days.
- **Online workshop participation:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, travel has been severely restricted. This means that face-to-face academic events are restricted and there has been a rise

¹ The term "Graduate Academic" is used for any academic who qualifies for funding from the UCDP-MaSS grant and has not yet completed a PhD while "Early Career Academics" hold a PhD for less than five years at the time of application.

² RBU's qualifies for an upward adjustment by 10% of the current funding amount

³ For local and international conference participation, refer to Activity 3 and 5.

⁴ No one will be funded for more than two (2) local trips per year

⁵ This includes Pre- or Post-conference Workshops.

⁶ No one will be funded for more than one (1) international trip within a period of 12 months

in online academic events: workshops, seminars and conferences. Costs related to participation in online workshops can be covered.

- b. **Workshop organisation I:** Academics (including Established Academics) from any of the universities that have signed an MoU with the University of Pretoria and who organise/host a graduate workshop or research school can apply for a grant of up to R150 000. This contribution may be used to cover the costs for invited speakers, both local and international, if they have managed to recruit at least five (5) Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics. Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics who wish to attend the workshop should apply directly, through their institutions, to University of Pretoria for funding.
- c. **Workshop organisation II:** The Academic Committees of the National Graduate Academy for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science) may request a group of up to four (4) academics to organise a Graduate Workshop or Research School on a theme aimed at Graduate Academics. A grant of up to R150 000 may be awarded to cover the costs for speakers, both local and international, venue hire and refreshments if the organisers manage to recruit at least ten (10) Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics. The event will be open to other postgraduate students and early career academics from any universities provided they can secure funding for travel and accommodation from other sources, for example, from the DSI/NRF Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.
- d. **Online Workshop Organisation III:** Academics from any of the universities and organisations (for example SAMS, SASA, AIMS) that have signed an MoU with the University of Pretoria and who organise/host an online graduate workshop or research schools can apply for a grant of up to R30 000 for an event of ten (10) hours duration provided the organisers manage to recruit at least five (5) Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics. Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics who wish to attend the online event qualify for additional data funding as described above.
- e. **Online Workshop Organisation IV:** The Academic Committees of the National Graduate Academy for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences may request a group of up to four (4) academics to organise a Graduate Workshop or Research School on a theme aimed at Graduate Academics. A grant of up to R90 000 for an online event of about thirty (30) hours will be allocated to cover the costs associated with organising and running the event provided the organisers manage to recruit at least ten (10) Graduate Academics. The event will be open to other postgraduate students from any of the universities that have signed an MoU with the University of Pretoria.
- f. **Rural Universities allocations/Reliable Internet Access:** Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics working in rural universities or residing in communities with poor telecommunication network coverage, will be provided with mobility grants to attend online events at conference centres where, if possible, they could stay overnight. Quotes for participation should be submitted with the application and this would need motivation from the Head of Department and the research supervisor. The requisite funding allocation will be R15 000 per person per month.
- g. **Mobility Grants⁷:** These can be allocated to Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics for the following:
 - i. For a Graduate Academic to visit a local PhD supervisor at another institution for consultation, where the visit is at least a full week (equivalent of at least 5 working days). A maximum of R50 000 per annum will be awarded per applicant.
 - ii. For an Early Career Academic to undertake a research visit or sabbatical leave at another institution locally or overseas where such a visit is at least for 6 weeks duration. A maximum of R150 000 per annum will be awarded per applicant to cover travel costs and accommodation and augment living expenses. A letter of invitation from the host will be required as well as the research programme to be undertaken and expected outcomes.
- h. **Planning meetings:** A group of academics, from at least three different institutions that are members of the UCDP-MaSS consortium can apply for a grant for a face-to-face planning meeting aimed at organising a workshop or school.

⁷ No one will be funded for more than one (1) international trip within a period of 12 months



- i. **Once-off grants⁸:** A once-off grant of up to R15 000⁹ will be allocated to successful project beneficiaries to be utilised to support teaching and research activities. To benefit from this funding a full motivation from the applicant supported by the Head of Department will be required. Applicants must also submit a developmental plan which spells out what their personal developmental goals are and the expected outcomes for 2022, which is approved and signed by the HOD.
 - j. **Individual training courses:** Graduate academics/Early Career academics will be funded (travel, accommodation and subsistence) up to R15 000 to attend training courses offered by external supervisor(s) for a period of 6 months annually. The HOD needs to apply separately for the external supervisor (travel, accommodation and subsistence), limited to 2 hours per week per student for online training and 5 hours a week face to face training.
 - k. **Writing retreat/Group discussion:** Graduate academics/Early Career academics will be funded (travel, accommodation and subsistence) up to R15 000 to attend writing retreats/group discussions. The HOD needs to apply separately for the facilitator offering training (travel, accommodation and subsistence). It is expected that the activity would be advertised widely and be open to participants from other institutions.
2. **Activity 2: Activities Planning Workshops:** The UCDP-MaSS Advisory Committee may schedule two face-to-face strategic planning meetings which will be funded under this item. Similarly, each Academic committee of the National Graduate Academy for Mathematical and Statistical Sciences may schedule three face-to-face strategic planning meetings which will also be funded under this item.
3. **Activity 3: Conference attendance**
- a. **Local¹⁰ Conference:** Graduate academics or Early Career Academics would qualify for a grant of up to R25 000 to attend a local conference, for example, the annual meetings of South African Statistical Association (SASA) and South African Mathematical Society (SAMS).
 - b. **Regional¹¹ Conference:** Graduate academics or Early Career Academics would qualify for a grant of up to R40 000 to attend a conference hosted in the SADC region, for example, the annual meetings of Southern African Mathematical Sciences Association (SAMSA).
 - c. **Online conference participation:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, travel has been severely restricted. Similar to Activity 1, the cost to participate in virtual conferences will also be covered under this activity including access to reliable internet access.
 - d. **Rural Universities allocations:** Graduate Academics or Early Career Academics working in rural universities and residing in communities with poor telecommunication network coverage, will be provided with mobility grants to attend online conferences at conference centres where, if possible, they could stay overnight. This would need motivation from the Head of Department and the research supervisor. The requisite funding allocation will be R9 000 per person per month.
4. **Activity 5: Overseas Course/Conference Participation¹²:** Graduate academics or Early Career Academics would qualify for a grant of up to R70 000 to attend an overseas conference, provided their paper or poster has been **accepted** by the conference organisers.

⁸ Refer to the 2022 Guidelines: Activity 1.i Once-off Grants

⁹ Participants in the Pathways to a Successful Academic Career Programme can motivate for up to R30 000

¹⁰ No one will be funded for more than two (2) local trips per year

¹¹ No one will be funded for more than one (1) regional trip per year

¹² No one will be funded for more than one (1) international trip within a period of 12 months

5. Activity 6:

- a. **Staff Replacement:** A once-off grant of R120 000 for a semester¹³ (6 months) duration for Graduate Academics in need of time off to concentrate on PhD or MSc research, and for GA's in RBU's a once-off grant of R240 000 for 12 months to assist in completion of their studies within reasonable time and publish an article at end of their studies. Priority will be given to staff in the final stages of their degrees and the request needs motivation from the research supervisor and agreement from the applicant's Head of Department. *(For example, some of the following outcomes: Research Proposal; Preparation and/or submission of a research article; Dissertation or thesis Chapter; Preparation and submission of a final draft of a dissertation or thesis; Preparation and submission of a corrected dissertation or thesis (where applicable); Preparation and presentation of a paper at a Conference, Seminar or related event; Submission of final Dissertation / Thesis)*
- b. **Teaching time buy out:** GA's can apply for teaching time buy out for partial relief from teaching to allow staff to complete their studies. HOD's can employ interns in instances where a sizeable portion of GA's are pursuing Masters or Doctoral degrees. These interns could relieve them of some of the administrative and other routine responsibilities. *An amount equivalent to one-year internship is recommended where at least 3 GA's are pursuing further studies.* Rates according to the individual home institutions can be supported. Motivation by the HOD is required.

All funding contributions from the UCDP-MaSS Program depend on availability of funds in the annual budget allocated for specific activities in 2020 - 2022. **Funds can only be utilised once official communication (including a Purchase Order) has been received from University of Pretoria.**

Requests for funding received from academics either working at institutions that have not signed an MoU with the University of Pretoria or who have not submitted a report to UP for previous funding, will not be processed. For reporting purposes to the Department of Higher Education and Training, applicants are required to provide all the information required in the application forms – incomplete application forms will not be processed. Early career academics are requested to demonstrate how their application fits with their career development plan (for example, goals with respect to research output, teaching portfolio, envisaged collaborations, promotion aspiration and NRF rating).

¹³ In exceptional cases, an HOD can motivate for a higher amount and provide supporting evidence.